

The childhood

Q1. Where was Abdul Kalam's house?

→ Abdul Kalam's house was on the Mosque street in Rameswaram in the former Madras ~~street~~ state.

Q2. What do you think Dinamani is the name of? Give a reason for your answer.

→ Dinamani could be the name of a newspaper because Abdul Kalam tried to trace the stories of the Second World War, which his brother-in-law told him.

Q3. Who were Abdul Kalam's school friends? What did they later ~~be~~ become?

→ Abdul Kalam had three close friends in school - Ramanandha Sastry, Aravindan & Sivaprasadan. Ramanandha Sastry took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father; Aravindan started a business of arranging transport for

visiting pilgrims and Sivapackiam became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.

Q4. How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?

→ The second-world war led to the suspension of the train-halt at Rameswaram Station. As a result, newspapers had to be bundled up & thrown out from the moving train. This forced Kalam's cousin Samudhin, who distributed newspapers in Rameswaram, to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles. Abdul Kalam took up this position & earned his first wages in this process.

Q5. Had he ever earned any money before that? In what way?

→ Yes, he had earned some money when he started helping his cousin. When the second world war broke out, there was a sudden demand for tamarind seeds in the market. He collected the seeds and sold them at a provision shop on Mosque Street. Usually, a day's collection earned him one anna.