



Spring 1

English

Home Learning

Pack D

English

Activities

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10 spelling, Punctuation and Grammar activities

10 daily diary writing sheets with guidance

1 story writing activity

1 poem writing activity

1 setting description activity

A daily reading log

10 reading comprehension activities

English

Activities

SPaG Activity 1

Conjunctions

We sometimes call conjunctions 'joining words' because they link sentences together.

Can you spot the conjunctions in these sentences? Write the sentences neatly in your book and underline the conjunction.

1. I put on my shoes and I went out to play.
2. I can't eat my sweets until after dinner.
3. I can't go out tonight because I have to stay in and do my homework.
4. It had been a long time since I had last played football.
5. I was going to eat the sweets but I saved them for my sister.
6. She was kind to me although she wouldn't let me play with the lego.

Write a sentence using the word 'although' as a conjunction:

SPaG Activity 2—5 Information

Year 3/4 Statutory Spelling List

This Spot the Mistake with Mr. Whoops pack will cover the words from this statutory spelling list:

accident(ally)	complete	February	length	possess(ion)	strength
actual(ly)	consider	forward(s)	library	possible	suppose
address	continue	fruit	material	potatoes	surprise
answer	decide	grammar	medicine	pressure	therefore
appear	describe	group	mention	probably	though/although
arrive	different	guard	minute	promise	thought
believe	difficult	guide	natural	purpose	through
bicycle	disappear	heard	naughty	quarter	various
breath	early	heart	notice	question	weight
breathe	earth	height	occasion(ally)	recent	woman/women
build	eight/eighth	history	often	regular	
busy/business	enough	imagine	opposite	reign	
calendar	exercise	increase	ordinary	remember	
caught	experience	important	particular	sentence	
centre	experiment	interest	peculiar	separate	
century	extreme	island	perhaps	special	
certain	famous	knowledge	popular	straight	
circle	favourite	learn	position	strange	

Spot Mr Whoops' Mistakes

Mr Whoops is a little bit clumsy...OK, OK, he's a lot clumsy! Even though he's really trying hard with his writing, he's still accidentally misspelt twelve of his Y3/Y4 key spelling words. Can you spot his mistakes?

Highlight them in the passage of text.

Could you then correct the words at the bottom of the sheet and create a list for Mr. Whoops to practise?



SPaG Activity 2

My favorite day of the week has always been a Sunday. Even as a young boy, I remember Sundays being different and special. Most weeks, I would visit Granny Whoops' house, where we would have roast beef, mashed potatoes and Yorkshire puddings. Although she was famous for her huge portions, I would make every last mouthful disappear. One Sunday lunchtime, I accidentally tripped while carrying my plate. Luckily, Granny caught it but got covered in gravy! From then on, Granny made me promise never to walk around with crockery ever again. She's such an over-cautious woman!

Mr. Whoops needs to practise these words:

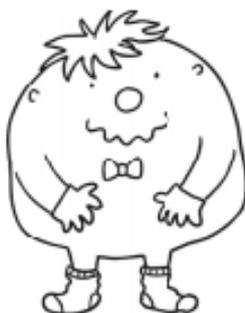
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SPaG Activity 3

Occasionally, I like to go for a walk in the countryside and look at the natural beauty around me. I have a great interest in wildlife. Therefore, I often take my binoculars with me in case I notice any woodland birds or mammals. On a recent trek, I heard a familiar call and I was lucky enough to see a few woodpeckers all perched in one tree. What a wonderful surprise to actually see such a rare species. Planet Earth is really a delightful place!

Mr. Whoops needs to practise these words:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



Thanks for sorting these for me...I do get myself in an awful muddle sometimes!

SPaG Activity 4

My most treasured posession is a dinosaur bone fossil, which I found while I was walking through caves in Wales. I don't supposs it's every day that you stumble upon something almost 65 million years old! It must have been there since the days of eurlly man. At first, I thought it was just some kind of stranje reflection from the water. I just couldn't beleave that such an inportant piece of hisstory was right there in front of my eyes! The dinosaur probably died in the shallow water and then got buried in the mud. The wayght of the mud and the preasure of the water caused the fossil to be formed over thousands of years. I considur it to be a fantastic find!

Mr. Whoops needs to practise these words:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SPaG Activity 5

I have a very bizzy year this year. There are lots of dates with a big sircle drawn round them on my calinder. In Feburary, I am going on an exstream sports holiday to take part in lots of sports, including hand-gliding, abseiling and water-skiing. It should be a fun expeareance! Hopefully in May, there will be a very special occatian when I finally move house. It has taken such a long time to buld. I am so looking forward to having a new addrres. In June, Grandad and Granny Whoops will arreave in England to stay for a few weeks. Hopefully, my new spare room will be complet by then so that they have somewhere to sleep!

Mr. Whoops needs to practise these words:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

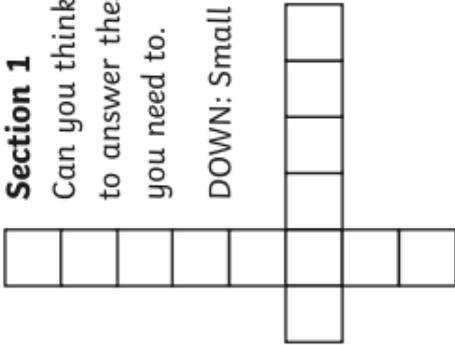
SPaG Activity 6

Section 1

Can you think of the words that end in 'el' to answer these clues? Use a dictionary if you need to.

DOWN: Small woodland creatures that can be grey or red.

ACROSS: To go to a different place.



Section 3

Write a suitable conjunction in this sentence:

a) I might buy a mansion _____ I ever win the lottery.

Section 5

Can you turn these words into plurals?

church - _____

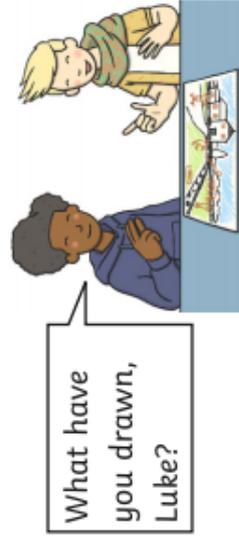
fly - _____



Section 2

Can you place the correct speech punctuation in Luke's reply?

I've done a picture of a farmyard replied
Luke



Section 4

Can you spot the TWO spelling mistakes on Mr Whoops' to-do list? Can you help him to spell them correctly?

TO-DO:

Book Mum's suprise birthday party. Visit the shopping center

Section 6

Can you think of an adjective, adverb and a proper noun beginning with...

	adjective	adverb	proper noun
the letter p?			
the letter n?			

SPaG Activity 7

Section 1

Underline the correct verb form to create a present perfect sentence:

This morning, we has/have written a story.



Section 2

Join the correct prefix to each root word.

im sane

in possible

Section 3

List TWO adjectives to describe this boy.



Section 4

Can you add commas to this list sentence?

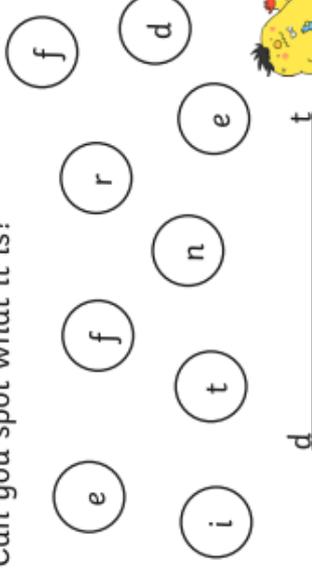
“Would you like garlic mushrooms baked cod lamb chops or squid rings?” asked the waitress.



Section 6

Mr Whoops has been juggling with the letters from one of his Y3 spelling words.

Can you spot what it is?



Section 5

Which conjunction would fit best into this sentence?

Nathan had been given lots of money for his birthday _____ he went to the shopping centre to spend it.

SPaG Activity 8

I can use inverted commas for direct speech.

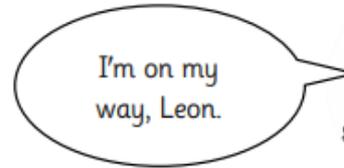


1. Turn these conversations into direct speech sentences.

a)



Aisha, I need your help.



I'm on my way, Leon.

b)



My favourite ice cream flavour is strawberry.



My favourite is chocolate.

SPaG Activity 9

Finding Alternatives to 'Said'

Find interesting alternatives for these sentences:

1. "I love ice cream!" _____ Hannah.
2. "Where are you going?" _____ Mohammed.
3. "Bring a coat," _____ mum.
4. "Don't forget the bandages," _____ the paramedic.
5. "Stop that!" _____ the headmaster.
6. "Oh no!" _____ Kenneth.
7. "Don't make a sound," _____ Sarah.

Use a dictionary or the internet to find alternative words for said. Add them into the sentence as appropriate .

SPaG Activity 10

In which sentence is lock a **verb**?

Tick **one**.

Aisha closed the box and fastened the lock.

Make sure you lock the gate before you leave.

I think I need to buy a new bike lock.

The lock can only be opened with this special key.

1 mark

Circle the **conjunction** in each sentence.

We like to eat popcorn when we go to the cinema.

Although my sister likes salted popcorn, I prefer sweet popcorn.

My brother doesn't like popcorn at all, so he buys sweets instead.

1 mark

Tick **one** word to complete the sentence below.

Potatoes are good for you, _____ you should not eat chips too often.

Tick **one**.

that

but

when

or

Writing Activity Guidance

Every day, write a diary entry explaining what you are doing at home, how you are feeling and what your family are also doing. You should also draw a picture in the box provided!

Remember to write about the most interesting events of your day or if nothing significant has happened, write about what you have been thinking or daydreaming about! This could be visiting your favourite theme park or eating your favourite dinner!

Use the checklist below to remind you what to include;

Diary Writing Checklist

Did I...

Child

include the date and/or time?



write in the first person?

use past tense for the main events?



include an introduction to set the scene?

tell events in chronological order?

include personal emotions and feelings?



use time conjunctions and adverbials
(e.g. after that, before lunch, until sunset)?

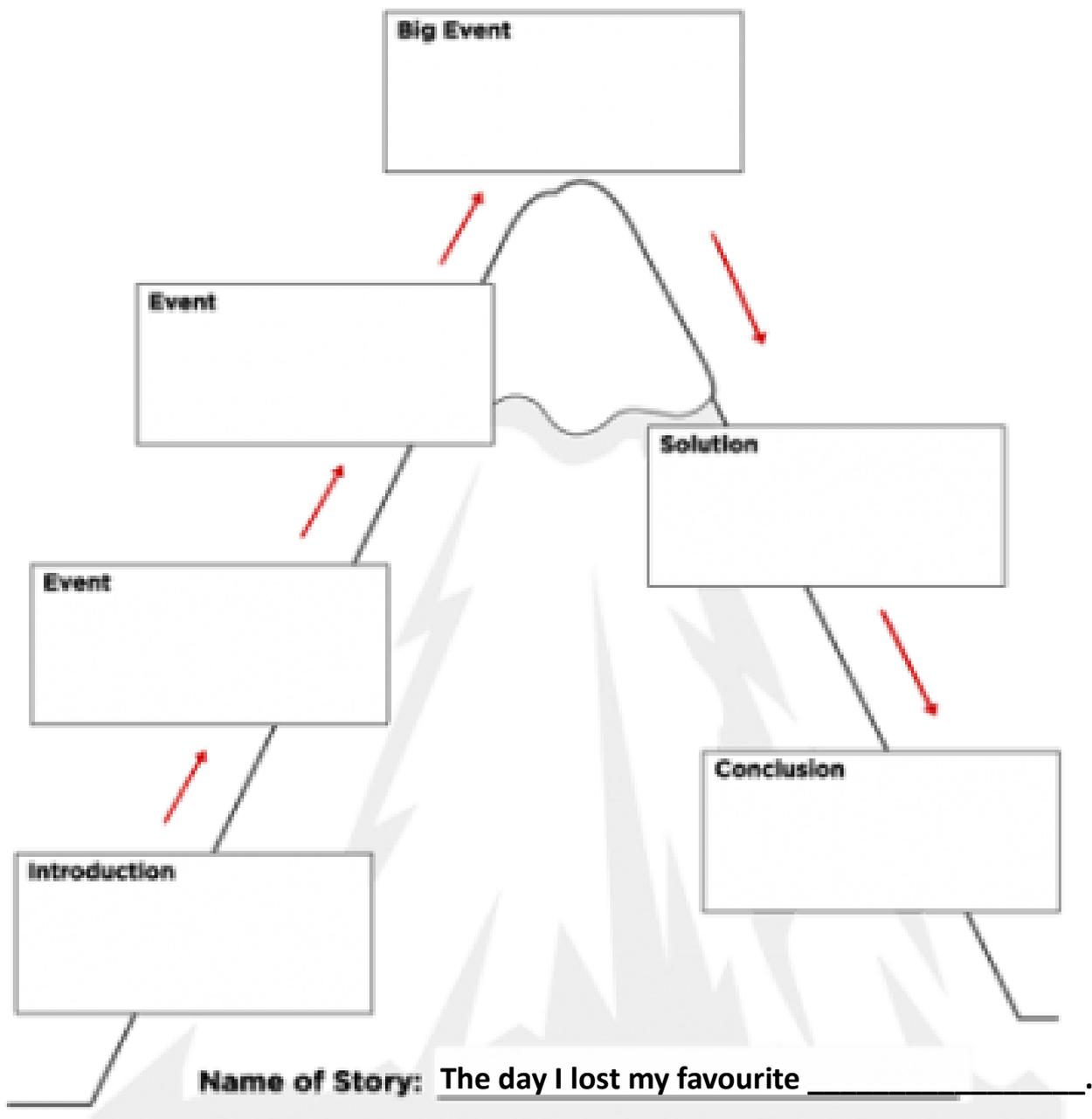
Day 9 Diary Entry

Writing Activity 1: Narrative

Plan, write and edit a story titled.:

The day the toys came to life.

Use the plan provided to map out your story.



Write your story!

Use this check list to make sure you have all the elements of a good story!

I have used full stops and capital letters	
I have described the setting and atmosphere using descriptive language.	
I have introduced my character or characters and told the reader about them.	
I have explained what is happening at the beginning of the story.	
I have used conjunctions to join my sentences together	
I have used adverbs to describe how things are happening	
I have used interesting language throughout my story to paint a clear picture for the reader.	
I have used time words to help the reader follow the story.	
I have written in paragraphs and each paragraph contains a new idea or event.	

Edit your story!

Re read your story. Look for all of these in your story check list to make sure you have all the elements of a good story!

I have used full stops and capital letters	
I have described the setting and atmosphere using descriptive language.	
I have introduced my character or characters and told the reader about them.	
I have explained what is happening at the beginning of the story.	
I have used conjunctions to join my sentences together	
I have used adverbs to describe how things are happening	
I have used interesting language throughout my story to paint a clear picture for the reader.	
I have used time words to help the reader follow the story.	
I have written in paragraphs and each paragraph contains a new idea or event.	

Writing Activity 2: Poetry

Spring Shape Poetry

Create a mind map of adjectives and phrases to help you to create a shape poem. Remember to start a new line when you get to the edge of the picture. Can you use alliteration? Can you include a simile?

Daffodil

The colour of _____

Your petals remind me of _____

A trumpet like _____

When I see you, I feel _____

Reading

Reading Comprehension Activity 1

Dragonfly Out in the Sun by David Windle

I am a dragonfly
and I live on the breeze,
between the reeds and rushes
and the sun's soft fingers.

I am a dragonfly
and my body's a spear;
as sharp as an eagle
I hunt for my prey.

I am a dragonfly
and my wings are like water,
or as sharp as two swords
cutting the air into pieces.

I am a dragonfly
and I float like a dancer
over the pond's still surface,
which reflects, like a mirror,
my miraculous presence.

I am a dragonfly
and my eyes are like glass,
as round as the moon
they see all that pass.

Do you know how I feel?

1. Where does the dragonfly live?

2. Whose point of view is this poem written from?

3. In verse one, there are 3 examples of alliteration. Find and copy them.

4. In the first verse, the poet uses personification to describe the sun. Find and copy this:

5. How many similes are there in this poem? Which is your favourite? Why?

6. How does this poem make you feel? Explain fully.

Reading Comprehension Activity 2 (questions on next page)

Queen Elizabeth I

Reading comprehension

Elizabeth is often remembered as a powerful and popular monarch. She tried hard to be a different kind of queen as she wanted to be fair to all of her subjects. She was only the second queen in English history to rule in her own right, so she had to prove a lot of naysayers wrong throughout her reign.

What was early life like for Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Tudor was born on 7th September 1533. Her father was Henry VIII and her mother was his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Her mother was cruelly executed when she was only two years old. Henry VIII accused her mother of adultery and plotting to kill him, so she was ordered to be executed. For a long time after her mother's death, Elizabeth was neglected by her father, but she was welcomed back into the family after Catherine Parr (Henry's sixth wife) pushed for father and daughter to be reunited.



How did Elizabeth become queen?

When her father died, his nine-year-old son and Elizabeth's brother, King Edward VI, took to the throne to rule England. After Edward's tragic death in 1553, Henry's eldest daughter, Mary I, became queen and reigned for five years until her death in 1558. Elizabeth finally became queen in 1558 when she was twenty-five years old.

What was Elizabeth like as queen?

Elizabeth tried hard to be a more tolerant ruler than Mary – her desire was to make England a fairer place for everyone. She was a very intelligent woman, who surrounded herself with helpful ministers. It is widely reported that Elizabeth was a very vain woman, especially during her time as queen. She wore a big red wig, fine robes, expensive jewels and thick make up to make sure she always looked her best. She would vet any painting of her before it was shown to anyone else.

Reading Comprehension Activity 2 (questions on next page)

Reading comprehension

Why was she called the 'Virgin Queen'?

Elizabeth never married and she didn't have any children, so this meant there was no direct succession to her throne. At times, Elizabeth was encouraged to find a husband, as her advisors thought a man would be good for support and provide an heir for succession. Elizabeth did not want to share her power with a husband.

What was the Golden Age?

This period of history is often called the 'Golden Age' for Great Britain. There was a lot of exciting things happening, such as a lot of discovery of new land and colonies were being set up overseas, by explorers such as Sir Francis Drake. The arts became very popular and people started to enjoy going to the theatre. This helped William Shakespeare, a world-famous playwright, become very popular.

What happened in Elizabeth's later life?

Elizabeth died on 24th March 1603. She had sat on the throne for 44 years and was a very popular queen. She was to be the last Tudor monarch due to the fact she had never had any children. James VI of Scotland, who was Mary Queen of Scots' son, was named King James I of England.



Reading Comprehension Activity 2

Questions

1. Tick the year that Elizabeth was born.

1553

1353

1533

1558



2. Who was King Henry VIII to Elizabeth?

3. What does the word executed mean? Tick the correct definition.

to make somebody your ex

carry out a sentence of death on somebody

4. Tick the reason why you think her father neglected her as a child.

She wasn't a boy and he wanted a boy to carry on his name.

He didn't like her personality.

5. Who was king or queen right before Elizabeth?

6. Why do you think Elizabeth wore a big red wig and thick make up?

Reading Comprehension Activity 3

The Stone Age

The Stone Age started around 2.5 million years ago when early humans first produced the first stone tools. The Stone Age is split into three different parts: the **Palaeolithic** (Old Stone Age) the **Mesolithic** (Middle Stone Age) and the **Neolithic** (New Stone Age).



During the Old Stone Age humans evolved from Neanderthals and other groups into homo sapiens (modern humans). People survived by gathering wild nuts, fruits, and berries. They also hunted wild animals. The tradition is that women did the gathering and men did the hunting. When the food ran out, these hunter-gatherers moved on.

The Middle Stone Age began at the end of the last Ice Age when sea levels rose and Britain became an island. In the New Stone Age, the way people lived changed significantly. People began building settlements instead of moving from place to place. They built walls around their settlements to protect themselves and started to grow their own crops and domesticate animals. Tools for grinding, cutting and chopping were also introduced. People used bones for fishhooks so that they could catch fish as well as animals.

Questions

1. What did people eat during the Stone Age?

2. How many parts is the Stone Age split into? _____

3. What was the period called when sheets of ice covered the Earth?

- a) Old Stone Age b) Warm age c) Ice Age

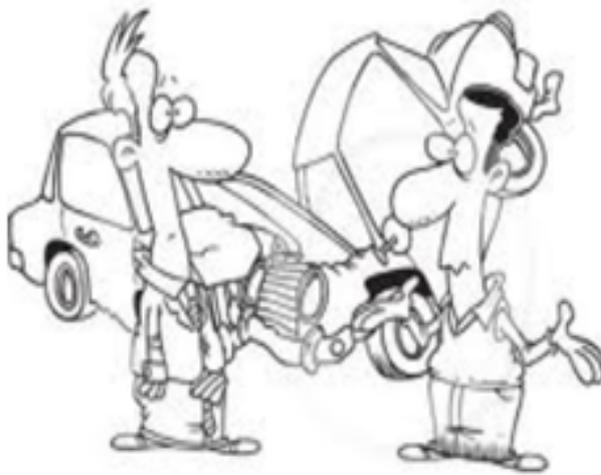
4. What do you think it means when you **domesticate** an animal?

5. A historian is someone who:

- a) Studies and writes about the past b) Sings about the past c) Makes history

Reading Comprehension Activity 4

THE ACCIDENT



Tom was late for work when the accident happened. He left his house at half past eight as he needed to start work at nine. John works in a shop. He saw the light turn amber and knew that he should stop, but he tried to drive faster so that he could get through the lights before they turned to red.

As he went through the lights another car came from a road to his left and hit him in the side. Crash! No one was hurt but the other driver was very angry.

"You idiot" he shouted at Tom "Why did you go through a red light?" Tom said that he hadn't and that the light had been amber - but he felt embarrassed. Perhaps the light had turned red and he thought it was probably his fault, but he wouldn't admit it. A lady who had been crossing the road said she had seen the whole thing. Oh dear - what a day?

What time did Tom leave the house?

Where was Tom going?

Where does Tom work?

Why did Tom speed up?

Why was Tom embarrassed?

Whose fault was the accident?

Reading Comprehension Activity 5

BIRD MIGRATION



Migration is when birds fly to warmer countries to escape cold winters. Each autumn birds tend to practise flying together in flocks – and this is a sign that Winter is on its way. These birds then fly south to warmer countries so that they can breed and feed as during the winter, food can become hard to find in the cold winters.

How do they keep going?

They sometimes stop along the way, but many stock up on food before they leave and fly in formation, making the journey in one very long flight.

Do all birds migrate?

No. Some birds stay all winter and others leave, the robin, for example – does both. The male bird stays to mind the nest, but the female migrates south and returns in the spring to mate and lay eggs in the nest that her mate has carefully kept safe from other male robins.

How do they know the way?

Many people think that they use the earth's magnetic field as a compass, but they could also use a mixture of sight and smell.

Fill in the missing words

Birds _____ in the Autumn and _____ South for the winter.

They go to _____ countries because there is not so much _____ in the Winter.

They often fly all the way there without making a _____.

Not all birds migrate. The male _____ stays at home to take care of the nest.

Some people think that the birds use magnetism as a _____ to find the way.

Reading Comprehension Activity 6



Bats are not blind, but no animal can see in complete darkness. Since many kinds of bats hunt insects at night, they have an additional trick called echolocation for finding their way in the dark. The bat uses its mouth to create sounds that bounce off nearby objects, such as a moth, as the sound comes back to the bat's ears it can tell where the object is. Using echolocation, the bat can find its prey and snatch it in midair. Most are insectivorous and hunt their prey by

INSECTS : aerial hawkers Most bats eat insects which they hunt by chasing them down while flying. They find the insects in the dark by a form of radar, as they push sound out, it bounces off objects and back to the bat. They can then work out the direction of the prey and how far away it is.

INSECTS: ground feeders Some insect eating bats can land on the ground and chase insects that live in leaf litter or similar places. These can eat big insects like scorpions and seem to be immune from their sting.

NECTAR: Not only butterflies and bees drink nectar from flowers, some bats do too. These bats have long tongues which help them to lick the nectar deep inside the flowers.

POLLEN: It is not only bees which pollinate plants, some bats also do this. These bats have brushes on their tongue which brushes the pollen which they then take to another plant and are important for pollinating mangoes and bananas.

What does aerial hawker mean?

How does a bat's radar work?

Name four different types of food bats eat.

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Are bats blind?

How does a bat 'pollinate' a flower?

Reading Comprehension Activity 7

The fox and the scorpion



The forest was on fire and all the animals swam across the river to escape the fire.

The scorpion could not swim and begged the fox to help him.

"Please take me across the river on your back - or I will die."

"I am not a fool" said the fox "you will sting me and I will drown"

"No" replied the scorpion "I promise that if you help me - I will not sting you - after all, if you drown then so will I"

"Okay" the fox agreed, and the scorpion climbed on his back.

1. Why were the animals swimming across the river?

2. Why did the scorpion ask for help?

3. Why was the fox worried?

4. How did the scorpion get the fox to help him?

5. What is the real meaning of this story?

Reading Comprehension Activity 8

READING COMPREHENSION



Sam is fourteen years old and joined the scouts as a Beaver when he was seven because his best friend David had joined and Sam wanted to go as well. His meeting is held in the local church and is on a Thursday, starting at six and ending at half past seven. Sam has made many friends going to Scouts, from lots of other schools which he many never have met if he hadn't gone to Scouts.

He has learnt many skills at Scouts which have helped him grow up and become a better person, it is more than just learning how to tie knots, it is an adventure. Sam has learnt how to put up a tent, has hiked in the mountains, has become a leader which will help him when he leaves school and goes to University, and it isn't all about sport. His friend David loves football, and plays for the county, but prefers to canoe up rivers, which he also learnt to do at Scouts. In two years Sam is planning to go Scouting abroad with Globetrekker, the plan is to go camping in Sweden, and canoe up the many rivers there. Sam does not plan to leave Scouts but wants to become a leader himself, helping other young boys to do all the things that he has been able to do. Sam is a Scout and is proud of it.

1. How old was Sam when he joined Scouts?

2. Why did Sam join Scouts?

3. Name two skills which Sam has learnt?

_____ and _____

4. Where does Sam plan to go in two years?

5. What does he plan to do when he gets there?

6. What is the name of the organization which helps Scouts go abroad?

7. Scouting is both for boys and girls, would you be tempted, give reasons?

Reading Comprehension Activity 9

Making Ice Cream



The main ingredient in ice cream is milk. Milk comes from cows. Milking machines collect the milk from the cows. The machines pump the milk into a tank. The tank keeps the milk cool until it can be collected from the farm.

A large truck collects the milk from the farm. This refrigerated truck is called a tanker. The tanker keeps the milk cool on the way to the factory.



At the factory, milk is mixed with sugar to make an ice cream mixture. The mixture is quickly heated and cooled to kill any germs that are in the milk.

Then the mixture is stirred to get rid of lumps. Flavours and colours are added. The ice cream is then put into the freezer to harden.

Questions:

1. What is ice cream made of?
2. What do milking machines do?
3. Where is ice cream made?
4. How is milk transported from the farm?
5. What happens after the colours and flavours have been added?
6. How do you make the ice cream mixture smooth?
7. Why do you think it is important to keep milk cool? How do you keep milk cool at home?



What is **your** favourite flavour of ice cream?

Reading Comprehension Activity 10

What did Romans do in their spare time?



Most people in Roman times did not have much spare time, they were too busy working. They liked board games. We know this because archaeologists have found counters and dice in the ground.

The Romans enjoyed watching fights between gladiators, and fights between people and animals. These bloodthirsty shows were put on in front of crowds in large arenas called amphitheatres. Gladiators fought one another, usually in pairs. They also fought wild animals such as lions or bears. When a gladiator was beaten (but still alive), the audience would wave scarves or put their thumbs out if they wanted him killed. If he'd fought well, and they wanted him to live, they would close their thumbs onto their fingers. Different types of gladiators used different weapons. For example, a man with a sword and shield might fight a man with a three-pronged spear or trident, and a big net.



Romans enjoyed the theatre. Most plays were funny comedies, though there were serious tragedies as well. Actors often wore masks to show whether their character was happy or sad! They also wore wigs - an old man had a white wig, a slave had a red wig. Roman emperors put on free shows at theatres and amphitheatres as it was a good way to make themselves popular.

In Rome there was a huge stadium called the Circus Maximus, used for chariot races. Chariot races were held in Britain too, which were thrilling but very dangerous. Chariots were small two-wheeled carts, driven by one man and pulled by four galloping horses. They raced around an oval track. There were often smashes during the seven-lap races.

1. Why did many Romans have little spare time?
2. What is an amphitheatre?
3. How did actors show whether their characters were happy or sad?
4. What is a chariot?
5. Why do you think putting on free shows could help to make an emperor more popular?
6. Why do you think that gladiator fights no longer happen today?