

## TEXT 4:

### **An Unknown Goddess**

Some time ago, an interesting discovery was made by archaeologists on the Aegean island of Kea. An American team explored a temple which stands in an ancient city on the promontory of Ayia Irini. The city at one time must have been prosperous, for it enjoyed a high level of civilization. Houses –often three storeys high–were built on stone. They had large rooms with beautifully decorated walls. The city was even equipped with a drainage system, for a great many clay pipes were found beneath the narrow streets.

The temple which the archaeologists explored was used as a place of worship from the fifteenth century B.C. until Roman times. In the most sacred room of the temple, clay fragments of fifteen statues were found. Each of these represented a goddess and had, at one time, been painted. The body of one statue was found among remains dating from the fifteenth century B.C. Its missing head happened to be among remains of the fifth century B.C. This head must have been found in Classical times and carefully preserved. It was very old and precious even then. When the archaeologists reconstructed the fragments, they were amazed to find that the goddess turned out to be a very modern-looking woman. She stood three feet high and her hands rested on her hips. She was wearing a full-length skirt which swept the ground. Despite her great age, she was very graceful indeed, but, so far, the archaeologists have been unable to discover her identity.

(In L.G.Alexander, Developing Skills, 1967, p.16).

#### **Pre-reading**

#### **A. Answer the following questions:**

1. What do you know about „Archaeology“? Who is an archaeologist?
2. What about „Anthropology“ and „Mythology“? Give short definitions.
3. In which one are you more interested and why?

## **Reading**

### **B. Skim over the text and answer the following questions:**

1. What characterises the ancient city in the island of Kea?
2. What did archaeologists discover about the temple?
3. What was specific with the goddess?
4. How did the goddess appear?
5. Suggest another title to the text.

### **C. Vocabulary**

1. Give another word or phrase to replace the following words as they are used in the text: Stands-prosperous-fragments-enjoyed-classical-carefully-reconstructed-remains-amazed.
2. Find the definition of the words in a dictionary then use them in your own sentences: Storey-story-worship-warship.
3. Give two opposites of what follows, by keeping the same root : Adequate-tidy-fair-possible.

## **Post-reading**

### **D.**

1. Work individually and summarize the text.
2. Work in pairs and name the different statues you know with reference to their origins including your country.