MBOU Gymnasium 9

***Unsolved Mysteries of the Universe*** Project
 made by
 8b,c formers
 Coordinator
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 Simferopol 2015

14/II – 2015 8 b,c
 (11 pupils)
  ***Unsolved Mysteries of the Universe
 (a round-table discussion)*The aim:** to teach pupils to conduct a round-table discussion, using
 some patterns of speech, to acquaint them with the limitless
 wonders and stress that mystery and imagination are as vital
 as reason for a man in the hunt for truth
**Conclusion:** Every new discovery gives rise to new possibilities. And every new answer suggests new questions, new mysteries.
 **The leader**
“The Question This Week” is a round table discussion “Unsolved mysteries of the Universe” Our guests are…
Some people say there are no mysteries in today’s world. Others think that the wonders are limitless. They stress that mystery and imagination are as vital as reason for man in the hunt for truth. Which standpoint do you share?
**Pupil 1**
It is strange even to argue about it because as Albert Einstein wrote in 1930 “The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious; it is the source of all true art and science.”
 Yet mysteries remain despite of modern discoveries.
**Pupil 2**
You are right. I just wish to say that sometimes this romanticism leads to futility and even absurdity. Some men are still searching for Eldorado; others seek an easy answer to all the world’s mysteries by postulating that in prehistoric time gods from other worlds visited our planet. What do you say to this?
**Pupil 3**
I see what you mean, but I have a remark to make that these visitors from space are said to have built Stonehenge, raised pyramids in Egypt; Central America and erected giant statues on Easter Island, Corsica.
**Pupil 4**
Could I butt in here? I’m sure there are still real mysteries that man can wonder about.
**The leader**
No doubt. I think one of the greatest concerns is the story about the lost civilization of Atlantis and Lemuria. Did the lost continent of Atlantis really exist or is it myth of reality? The legend of Atlantis has inspired a search that echoes down the centuries… **(The presentation)**
**Pupil 5**I quite agree with you. There is one more place the people searched for. The lure of gold has led to many strange adventures. For more than 400 years fortune-hunters searched the jungles and mountains of South America, performing feats of courage and endurance and terrible acts of cruelty – in their quest for gold. But what were they searching? A golden city? A golden land? A golden man? Or was it just a golden myth? **(The presentation)**
**The leader**Have you heard of the stone giants? Dolmens, cromlechs, menhirs, megaliths – there are many names for these standing stones. For a long time they were thought to be the work of giants, but modern research has shown how they were shaped and moved by men of the Stone Age. But a central mystery remains – what was the purpose of the stones? Who’d like to speak?
**Pupil 3**
Let me tell you about Soul Statues of Corsica.
**Pupil 4**
Now I’d like to tell you about the giants of Easter Island. It was called “the navel of the world” or “the eye turned towards the sky”, this volcanic speck lost in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Modern researches have shown how the islanders could have built and moved colossal statues weighing up to 80tous. The mystery is: why?
They seem like sentinels, standing guard over the horizon. The likeliest reasons for their creation – religious feelings, family pride or even boredom of island life. The row of seven moai is the most famous one. Easter Island posses the riddle of this 7ft tall head of an old man. **(The presentation)**
**Pupil 6**
I think it also should be said about the secret of Stonehenge. The air of mystery broods over it. Scientists as well as spiritualists, clairvoyants and cranks have studied the remains trying to discover the secret of its past. Was it a temple of the sun? A royal place? A magic shrine? An observatory for studying the heavens? Was it a gigantic computer built centuries before the Greeks mastered mathematics? Or will these colossal stones guard their secret for eternity? In a word it is unique among sites of prehistoric standing stones. Stonehenge’s circle of stones was once known as The Dance of the Giants. According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, a 12th century chronicler the stones were brought from Ireland and set in place “not by source but by Merlin’s art” **(The presentation)**
**Pupil 1**
It is thought we should speak about the hidden message of the Nazcas in Southern Peru. Drawn in lines of pebbles across the expansive wastes are huge birds, animals and geometric figures. Yet, they were laid across the desert by the Nazca Indians 1500 years ago and long before man could fly. What was their meaning? And who was meant to read them? **(The presentation)**
**The leader**
Yes, it’s one of the most baffling enigmas of archeology. Nobody has been able to solve the mystery of the patterns or explain why the Nazca made drawings.
**Pupil** **7**I think there is one other point that we might talk about in connection with this and that is mysteries surrounding the Egyptian Pyramids. **(The presentation)**
**The leader**
Does the human spirit live on after death? This question has puzzled mankind since the dawn of time.
**Pupil 8**
Ghosts. **(The presentation)**

**Pupil 3**
Could I butt in here? I’m sure the Bermuda Triangle mystery is awaiting explanation. **(The presentation)
Pupil 2**Let me have a word about UFO. **(The presentation)**As you see, the official experts may dismiss the subject of UFOs. But public interest is as lively as ever.
**The leader** Yes, it’s really so although man has walked on the moon and is reaching for other planets UFO remains the mystery. **Pupil 4**Sorry for interrupting, but speaking of the unsolved mysteries of our planet we can’t but mention sea mysteries. Sea monsters, water monsters turn up in legends from all around the world. Few scientists believe that “sea serpents” exist, but there are real monsters of the deep which may have started the legends. The giant squid has ten arms, eight short and two very long; as much as 18 meters or more. **(The presentation)**The sea still holds its mysteries. Do you agree with me?
**Pupil 9**
Well, what do you say to mysterious disappearances? The most famous of them is that of the crew of the “Mary Celeste”, an American sailing ship. What had happen on 25th November? The court could find no answer. **(The presentation)
Pupil 5**Could I butt in here? Do you believe that a black hole hit Siberia? Let’s analyze this mystery **(The presentation)**Don’t you think that the Tunguska event in Siberia is one of the most mysterious and frightening events to occur on the planet in history?
As for me, I do.
**The teacher**Exploring the past is like entering a vast cave system with only candles to light the way.
Every new discovery gives rise to new possibilities and every new answer suggested new questions, new mysteries.
 **The leader**
 I’m glad to say that the points raised today were interesting. I quite agree and what’s more I liked the way you made us face to facts.
 Yes, well, I think to sum up that we examined some of the great puzzles of the past and present.
 People have always been fascinated by the unknown. We love tales of fabulous beasts, strange apparitions, lost continents and hidden treasures.
Many of our apparently fantastic legends are based on truth: the tales of Atlantis, of Eldorado, and the Man in Iron Mask. They are just three examples. And the truth can be just as thrilling as any function.
 Much about our distant past is baffling. We think we know how our ancestors built gigantic monuments such as Stonehenge, and laid out vast patterns in the plains of Nazca in Peru. But exactly why they carried out these great works remains a mystery.
 Events from our recent past can be just as puzzling. Some mysteries seem to hint at strange forces in human affairs. What caused the entire crew of the “ghost ship” Mary Celeste to disappear? Was a curse laid on the tomb of Tutankhamun? Do monsters tread the snowfields of Himalayas or lurk beneath the waters of Loch Ness.
 There’s wide variety of mysteries. In some cases, solutions have been suggested. In others, we can only guess at the answers. We are still learning about our past and present. Perhaps some day we will find a clue that will help to shed light on one of these unsolved problems.