***Упражнение 1 Прочитайте и переведите текст письменно.***

The Buryat Republic was founded on the 30 th of May 1923. It occupies a great territory of Eastern Siberia to the east of Lake Baikal. The total area is about 351 300 square kilometres with the population of about one million people. The north- western borderline runs along the shore of Lake Baikal. It also borders on the Tuva Republic and the Mongolian Republic.

The Republic is mostly mountainous but there is hardly a place in Russia where such a variety of scenery can be found. There are mountains and boundless steppes, thick forests and quiet lakes, mountainous rivers and, of course, world famous Lake Baikal. A.P. Chekhov visited Buryatia on his way to Sakhalin. He was greatly impressed by the nature of Zabaikalye. In one of his letters he wrote "In Zabaikalye I saw the Caucasus, Switzerland, the valley of the river Don".

There are the Barguzin and the Hamar-Daban mountain ranges. But the most famous are the Sayans with its highest peak Munku-Sardyk (3491 metres).

The Buryat taiga is rich in fur - breading animals: bear, wolf, fox, squirrel, mink etc. Nature has smiled upon Buryatia, as it has a rich abundance of animal life, having such species like Barguzin sable and Baikal omul.

The Barguzin national park was established in 1913.

The rivers of Buryatia are of no great value as waterways. The longest of them are the Selenga, the Uda, the Barguzin and others. All of them flow into the Baikal and only the Selenga which is a major tributary of Lake Baikal is a navigable in summer and early autumn. The great part of the year the rivers are frozen. There is also a great number of small mountainous rivulets running into the Baikal with extremely pure water.

The most important mineral resources are ore, coal, asbestos, gold and graphite.

The climate is dry, winters are cold and the summers are hot. There are more than 300 sunny days in Buryatia. That’s why Buryatia is often called Sunny Buryatia.

***Упражнение 2 Ответьте на вопросы по тексту письменно***

* Do you think the geographical position of the republic is good? Why?
* What can you say about the natural riches of the republic?
* What is Buryatia famous for?

***Упражнение 3 Решите кроссворд***

*Across*

1. The word we use for cedar, pine and fir trees.
2. All the animals of an area.
3. A thick coniferous forest in Siberia.
4. An evergreen tree.
5. A precious yellow metal.
6. L and between hills or mountains often with a river flowing through it.

*Down*

1. The mineral Gusinoozersk is rich in.
2. A type of climate.
3. All the plants of an area.
4. A fur - bearing animal that can be found in Buryatia.
5. A synonym of territory.

