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EXAMEN DE SORTIE DES COURS COMPLEMENTAIRES
Enseignement général
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Juin 1944

ANGLAIS

Durée 1 h ½ Note 0 à 10.- Coef

(Lexique bilingue autorisé)

Sinbad the Sailor in the Valley of Diamonds

I had always regarded as fabulous what I had heard sailors and others relate of the valley of diamonds, and of the stratagems employed by merchants to obtain jewels from thence; but now I found that they had stated nothing but truth - For the fact is, that the merchants come to the neighbourhood of this valley when the eagles have young ones, and throwing great joints of meat into the valley, the diamonds, upon whose points they fall, stick to them; the eagles which are stronger in this country than anywhere else, pounce with great force upon those pieces of meat, and carry them to their nests on the precipices of the rock, to feed their young : the merchants at this time run to their nests, disturb and drive off the eagles by their shouts, and take away the diamonds that stick to the meat. When I perceived this device, I began to think upon the means of my deliverance : I took the largest piece of meat I could find lying in the valley, tied it close round me with the cloth of my turban, and then laid myself upon the ground with my face downward. A very strong eagle having taken up the piece of meat, to which I was fastened, carried me to his nest on the top of the mountain.

to pounce upon : to jump suddenly upon
device : plan

Questions.- Answer in English to the following questions :
1º Do you think this story true ?
2º In what part of the world is the story likely to have taken place ?
3º Where are diamonds really to be found ?

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