

Код УГПС – 46.00.00

ГУМАНИТАРНЫЕ НАУКИ

Тема 6. Выдающиеся люди родной страны и стран/страны изучаемого языка, их вклад в развитие.

Exercise 1. Read the text about a famous Russian historian and linguist



Magic in the room

Yuri Valentinovich Knorozov is a Soviet linguist who was born in the outskirts of Kharkov. His parents devoted many efforts to the education of their **offspring**. Knorozov turned to be a **sensible** and well-mannered person, but extremely reserved. As for the **performance**, the young Knorozov was an **A-student**, except for Ukrainian language and literature. Yuri was a creative boy: he played the violin, was able to paint and write poems.



When the Great Patriotic War broke in, Knorozov was declared **ineligible for military duty** because of his health condition. In the meantime, he went to Moscow to continue his education at Moscow State University as a history student. It became a **turning point** in his life as Knorozov got interested in hieroglyphs for the first time. He succeeded in his research of Maya script and was willing to become a PhD candidate. In spite of his enthusiasm, he was rejected to get the degree as he lived on the occupied territory during several years of the War.

Though it wasn't a **walk in the park** for Knorozov to get a place as a researcher, he got back to Maya script at The Kunstkamera. Spending all his time in this organization the scientist "reached" for the Moon by

decoding hieroglyphs. He became the first man who could read what was created thousands years ago. Knorozov experienced the magic of Maya writings “not leaving a room”, just having books from the library and a limited number of monographies for himself.

After the decades of the research, the great scientist got an opportunity to visit Mexico himself. Mexican scientific society appreciated Knorozov’s **contribution** to their culture and **decorated** him with The Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle in 1994.

Many years passed since the decoding of Maya script, but new generations of linguists still apply Knorozov’s methods of transcribing in their works.

- **offspring** – дети, потомки
- **sensible** - разумный
- **reserved** – замкнутый, сдержанный
- **performance** – (зд.) успеваемость
- **a-student** - отличник
- **ineligible for military duty** – непригодный для военной службы
- **turning point** – важный момент
- **not a walk in the park** – что-то, что требует усилий для выполнения.
- **contribution** - вклад
- **decorated** – (зд.) награждать

PROJECT

Prepare a report about an outstanding Russian historian or linguist. Include the following information:

- interesting biographical facts;
- describe the scientist’s field of research;
- mention his/her the contribution to the science or culture.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that Knorozov’s way to success was complicated? Explain your point of view.
2. What’s the greatest Knorozov’s contribution to the science?
3. What helped the scientist to decode Maya script? Say in your own words.