Текст 1

Air Pollution...

Cause and Effect

One of the traits that distinguishes humans from other forms of life is our ability to adapt to varying *habitat*. People populate this planet from the coldest Arctic regions to the steamiest *rain forests*. We've even made our *environment* portable for short periods of time, such as in space or

ocean exploration. All of this aside, however, the plain truth remains that we cannot create the elements of our *environment* essential to our survival: air and water. It was realisation of this, coupled with the rapid increase in manufacturing and technology and the accompanying

*pollution*, that prompted researchers and government officials to take a good look at the consequences of air *pollution*.

Текст 2

In February 1987, the real thing happened. A star much larger and much hotter than our sun reached the end of its conventional life. In its core, hydrogen in quantities equal to about six times the mass of the sun had been converted to helium in hellish thermonuclear reactions. Helium in turn had fused into carbon and oxygen, which themselves fused into even heavier elements. Eventually the innermost section of the core, about half again as massive as the sun, was turned into almost pure iron. The star was running out of available reactions, and activity

in the core slackened, Now the radiation pouring outward was no longer as strong as the gravitational force pulling inward; the star collapsed, falling inward on itself until it could give no more, and exploded, spewing radiation and most of its mass into space. For astronomers, the supernova (known as Supernova 1987A, or SN1987A for short) was -- and is -- the story of the century.

Текст 3

*The Smithsonian Institution brings to life the nation's cultural, social, scientific, and artistic treasures and heritage*. It is the largest complexof museums, art galleries, and *research facilities* in the world. Eachyear, more than 20 million visitors come to the Smithsonian's 14

museums and galleries -- from *the National Air and Space Museum to the National Museum of Natural History* -- and *the National Zoological Park*. Millions more *share in the Smithsonian experience* through *travelling exhibitions*, magazines, as *members of the Smithsonian*

*Associates*, and by attendance at *educational and performance programmes* sponsored by the Institution, including the annual *Festival of American Folklore.* And while thevisitors explore the galleries and exhibition halls*, behind the scenes, curators, conservators, and researchers are busy caring for and learning from* the national collections that the *Smithsonian holds in*

*trust for the American people.*

*Текст 4*

After only a brief rest they started on their way again. All were eager to get the journey over as quickly as possible, and were willing, tired as they were, to go on marching still for several hours. Gandalf walked in front as before. In his left hand he held up his glimmering staff, the

light of which just showed the ground before his feet; in his right hand he held his sword Glamdring. Behind him came Gimli, his eyes glinting in the dim light as he turned his head from side to side. Behind the dwarf walked Frodo, and he had drawn the short sword, Sting. No

gleam came from the blades of Sting or of Glamdring; and that was some comfort, for being the work of Elvish smiths in the Elder days these swords shone with a cold light, if any Ores were near at hand. Behind Frodo went Sam, and after him Legolas, and the young hobbits,

and Boromir. In the dark at the rear, grim and silent, walked Aragorn.

Текст 5

When Schliemann read Homer's description of the Gorgon shield of Agamemnon and was told that the buckler strap had been decorated with a figure of a three-headed snake, he accepted all this as gospel truth. The chariots, weapons, and household articles portrayed in detail by Homer were for him part and parcel of ancient Greece. Were all hese heroes -- Achilles and Patroclus, Hector and Eneas -- and this pageant of friendship, hate, love, and high adventure, nothing but mere invention? Schliemann did not think so; to his mind such people and such scenes had actually existed. He was conscious that all Greek antiquity, including the great historians Herodotus and Thukidides, had accepted the Trojan War as an actual event, and its famous names as historical personages.

Текст 6

Research Triangle Institute is a not-for-profit contract research corporation located on a 180-acre campus in North Carolina's Triangle Park. RTI is a free-standing corporate entity created in 1958 by joint action of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina State University. RTFs organization facilitates the formation of multidisciplinary teams to address complex research issues in many scientific, technical, and social subjects.