

Listening

BBC podcasts: Coast and Country: *Open Country* (1 Jan 2011)

I. Listen to the podcast (5 mins) and answer the following questions:

1. They start their trip:
a. by air b. by water c. by land
2. The river used to be:
a. dead b. alive c. drying up
3. The river is now:
a. dead b. alive c. drying up
4. Ian Sinclair is:
a. a conservationist b. a politician c. a writer
5. He says the river is dangerous because of:
a. a ships' collision b. pollution c. flooding
6. He failed to walk along the whole of Thames Path because of:
a. an injury b. a construction site c. flooding
7. His attitude to the river is
a. positive b. negative c. neutral
8. He ... the Thames Path up to Oxfordshire.
a. hasn't walked b. has walked c. doesn't say if he walked

II. Listen again and complete the extracts below with one word.

1. The _____ went down, 650 people were drowned, they were sucked down.
2. Coming back to _____, having species in the river – fish swimming, wild duck using it – wonderful.
3. All the notices with the mappings of how we can _____ the Thames Path the whole way up to the Thames Barrier, then you set off deep into Oxbridge; unfortunately, it's a bit of a fable.
4. Also looking in the same direction we can see _____ billowing from this rather threatening-looking building.
5. Right behind that now is the new city Airport, so old and new _____ and that's the kind of nature of the river, too.
6. If the river wasn't here, I wouldn't be here; it's like saying: Can you live without _____? You'd be completely dried up.
7. Even as we _____, a sleek white pleasure boat cuts through the waves in the same direction as you're gonna be walking.