***Reading – The Yamnaya***

The Yamnaya people were a pastoralist culture that lived in the steppes of Eastern Europe from approximately 3600 to 2300 BCE. Archaeological evidence suggests that the Yamnaya people gradually migrated eastward over time, moving from the steppe into the Danube region.

Linguistic and genetic evidence suggest that the Yamnaya were the people who spoke Indo-European and spread the language into Europe, where it broke into different language families.

The legacy of the Yamnaya people can still be seen today in the languages and cultures of their descendants, which include many of the modern-day peoples of Europe, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.

***Comprehension***

1 Where did the Yamnaya live, before they migrated?

2 What language did they speak?

3 Where do the descendants of the Yamnaya live?

4 Where did the Yamnaya move to?

***Matching***

Match these words with their meaning:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 gradually | a information that proves something |
| 2 evidence | b geographical area |
| 3 approximately | c slowly |
| 4 region | d way of life for a people |
| 5 culture | e about, circa |

***Task***

Work with a partner. Use Google to find out the answer to these questions:

1 What is a pastoralist?

2 What does genetic evidence tell us about the Yamnaya?

3 What are the modern countries in the Danube region?

***Lexical practice***

The -1- people were highly mobile and relied on the domestication of -2-, which allowed them to cover great distances and establish -3- connections with other cultures. They were -4- metalworkers and their innovations in metallurgy led to the -5- of bronze weapons and tools, which gave them a military -6- over neighbouring cultures. The Yamnaya people were also -7- for their distinctive burial practices, which involved -8- the deceased in pit graves along with grave goods such as weapons, jewelry, and pottery.

***Fill in the gaps with these words:***

trade known development Yamnaya placing advantage horses skilled

1 5

2 6

3 7

4 8

***ANSWER KEY***

Matching 1c; 2a;3e;4b;5d

Task people who herd horses, moving from place to place; that they were the ancestors of many Europeans; Ukraine, Romania, Hungary

Gaps: Yamnaya, horses, trade, skilled, development, advantage, known, placing