

#### Task4

Exchange information with your partner on Hydra's history. Which of you knows more about it? What about your classmates in the row in front of/behind you?

#### Task 5

Read the project on Hydra's history a group at another school did. Don't worry if there are words you don't know. Then say if the following statements about the Hydra Project are True (T) or False (F).

### Our Hydra Project

by *Stelios, Martha, Aspasia, Sotiris, Lakis*

Hydra is one of the islands of the Argosaronic Gulf, a small distance from the port of Piraeus. It is said that once Hydra was covered with forests. The name, Hydra, means a place with plenty of water, but today it is grey and rocky.

Since agriculture was impossible, the island could not offer much to make a living. As a result, the people who first settled on the island started building ships. For the same reason, when the Turks captured Hydra in 1715, they ignored this infertile island. The canny Hydriots then built up an important fleet of ships, which developed into a merchant marine power. By the 19th century Hydra was rich, a great maritime power and had been allowed to acquire autonomous status. Its ships had the monopoly of food supplies in the Mediterranean Sea.

Hydriots were not the first to start the Greek War of Independence against the Turks in 1821. When they joined, however, their ships made up two-thirds of the whole Greek fleet. More than that, Hydra offered its men to the Revolution. Admiral Andreas Miaoulis became the famous commander of the Greek fleet, while Georgios Koundouriotis was the first Prime Minister of the newly born Greek State from 1822 to 1827.

If you go to Hydra, you must visit the Museum of Hydra. Hydriot costumes, memories from the War of Independence, at objects of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, figureheads and paintings of the ships of the 1821 Greek Revolution are exhibited there.

Every year around June 20, a big festival is organised in Hydra called Miaoulia. A plane of the Greek Air Force drops a wreath into the sea in memory of the hero Andreas Miaoulis. It is good to communicate with history and remember that Miaoulis' cross, and more importantly, his heart, the heart of Greece, is 'alive' in the Hall of Paintings of the Museum of Hydra even today.

1. Hydra has always been a dry island with no forests. **F**
2. Because agriculture was impossible, people started building ships. **T**
3. The island could offer a lot, and that's why the Turks settled in the island. **F**
4. The Hydriots became important merchants by the 19th century. **T**
5. Hydriots supplied the Turks with food products. They had the monopoly in the Mediterranean Sea. **T**
6. Hydriots were the first to start the Greek War of Independence. **F**
7. The Hydriot ships made up the whole Greek fleet. **F**
8. Admiral Andreas Miaoulis became the first Prime Minister of the New Greek State. **F**
9. You can find figureheads and paintings of the ships of the Greek Revolution in the Museum of Hydra. **T**
10. Nothing is left to see of Admiral Andreas Miaoulis today. **F**