

**KULLEGG SAN BENEDITTU**  
**Secondary School, Kirkop**

**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION – 2014/2015**

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**Year 8**

**Listening Comprehension**

**Level 6-7**

*Listen to this documentary about marshmallows.*

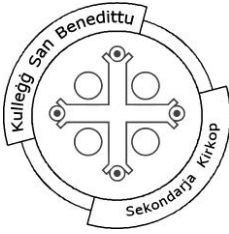
We all love the fluffy, sugary treats that are so often toasted over a camp fire. It has been found that over half of the marshmallows produced each year are toasted. It is often hard to resist the pink and white sweets. However, few people seem to know that they were discovered way back in Ancient Egypt and that the marshmallow is actually a plant!

The marshmallow plant grows in salt marshes and near large bodies of water. The Ancient Egyptians found the beautiful plants and used the sap from the plants' roots and stems. This sap would thicken a mixture of egg whites, sugar and other ingredients, like honey and nuts. The mixture was whisked into a foamy meringue and left to become hard. Ancient Egyptian doctors used these marshmallows as medicine because they found that the marshmallow sweet soothed children's sore throats. Even though it was used as medication, it appears that marshmallows were sometimes given as treats to rich children as well.

During the mid-1800's, marshmallows became more popular and people wanted a faster and more efficient way of producing them. With faster production, the marshmallow sap was replaced by gelatine. This gave marshmallows a new more stable form. But sadly, marshmallows lost their medicinal properties.

By 1948, the marshmallow manufacturing process was speeded up further and perfected. Alex Doumak, a French marshmallow maker, was one of the many experimenting with making marshmallows. He discovered that marshmallows could be made by piping the mixture through long tubes and cutting the shape into small equal pieces. This saved hands, time, money and effort.

Today marshmallows seem to be coming in the biggest and strangest forms. Many people have strange ways of eating marshmallows. Some like them roasted, in coffee and even as a topping on pizza! America on average spends over 125 million dollars on them a year. It is estimated that around 90 million pounds of marshmallows are eaten in America annually.



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Mark

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

**1 mark ( )**

Marshmallows were discovered in

a. Ancient Rome.	
b. Ancient America.	
c. Ancient Egypt.	

2. Tick (✓) whether these sentences are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

**5 marks ( )**

	<b>TRUE</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
a. The marshmallow plant grows in salty water.		
b. The Ancient Egyptians used sap from the leaves of the plant to make marshmallows.		
c. The sap from the marshmallow plant thickens the mixture of egg whites and sugar.		
d. The sweets made from the marshmallow plant were found to soothe children's sore throats.		
e. Marshmallows lost their medicinal properties when gelatine was used instead of sap from the plant.		

3. Match the words in COLUMN A with what they refer to in COLUMN B by writing the correct letter next to the sentences in Column B.

**4 marks ( )**

	<b>COLUMN A</b>		<b>COLUMN B</b>
a.	Alex Doumak		The pounds of marshmallows eaten.
b.	1948		How much each American spends on marshmallows, on average.
c.	125 million		A French marshmallow maker.
d.	90 million		The marshmallow manufacturing process speeded up.

