City of Broken Records

They came from all over Dubai, a Persian Gulf city in the United Arab Emirates. They were young and old, tall and skinny, short and squat. But all of them had one thing in common: They were all named Mohammed.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 Mohammeds gathered in Dubai in February 2005, hoping to break the world record for the largest gathering of people sharing the same name.

Once the Mohammeds broke the record, the city turned its sights on another world record: forming the largest human flag. More than 16,000 schoolchildren created a huge red, white, black, and green flag of the United Arab Emirates.

The city is also hoping to break records for the largest charity box and the biggest mosaic made from drink cans.

A few years ago, officials decided to make their city famous by breaking world records—any world record. The stunt spread like wildfire. The city now holds a month-long record-breaking festival each year. Laura McTurk from Guinness World Records told Weekly Reader Senior Edition that the United Arab Emirates holds 33 world records. The people of Dubai have built the world's longest sofa (100 feet) and the largest incense burner (10 feet). "It's an awful lot of records for such a small place," said another official from Guinness.

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1 United Arab Emirates: a country in the Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf
2 mosaic: a picture or decoration made of tiny colored tiles, bits of glass or stone
1. What colors make up the United Arab Emirates flag?
   A red, white, and blue  
   B red, white, black, and green  
   C white, green, red, and blue  
   D white, black, yellow, and red

2. How does the author describe Dubai?
   A as a city where everyone is named Mohammed  
   B as an area known as a vacation hotspot  
   C as a place where many wildfires break out  
   D as a city famous for breaking world records

3. How would you conclude the people of Dubai feel about breaking world records?
   A upset  
   B nervous  
   C proud  
   D embarrassed

4. Read this sentence from the passage: “The city is also hoping to break records for the largest charity box and the biggest mosaic made from drink cans.”

   In this sentence, the word **charity** means
   A a container used to hold drinking water and other beverages  
   B expensive possessions, including jewelry and gold  
   C the giving of money or help to those in need  
   D the act of becoming well-known by breaking a record

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe
   A why so many people are named Mohammed  
   B where the United Arab Emirates is located  
   C how the city of Dubai is famous for its world records  
   D the reason the people of Dubai built the world’s longest sofa
6. What large body of water is near Dubai?


7. Why are world records important to the city of Dubai? How do you know? Give examples from the text to support your answer.


8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Once the city of Dubai breaks one record, it sets its sights ________ breaking another record.

   A and
   B on
   C but
   D yet
9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In February 2005, between 1,500 and 2,000 people named Mohammed gathered in Dubai to set a world record for the largest gathering of people sharing the same name.

Who? between 1,500 and 2,000 people named Mohammed

(did) What? ____________________________________________________________

Where? ______________________________________________________________

Why? to set a world record for the largest gathering of people sharing the same name

When? ______________________________________________________________

10. Vocabulary Word: mosaic: a picture or decoration made of tiny colored tiles, bits of glass, or stone.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: ______________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________