

1 вариант

Вам предстоит прочитать вслух текст и ответить на три вопроса по его содержанию. Время на подготовку – 2 минуты (1.5 минуты – для чтения текста про себя и 0.5 минуты – для ознакомления с вопросами).

In 1642 a French student invented the first mechanical calculator. He was only 18 and the counting machine was a present for his father. The father worked as a tax collector and the young man wanted to make his job easier. The talented inventor made several machines, but nobody was interested. The young man was ahead of his time. Many years passed before people realized how useful these machines could be and started mass producing them.

Today most mechanical calculators have been replaced with electronic models. These small devices can perform a lot of mathematical operations. You just need to enter the numbers by pressing the keys and you'll see the final result on the screen in no time.

1. Why did a French student invent the mechanical calculator?
2. Were his ideas appreciated during the time he lived?
3. What replaced the mechanical calculators?

2 вариант

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Wombats are exotic animals that only live in Australia. They have become an unofficial symbol of the country. In 1974 a wombat appeared on an Australian stamp for the first time. Since then it has been regularly used on different Australian stamps and coins. Wombats look like little bears and prefer grass to meat. They also love eating berries, plant roots and mushrooms. Like camels, wombats drink little water because there is enough water in fresh grass. Wombats spend most of their life in holes under the ground. With their strong arms and long nails they are able to dig very long and complex tunnels. Fortunately, wombats have few enemies in the animal world. Most wombats live around 15 years.

1. How long has a wombat been used on Australian stamps?
2. What do wombats eat?
3. Why do wombats drink little water?