

Four dead in Indian “diamond” hunt

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THE ARTICLE

Four dead in Indian "diamond" hunt

BNE: Rumors of diamonds being washed ashore on an Indian beach have resulted in the deaths of four fortune hunters. Three people drowned while searching the water close to the shore, while a teenage boy was crushed in a stampede. Police in the Indian city of Mumbai have repeatedly tried to quash reports that the city's Juhu Beach is awash with real diamonds. They have publicly announced the "gems" were just glass and have little intrinsic value. This has not deterred thousands of people from descending on the beach at all hours in the hope of finding their fortune. Many scour the beach at night by torchlight for the stones, which are reportedly strewn across the sand.

A small cottage industry has developed with the hunters passing off their fake diamonds as the real thing. Gullible tourists are being taken in by the "bargain basement" prices and are snapping up the gems like there's no tomorrow. The "precious stones" have fetched up to \$30 each as beggars and street kids have turned themselves overnight into expert jewelers. Ravi, a 13-year-old shoeshine boy, said he has made a small fortune finding and selling the stones. He told reporters: "I like this diamond business. It's a lot more lucrative than my day job." He added his best friend had found and sold hundreds of the stones and had made "big money" in the process.

WARM-UPS

1. DIAMONDS vs. GOLD: Students A think diamonds are the greatest things on earth; students B think gold is the most precious commodity. Students A and B face each other. Try to convince each other why you think diamonds are better than gold, or vice versa.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Rumors (USA) Rumours (UK) / diamonds / treasure hunts / beaches / fakes / cottage industries / gullibility / beggars / street kids / jewelers / shoeshine boys

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. DIAMOND: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with diamonds. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

4. GULLIBILITY: How gullible are you? Do you believe everything anyone says? In pairs / groups, talk about how much you trust these people (10 = absolute, total trust; 1 = no trust at all):

- a. Your doctor.
- b. A used car salesman.
- c. An English school consultant telling you his/her study system is best.
- d. A jeweler (USA) jeweller (UK) on a beach in Mumbai, India.
- e. Your best friend.
- f. Your next-door neighbour (UK) neighbor (USA).
- g. A lawyer.
- h. A McDonald's spokesperson telling you hamburgers are nutritious.

5. FAKE THINGS: In pairs / groups, talk about which of these things would you buy even though you knew it was fake or copied.

- A Louis Vuitton bag
- A Rolex watch
- A music CD
- A can of Coca Cola
- RayBan sunglasses
- A Toyota Corolla car
- A diamond or gold ring
- Computer software
- An Apple iPod
- "Learn English in 24 hours" videos

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Four people have died searching for a priceless Indian diamond. | T / F |
| b. Three fortune hunters drowned while diamond hunting near a beach. | T / F |
| c. Hundreds are people are sifting the sand for fake diamonds. | T / F |
| d. People are scouring the beach by torchlight at night. | T / F |
| e. Small cottages have been built on a beach to sell diamonds. | T / F |
| f. The fake diamonds are selling for up to \$300 apiece. | T / F |
| g. Street children are going to school to become expert jewelers. | T / F |
| h. One child has sold hundreds of fake diamonds and made big money. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| a. stampede | comb |
| b. quash | real |
| c. intrinsic | misrepresenting |
| d. scour | hurriedly |
| e. strewn | rush |
| f. passing off | profitable |
| g. snapping up | scattered |
| h. like there's no tomorrow | buying |
| i. a small fortune | extinguish |
| j. lucrative | big money |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| a. washed | stampede |
| b. crushed in a | industry |
| c. quash | prices |
| d. little intrinsic | tourists |
| e. strewn | value |
| f. cottage | ashore |
| g. gullible | job |
| h. bargain basement | stones |
| i. precious | reports that ... |
| j. more lucrative than my day | across the sand |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the correct spaces.

Four dead in Indian "diamond" hunt

BNE: Rumors of diamonds being _____ ashore on an Indian beach have resulted in the deaths of four fortune _____. Three people drowned while searching the water close to the shore, while a teenage boy was _____ in a stampede. Police in the Indian city of Mumbai have repeatedly tried to _____ reports that the city's Juhu Beach is _____ with real diamonds. They have publicly announced the "gems" were just glass and have little _____ value. This has not _____ thousands of people from descending on the beach at all hours in the hope of finding their fortune. Many _____ the beach at night by torchlight for the stones, which are reportedly strewn across the sand.

A small _____ industry has developed with the hunters passing off their fake diamonds as the real thing. _____ tourists are being taken in by the "bargain basement" prices and are _____ up the gems like there's no tomorrow. The "precious stones" have _____ up to \$30 each as beggars and street kids have turned themselves _____ into expert jewelers. Ravi, a 13-year-old shoeshine boy, said he has made a _____ fortune finding and selling the stones. He told reporters: "I like this diamond business. It's a lot more _____ than my day job." He added his best friend had found and sold hundreds of the stones and had made "_____ money" in the process.

deterred
crushed
intrinsic
washed
awash
scour
quash
hunters

snapping
small
big
cottage
fetched
lucrative
overnight
gullible

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words **'fortune'** and **'hunter'**.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT DIAMONDS SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about diamonds and other precious stones and metals.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| • ashore | • cottage |
| • stampede | • basement |
| • quash | • fetched |
| • intrinsic | • overnight |
| • descending | • lucrative |
| • scour | • in the process |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What images went through your mind when you read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the story?
- c. What adjective do you think best describes this story?
- d. Do you want to scour the beach for diamonds in Mumbai?
- e. Have you ever been on a treasure hunt?
- f. Are you gullible? Have you ever been taken in by a con artist?
- g. If you heard similar reports of diamonds strewn around your town, would you become a scavenger?
- h. Have you ever been in a stampede to buy something or to get a seat on a bus or train?
- i. What's the best bargain you've found?
- j. Have you ever done something hurriedly, like there's no tomorrow?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What did you think about what you read?
- c. Do you like diamonds?
- d. Do you have a lot of jewelry/jewellery?
- e. Have you ever knowingly or unknowingly bought a fake product?
- f. Have you ever made a small fortune?
- g. What is your favorite precious stone and metal?
- h. What's the most you've ever spent on an item of jewelry?
- i. The Marilyn Monroe song says "diamonds are a girl's best friend." Is this true?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

1. THE HARD SELL: You are expert con artists. You are so good, you could sell sand in the desert. In pairs, take two of your personal belongings. Decide on a price and a sales spiel to "sell" these items to your gullible classmates. Make sure you think of all the amazing uses and functions of the items and the reasons your "customers" must buy them.

Change partners often. Take turns at being customers and sellers.

Return to your original partners and compare reports on your efforts at selling. What resistance did you meet from "customers"?

2. INVESTMENTS: You have \$100,000 to invest. In pairs / groups, rank the following investments. Agree on the order of which is most lucrative as long-term investments.

- Diamonds
- Shares in Microsoft Inc.
- Oil stocks
- Gold
- Classic 1920's cars
- Wine
- Shares in Chinese electrical goods companies
- Property in Moscow
- Other

3. A SMALL FORTUNE: In pairs / groups, think of the best way to make a small fortune. You have \$10,000 to help you buy what you need to start up your enterprise. Lay out your plans on how to make it a success.

After you have finished, change partners and tell each other your plans. Provide each other with advice and feedback on your plans.

Return to your original partner(s) and use the advice and feedback you received to "fine tune" your plans and make them better.

Ideas for businesses:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| • Internet | • Languages |
| • Leisure | • Travel |
| • Diamonds and jewelry | • Health and diet |
| • Software and games | • Beauty |

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Four dead in Indian "diamond" hunt

BNE: Rumors of diamonds _____ on an Indian beach have _____ of four fortune hunters. Three people drowned while searching the water close to the shore, while a teenage boy was _____. Police in the Indian city of Mumbai have repeatedly tried to quash reports that the city's Juhu Beach is _____. They have publicly announced the "gems" were just glass and have _____. This has not deterred thousands of people from descending on the beach at all hours in the hope of finding their fortune. Many _____ at night by torchlight for the stones, which are reportedly _____.

A small cottage industry has developed with the hunters _____ diamonds as the real thing. _____ are being taken in by the "bargain basement" prices and are _____ like there's no tomorrow. The "precious stones" have fetched up to \$30 each as beggars and street kids have _____ into expert jewelers. Ravi, a 13-year-old shoeshine boy, said he has made _____ finding and selling the stones. He told reporters: "I like this diamond business. It's _____ than my day job." He added his best friend had found and sold hundreds of the stones and had made "big money" _____.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the diamond hunting in Mumbai. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. DIAMONDS: Create a fact sheet about diamonds. Where they come from, how they are created, how they are turned into jewelry, etc. Show fact sheets to your classmates in your next lesson.

4. EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT: Imagine you are a reporter on Juhu Beach in Mumbai. Write an article about what you saw. Include interviews from some of the people on the beach looking for or selling diamonds. You might also want to interview a policeman and some tourists. Read your article to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. T d. T e. F f. F g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. stampede	rush
b. quash	extinguish
c. intrinsic	real
d. scour	comb
e. strewn	scattered
f. passing off	misrepresenting
g. snapping up	buying
h. like there's no tomorrow	hurriedly
i. a small fortune	big money
j. lucrative	profitable

PHRASE MATCH:

a. washed	ashore
b. crushed in a	stampede
c. quash	reports that ...
d. little intrinsic	value
e. strewn	across the sand
f. cottage	industry
g. gullible	tourists
h. bargain basement	prices
i. precious	stones
j. more lucrative than my day	job

GAP FILL:

Four dead in Indian "diamond" hunt

BNE: Rumors of diamonds being **washed** ashore on an Indian beach have resulted in the deaths of four fortune **hunters**. Three people drowned while searching the water close to the shore, while a teenage boy was **crushed** in a stampede. Police in the Indian city of Mumbai have repeatedly tried to **quash** reports that the city's Juhu Beach is **awash** with real diamonds. They have publicly announced the "gems" were just glass and have little **intrinsic** value. This has not **deterred** thousands of people from descending on the beach at all hours in the hope of finding their fortune. Many **scour** the beach at night by torchlight for the stones, which are reportedly strewn across the sand.

A small **cottage** industry has developed with the hunters passing off their fake diamonds as the real thing. **Gullible** tourists are being taken in by the "bargain basement" prices and are **snapping** up the gems like there's no tomorrow. The "precious stones" have **fetch**ed up to \$30 each as beggars and street kids have turned themselves **overnight** into expert jewelers. Ravi, a 13-year-old shoeshine boy, said he has made a **small** fortune finding and selling the stones. He told reporters: "I like this diamond business. It's a lot more **lucrative** than my day job." He added his best friend had found and sold hundreds of the stones and had made "**big** money" in the process.