

Jen



1. I can see:

2. Jen has:

3. I go to Jen if I am:

I can see Jen.

Jen has a pen and a
pad.

If I am sick, I go to Jen.

Pat and Meg



The cat is Pat.
Meg is the dog.
Pat and Meg play.
Pat sits on Meg.

1. The cat is:

2. Meg is the:

3. Pat sits on:

Guitar



My guitar has six strings.
I like to play songs on it.
My guitar is made from
wood.

1. My guitar has six:

2. I like to play _____ on it.

3. My guitar is made from:

Describe these people.

Where are they?

How did they get here?

What are they looking at?

How do they know each other?

Why does the man have a flag?

How long have they been here?

Can you think of a way to help them?



Describe this dog.

Where is he?

Why does he have a bag?

What is inside his bag?

Where does he come from?

Where is he going?

How would you help him?

What might happen next?



Who is this man?

Where is he going?

How is he feeling?

Why is he wearing a cape?

What is his favourite colour?

Describe his personality.

What else might this man like to do?

What might happen next?



Think of words to describe this dog.

What has it been doing?

What is it thinking?

What other things might it enjoy?

Who does the dog belong to?

If this was your dog, how would you react?

What is it looking at?

Can you think of a story about a mischievous animal?





What do you know?

What can you infer?

What would you like to ask?



What do you know?

What can you infer?

What would you like to ask?



| <u>Identify</u> | <u>Describe</u> | <u>Infer</u> |
|---|---|---|
| <p>How many balloons are attached to the box?</p> | <p>Think of synonyms for 'red'.</p> | <p>How is this girl feeling? How can you tell?</p> |
| <p>What do you know about this girl?</p> | <p>Write the blurb for a book about a girl who travels in a flying box.</p> | <p>How would you describe the girl's personality?</p> |
| <p>What has the girl done to prepare for her adventure?</p> | <p>Describe a place you would go to if you had a flying box.</p> | <p>Think of your favourite story character. How would they react in this situation?</p> |



| <u>Identify</u> | <u>Describe</u> | <u>Infer</u> |
|---|--|---|
| <p>What do you know about this place?</p> | <p>Improve this sentence: <i>The island floated.</i></p> | <p>What might these buildings be used for? How can you tell?</p> |
| <p>Does anybody live here? How do you know?</p> | <p>Think of adverbs to describe how the water is moving.</p> | <p>Why are some of the rocks attached to ropes?</p> |
| <p>How is this place similar to where you live?</p> | <p>Write a sentence to describe one of the buildings.</p> | <p>Would you like to live here? Give reasons for your answer.</p> |



| <u>Identify</u> | <u>Describe</u> | <u>Infer</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Where is this person? | Write a description of the bike. | Where has this person come from? |
| What is the person doing? | Improve this sentence: <i>The man rode a bike.</i> | Where might they be going to? |
| What is the person wearing? | Think of synonyms for 'hat'. | What might happen next? Give reasons for your answer. |

At the Zoo

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811 - 1863)

First I saw the white bear, then I saw the black;
Then I saw the camel with a hump upon his back;
Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw;
Then I saw the wombat waddle in the straw;
Then I saw the elephant a-waving of his trunk;
Then I saw the monkeys-mercy, how unpleasantly they-smelt!



At the Zoo

Questions

1. Which animal did this person see first?

- The white bear
- The black bear
- The camel
- The wombat

2. Which animal did this person see immediately before the camel?

- The grey wolf
- The wombat
- The white bear
- The black bear

3. 'Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw'. What do you think 'maw' means?

- Paws
- Mouth
- Stomach
- Den

4. What was the wombat doing?

- Waddling in the straw
- Waving its trunk
- Climbing a tree
- Cleaning itself

5. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'unpleasantly'?

- nicely
- sweetly
- awfully
- sadly

6. How many different types of animal did the person see?

- Three
- Five
- Seven
- Ten

At the Zoo

Answers

1. Which animal did this person see first?

- The white bear
- The black bear
- The camel
- The wombat

2. Which animal did this person see immediately before the camel?

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The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Did you know that butterflies go through a life cycle?

Stage 1 - Eggs

A female butterfly attaches her eggs to plants (to help the caterpillars find food when they hatch).



Stage 2 - Caterpillar

The caterpillar is born. It is very hungry and eats leaves and flowers. As a result, it grows really fast.



When you are outside, look for each stage of a butterfly's life cycle!



Stage 4 - Butterfly

The chrysalis opens and a butterfly emerges.



Stage 3 - Chrysalis

When the caterpillar has finished growing, it makes a chrysalis in order to protect itself while it changes into a butterfly.

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Questions

1. Why does the female butterfly attach her eggs to plants?

- So that she can find them again later.
- To keep them safe.
- So that the caterpillars will be able to find food.
- To stop them falling on the ground.

2. What is the second stage of a butterfly's life cycle?

- Egg
- Chrysalis
- Butterfly
- Caterpillar

3. Why do caterpillars grow so fast?

- They eat a lot of food.
- They have stripes.
- No one knows.
- Their mother feeds them.

4. When does the caterpillar make itself a chrysalis?

- When it has finished growing.
- When it hatches from the egg.
- When it gets dark.
- In the winter.

5. What comes out of the chrysalis?

- An egg.
- A caterpillar.
- A butterfly.
- A plant.

6. Which of these is in the correct order?

- butterfly, chrysalis, egg, caterpillar
- egg, chrysalis, butterfly, caterpillar
- butterfly , chrysalis, caterpillar, egg
- egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Answers

1. Why does the female butterfly attach her eggs to plants?

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France

France is a large country in Western Europe. Some of the countries that border France include Germany, Italy and Belgium. 66 million people live there. The official language is French.



Did you know...?

The world's most famous cycle race, the Tour de France, is held in France every year.



French Sport

Sport is very popular in France. Some of the most popular sports are; football, basketball, tennis and handball. French people also enjoy motorsports like Formula One and motorcycle racing.



Food

A French meal is usually split into three parts:

Hors d'oeuvre – This is a starter dish like salad or soup. This is usually served with French bread.

Main Meal - Popular French meals include Ratatouille (a stewed vegetable dish), Coq au vin (chicken braised with wine, bacon, mushrooms and garlic) and Boeuf Bourguignon (a rich beef casserole).

Fruit or Cheese – More than 350 different kinds of cheese are made in France!



There is plenty to do wherever you go in France. Learn the language, see the sights and enjoy the food!

France

1. Where is France? Tick the correct answer:

- Africa,
- Asia,
- South America,
- Western Europe.

2. Name one of the countries that borders France.

3. According to the text, how many people live in France?

4. Name two popular sports in France based on the information in the text.

5. How many parts is a French meal usually split into?

6. When would you eat an *hors d'oeuvre*? Tick the correct answer.

- At the beginning of a meal,
- In the middle of a meal,
- At the end of a meal.

7. What is *ratatouille*? Tick the correct answer.

- A stewed vegetable dish,
- Chicken brained with wine, bacon, mushrooms and garlic,
- A rich beef casserole.

8. What is the name of the world's most famous cycle race?

9. What three things does the article suggest that you do wherever you go in France?

1.

2.

3.

10. What kind of text is this? Tick the correct answer:

- An explanation text,
- A persuasive advert,
- A report,
- A set of instructions.

France

1. Where is France? Tick the correct answer:

- Africa,
- Asia,
- South America,
- Western Europe.

2. Name one of the countries that borders France.

**Germany, Italy and Belgium (described in the text)
Or Andorra, Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain and
Switzerland (shown on the map).**

3. According to the text, how many people live in France?

66 million people.

4. Name two popular sports in France based on the information in the text.

**Answers include football, basketball, tennis,
handball, Formula One and motorcycle racing.**

5. How many parts is a French meal usually split into?

Three

6. When would you eat an *hors d'oeuvre*? Tick the correct answer.

- At the beginning of a meal,
- In the middle of a meal,
- At the end of a meal.

7. What is *ratatouille*? Tick the correct answer.

- A stewed vegetable dish,
- Chicken braised with wine, bacon, mushrooms and garlic,
- A rich beef casserole.

8. What is the name of the world's most famous cycle race?

The Tour de France.

9. What three things does the article suggest that you do wherever you go in France?

- 1. Learn the language,**
- 2. See the sights,**
- 3. Enjoy the food!**

10. What kind of text is this? Tick the correct answer:

- An explanation text,
- A persuasive advert,
- A report,
- A set of instructions.

One day, a Christian called Saint George arrived in a small town. He met a poor man who told him about a terrible dragon. The dragon was frightening the people of the town.

The dragon had made the villagers sacrifice a beautiful maiden every day to keep him happy. Now the only maiden that was left was the king's daughter. The town had to find a brave knight to slay the dragon.

As a reward, the knight could marry the king's daughter. Saint George wanted to slay the dragon and save the princess. So, the next day he woke early and told the princess to stay at home. George rode to the place where the dragon lived.

As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him. Saint George tried to use his spear, but the dragon's scales were too hard. The spear broke into a thousand pieces!

Saint George fell off his frightened horse. Luckily, he rolled under an enchanted orange tree. The tree protected him from the dragon and he rested until he was ready to fight again.

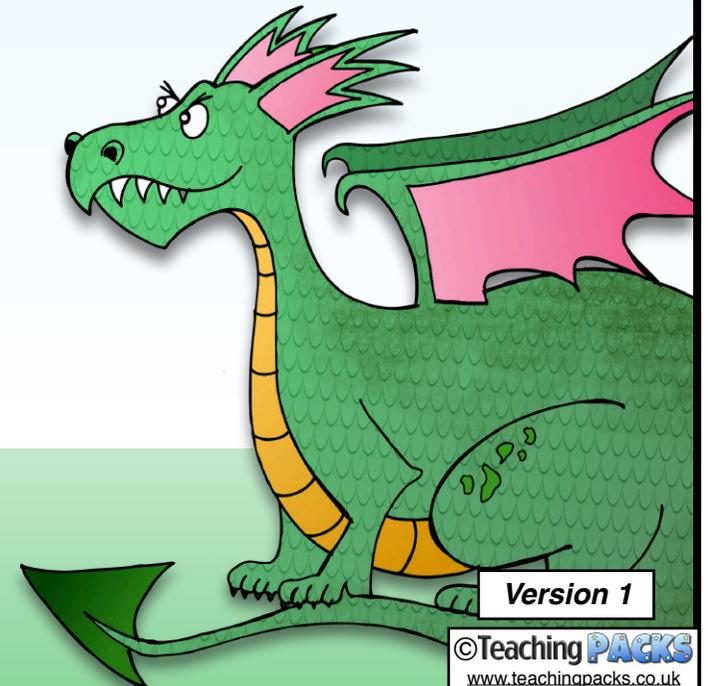
Saint George attacked the dragon with his sword but the dragon poured venom onto George's armour and it split in two. Saint George rested under the enchanted orange tree again.

Saint George then launched his third and final attack on the dragon, stabbing it under its wing where there were no scales. The dragon fell dead at his feet.

George went back to the town. The people were delighted and were so impressed by his bravery that they became Christians too.



George and the Dragon



Version 1

George and the Dragon

1. Look in the first paragraph. Can you find a word that is used to describe the dragon?
2. 'As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him'. Why do you think it did this?
3. What was George's reward for killing the dragon?
4. What protected the dragon from George's spear?
5. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'enchanted'?
haunted magical pretty weird
6. How did the dragon defend itself when George attacked the second time?
7. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed?
8. How many times did George attack the dragon in total?
9. How did George manage to defeat the dragon?
10. Which two words were used to show how the people felt about George's actions?
11. How would you describe George?
12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature?

Version 1

George and the Dragon

1. Look in the first paragraph. Can you find a word that is used to describe the dragon? **Terrible.**
2. 'As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him'. Why do you think it did this? **It was angry / it knew that Saint George wanted to harm it.**
3. What was George's reward for killing the dragon? **The right to marry the king's daughter.**
4. What protected the dragon from George's spear? **Its scales.**
5. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'enchanted'?
haunted **magical** pretty weird
6. How did the dragon defend itself when George attacked the second time? **It poured venom onto George's armour.**
7. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed? **Tired, scared (and other similar emotions).**
8. How many times did George attack the dragon in total? **Three.**
9. How did George manage to defeat the dragon? **By stabbing it under its wing where there were no scales.**
10. Which two words were used to show how the people felt about George's actions? **Delighted and impressed.**
11. How would you describe George? **Brave, fearless (and other positive qualities).**
12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature? **Answers may vary.**

Florence Nightingale

Childhood

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy on the 12th of May 1820. In 1821 the family moved back to England. In the summer they lived at Hurst Lea in Derbyshire and for the rest of the year at Embley Park in Hampshire. Florence and her sister were taught by their father and a governess. They were very well-educated, which was unusual for girls at the time.



Becoming a nurse

Florence wanted to become a nurse. Her parents thought that this was a bad idea and would not let her train. Rich young women at the time were expected to get married, not to work. Florence refused to marry. Eventually Florence's parents could see that she would not give up and she became a nurse.

The Crimean War

In 1854 the Crimean War began. Britain, France and Turkey were fighting Russia. Conditions were dreadful and more soldiers were dying from diseases than in battles. Florence was friends with the Minister for War and he asked her to take a team of nurses to the Crimea to improve the situation.

The Army hospital at Scutari was in a terrible state; dirty, overcrowded and rat-infested. To make things worse, at first the Army doctors refused to work with the nurses. Florence would not take no for an answer and so her nurses began cleaning the hospital. They looked after the soldiers, bought fresh food and had the drains cleared. Soon the death rate began to fall. The soldiers called her "The Lady with the Lamp", because she walked around the wards at night, carrying a lantern.

After the Crimea

After the Crimean War, Florence carried on working with the Army to improve conditions in military hospitals, and opened a training school for nurses at St Thomas's Hospital in London. She also invented a type of diagram, known as a "Rose diagram", to clearly show that many more men had died of diseases in the Crimea than any other cause. For the last 40 years of her life, Florence was very ill and bed-ridden. She still carried on working, and wrote over 19,000 letters in her campaign to improve health care. She received many honours and awards, and was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit.

Florence Nightingale died on the 13th of August 1910.

Did you know?

Florence was so famous when she returned from the Crimean War that she called herself Miss Smith!

Florence Nightingale

- 1) In which country was Florence born?
- 2) In which part of England is Embley Park?
- 3) Using evidence from the first paragraph, explain how we know that Florence's family were rich.
- 4) Name three countries that were involved in the Crimean War.
- 5) Who asked Florence to travel to Crimea?
- 6) Which three words were used to describe the Scutari Army Hospital?
- 7) How did changing her name help Florence after the Crimean War?
- 8) What did the 'Rose diagram' show?
- 9) Copy a quote from the text that shows Florence's determination.
10. Choose three words that describe Florence's personality.

Florence Nightingale

- 1) In which country was Florence born?
Italy.
- 2) In which part of England is Embley Park?
Hampshire.
- 3) Using evidence from the first paragraph, explain how we know that Florence's family were rich.
They had two homes, living in Derbyshire in the summer and Hampshire for the rest of the year. The girls were also well-educated.
- 4) Name three countries that were involved in the Crimean War.
Answers include Britain, France, Turkey and Russia.
- 5) Who asked Florence to travel to Crimea?
The Minister for War.
- 6) Which three words were used to describe the Scutari Army Hospital?
Dirty, overcrowded and rat-infested.
- 7) How did changing her name help Florence after the Crimean War?
She was very famous and it stopped people knowing who she was.
- 8) What did the 'Rose diagram' show?
That many more people died of diseases in the Crimea than any other cause.
- 9) Copy a quote from the text that shows Florence's determination.
Answers include...
 - * **Florence refused to marry. Eventually Florence's parents could see that she would not give up and she became a nurse.**
 - * **Florence would not take no for an answer...**
 - * **She still carried on working and wrote over 19,000 letters...**
10. Choose three words that describe Florence's personality.
Answers will vary but may include kind, determined, caring and other related words.

The Titanic

What happened to the Titanic?

The Titanic was a very famous ship, but do you know why? The sinking of the “Practically Unsinkable” Titanic in 1912 was one of the worst shipping disasters in history.

The building of the Titanic

The Titanic was built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland. Construction began on the 31st of March 1909 and took nearly three years to complete. About 15,000 men worked on the ship. Eight workers were killed working on the ship and two hundred and forty six injuries were recorded.

The largest ship ever seen

The ship was built for the White Star Line company. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the company, wanted to build the largest ship ever seen. When completed, the Titanic was 269 metres long and 53 metres high. The White Star Line said the ship was “practically unsinkable” because of the way it was built. They did not put on enough lifeboats for everyone on board, because they believed they would never be needed. This was a terrible mistake.

The Titanic sets sail

The Titanic set sail on the 10th of April 1912 from Southampton, bound for New York. She stopped at France and Ireland to pick up passengers. There were over 2200 people aboard.

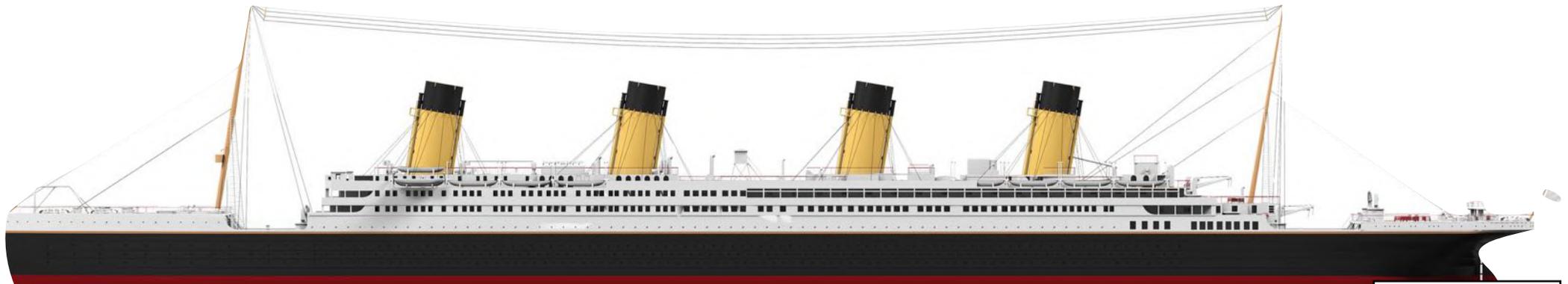
The Titanic strikes the iceberg

On the morning of the 14th of April 1912, the crew began to receive warnings about icebergs in the area they were sailing into. Later in the day the ship changed course to try to avoid the icebergs. The conditions that night were very clear, with no moon and a very flat sea. That made it very difficult for the lookouts to spot icebergs. By the time Frederick Fleet saw the iceberg at 11.39 pm that night, the ship was only about 100 metres away. It was much too late to avoid a collision.

How many people survived?

The Titanic took two and a half hours to sink. About 700 people managed to get into lifeboats and were rescued by a ship called The Carpathia. Around 1500 people were believed to be lost at sea. Bruce Ismay sailed on the Titanic himself and was rescued.

After the loss of the Titanic, changes were made to the way ships travelled in iceberg regions, and lifeboats were based on the number of people on a ship.



The Titanic

1. In which country was the Titanic built?
2. How long did the construction take to complete?
3. Was the construction of the Titanic a safe job? Explain how you know.
4. Who was Bruce Ismay?
5. What 'terrible mistake' did the White Star Line company make?
6. *She stopped at France and Ireland...*
Who or what is 'she' in this sentence?
7. After how many days at sea did the crew begin to receive warnings about icebergs in the area?
8. Why was it too late for the Titanic to avoid a collision with the iceberg?
9. True or False? Most of the passengers and crew survived the sinking of the Titanic. Explain your answer, giving evidence from the text...
10. How did the loss of the Titanic change travel by ships in the future?

The Titanic

1. In which country was the Titanic built?

Ireland.

2. How long did the construction take to complete?

Nearly three years.

3. Was the construction of the Titanic a safe job? Explain how you know.

No... because eight workers were killed and 246 were injured.

4. Who was Bruce Ismay?

The managing director of the White Star Line company.

5. What 'terrible mistake' did the White Star Line company make?

They didn't put enough lifeboats on the ship.

6. *She stopped at France and Ireland...*

Who or what is 'she' in this sentence?

The Titanic.

7. After how many days at sea did the crew begin to receive warnings about icebergs in the area?

Four days.

8. Why was it too late for the Titanic to avoid a collision with the iceberg?

Because it was only about 100 metres away.

9. True or False? Most of the passengers and crew survived the sinking of the Titanic. Explain your answer, giving evidence from the text...

False. Only 700 people were rescued and 1500 were lost at sea.

10. How did the loss of the Titanic change travel by ships in the future?

Changes were made to the way they travelled in iceberg regions and the number of lifeboats was based on the number of people on a ship.

British Woodland Animals

Woodland covers around 13% of the UK. It is the most diverse habitat in the British Isles. Many plant and animal species make their home there. Let's have a look at just a few of the many animals to be found in woodlands.

Insect - Comma Butterfly (Scientific Name: *Polygonia c-album*)

The comma butterfly almost died out in the 1800s, as the caterpillars fed on hops. At that time, fewer farmers were growing hops, and so it was difficult to find food. The butterfly adapted and began to lay eggs on nettles, which is now the caterpillars' main food source. Since the 1960s, the comma has become widespread across England, Wales and is moving north into Scotland.



Comma butterflies wake up on warm winter's days, and so it is possible to see them throughout the year. They are often found warming their wings as they bask in the sun. They can be identified by the white comma shaped markings on their underwings.

Spider - Spotted wolf spider (Scientific Name: *Pardosa amentata*)

Spotted wolf spiders are mostly nocturnal creatures that live in leaf litter on the woodland floor. They are unusual among spiders as they do not spin a web to catch their prey. Instead, they hunt it down. As you might expect, they are very agile and can move with great speed. They also have excellent eyesight.



Amphibian - Common frog (Scientific Name: *Rana temporaria*)

Common frogs have smooth skin which can be either green or brown in colour. They breed in shallow water, and there are up to 2,000 eggs in their spawn. Tadpoles eat algae but become carnivorous once they are adults, eating slugs and worms as well as insects, which they catch on their sticky tongues. The adults are mostly nocturnal and hibernate in winter.



Reptile - Slow worm (Scientific Name: *Anguis fragilis*)

Slow worms may look like snakes, but they are actually limbless lizards. One of the differences is that they have eyelids, whereas snakes do not. Slow worms are carnivorous and their diet includes slugs, earthworms, insects and spiders. They seek out damp places to hide and hibernate. At dusk, or after rain, they will emerge to hunt.



Bird - Goshawk (Scientific Name: *Accipiter gentilis*)

The goshawk is a bird of prey that once vanished from the UK. It has been reintroduced, both on purpose by scientists and by accident by falconers. Falconers train and fly birds of prey. There are now believed to be around 400 breeding pairs in the wild. This diurnal hunter has the ability to fly quickly above and through the trees of woodlands, diving down on its prey. Goshawks feed upon other woodland birds and mammals such as rabbits and squirrels.



Mammal - Wood mouse (Scientific Name: *Apodemus sylvaticus*)

The wood mouse is the most common wild rodent in the British Isles. This small mammal lives in complex underground burrows, where it can raise up to 7 litters between March and October. They are nocturnal and omnivorous. Wood mice are an important source of food for woodland predators, and this means that their life span is rarely longer than a year.



British Woodland Animals

Questions

1. What percentage of the UK is woodland?

- 13%
- 24%
- 10%
- 5%

2. What change in the diet of the comma butterfly has led to population growth since the 1960s?

3. Why are comma butterflies so called?

4. Name three qualities that spotted wolf spiders have that enable them to hunt their prey.

5. Where do frogs lay their spawn?

6. Find and copy a word that means 'eats other animals'?

7. What is one way you can tell a slow worm from a snake?

8. Name two animals that are eaten by slow worms.

9. How many breeding pairs of goshawks are believed to be in the wild?

10. What do you think 'diurnal' means?

11. What is the most common wild rodent in Britain?

12. Draw lines to connect the animal to the information about it.

wood mouse

goshawk

comma butterfly

slow worm

Can be found basking in the sun.

Feeds upon woodland mammals, including squirrels.

Comes out to hunt after rain.

Lives in underground burrows.

British Woodland Animals

Answers

1. What percentage of the UK is woodland?

- 13%
 24%
 10%
 5%

2. What change in the diet of the comma butterfly has led to population growth since the 1960s?

They changed from eating hops to nettles.

3. Why are comma butterflies so called?

They have a white comma shape on their wing.

4. Name three qualities that spotted wolf spiders have that enable them to hunt their prey.

They are agile, fast and have excellent eyesight.

5. Where do frogs lay their spawn?

In shallow water.

6. Find and copy a word that means 'eats other animals'?

Carnivorous

7. What is one way you can tell a slow worm from a snake?

A slow worm has eyelids but a snake does not.

8. Name two animals that are eaten by slow worms.

Any two from slugs, earthworms, insects and spiders.

9. How many breeding pairs of goshawks are believed to be in the wild?

400

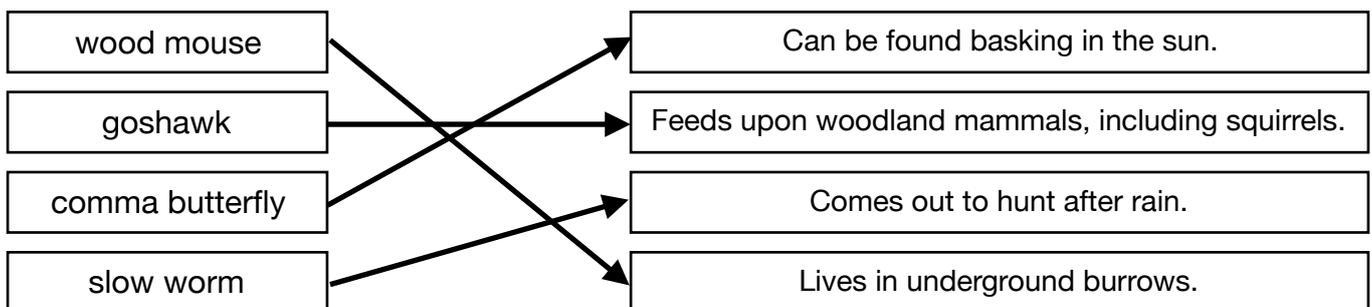
10. What do you think 'diurnal' means?

Active during the day.

11. What is the most common wild rodent in Britain?

Wood mouse

12. Draw lines to connect the animal to the information about it.



THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

The Great Fire of London destroyed the homes of around 80,000 people. We know a lot about the fire from the diary of Samuel Pepys. He lived near Pudding Lane and was involved in the effort to fight the fire.

Fires were common in 17th century London. The city was crowded with wooden buildings, which were lit by candles and warmed by fires. This made it easy for fires to start. It had been a hot and dry summer, so the water level in the River Thames was unusually low. At the time of the fire, there were also very strong winds which caused the fire to spread quickly.

There was no organised fire brigade in London at the time. Fires were fought using buckets of water and by pulling down buildings in the path of the fire.

The fire started near Pudding Lane. At one o'clock in the morning on Sunday the 2nd of September 1666, baker Thomas Farriner was woken by his manservant. The building was on fire, even though Farriner was sure that the fire in the bread oven was put out before he went to bed. Thomas, his family and the manservant Teagh escaped out of a window and over the rooftops. A maid who was afraid to follow stayed behind and became the first of the six recorded victims of the fire.

Later that morning, Pepys' maid informed him that around 300 houses had already burnt down. He went out to see for himself, and saw "an infinite great fire". Pepys set off to tell the King (Charles II) who commanded that houses should be pulled down to prevent the flames from spreading further.

It was already too late; the fire had taken hold and could not be stopped. By Monday evening, about half of the city had already burnt to the ground.

The King's brother, James, Duke of York, took control of the fire fighting efforts and fought the blaze himself, putting his own life at risk.

City dwellers crowded the streets, carrying their belongings on carts and on their backs. On Monday the 4th of September the city gates had to be closed to incoming traffic to allow people to escape the city. 100,000 people were evacuated over the course of the fire. Pepys moved his gold out of London, but he buried his most prized belongings in his garden, including some fine wine and a very expensive Parmesan cheese.

Prisoners were able to escape - Newgate and Ludgate prisons were both destroyed on Tuesday the 4th of September. St Paul's Cathedral burned down on Tuesday evening, and the molten lead from the roof flowed through the streets.

The fire finally went out on Wednesday the 5th of September. The weather conditions changed and the fire ran out of fuel. It is reported that small fires flared up for days afterwards.

13,200 houses, 430 streets and 89 churches had been destroyed. At the height of the fire it could be seen from Oxford, 50 miles away. Melted pottery found in Thomas Farriner's bakery near Pudding Lane proves that the temperature reached 1,700°C.

During the following winter, many people died of disease while living in temporary housing. The weather was also very cold, leading to more deaths.

After the fire, Charles II ordered that all new buildings had to be built from stone. Thatched roofs were banned in the city. Rebuilding began about eight months

after the fire, in the spring of 1667. It took fifty years to finish. Sir Christopher Wren was responsible for the building of 53 churches as well as his most famous building, St. Paul's Cathedral.



The Great Fire of London

1. How do we know so much about the Great Fire of London?
2. Why was the water level in the River Thames unusually low?
3. Who first discovered the fire?
4. Pepys saw 'an infinite great fire'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'infinite'?

dangerous

frightening

large

never-ending

5. How would you describe the King's brother?
6. Give two reasons why the fire finally went out.
 - 1.
 - 2.
7. Why did many people die in the months after the fire?
8. Write a definition for the word 'temporary'.
9. Can you find an adjective that tells us what happened to the lead on the roof of St. Paul's Cathedral?
10. What type of text is this?
 - Instruction Writing
 - Report
 - Persuasive Writing
 - Poetry

The Great Fire of London

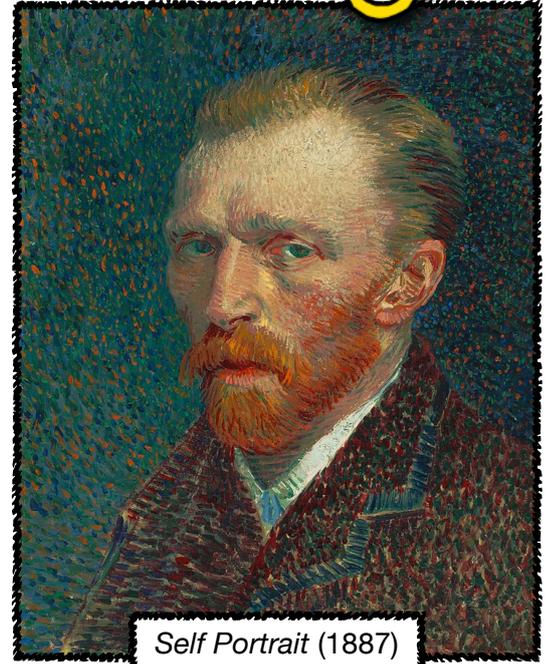
1. How do we know so much about the Great Fire of London?
Because of the information in Samuel Pepys' diary.
2. Why was the water level in the River Thames unusually low?
Because it had been a hot and dry summer.
3. Who first discovered the fire?
Teagh (who was Thomas Farriner's manservant).
4. Pepys saw 'an infinite great fire'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'infinite'?
dangerous frightening large **never-ending**
5. How would you describe the King's brother?
Answers may vary but might describe him as being brave for risking his life to fight the blaze.
6. Give two reasons why the fire finally went out.
 1. **The weather conditions changed.**
 2. **It ran out of fuel.**
7. Why did many people die in the months after the fire?
* **They died of diseases while living in temporary housing.**
* **The weather was very cold.**
8. Write a definition for the word 'temporary'.
Not permanent / lasting for a short time.
9. Can you find an adjective that tells us what happened to the lead on the roof of St. Paul's Cathedral?
molten
10. What kind of text is this?
 Instruction Writing
 Report
 Persuasive Writing
 Poetry

Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh was born on the 30th of March 1853. His father was a church pastor in a small village, Zundert, in the Netherlands. Vincent was the eldest of six children. His mother was a keen amateur artist, particularly skilled at drawing plants and flowers. She encouraged her children to notice the natural world around them.

As a young man, Vincent struggled to find his way in life. He tried several jobs, including being an art dealer, a teacher and a book seller. He also thought of becoming a pastor, like his father. Finally, in 1880, his brother Theo began to send him money and encouraged him to become an artist. With his brother's support, in the last 10 years of his life he produced a staggering amount of work. He made nearly 900 paintings, and over a thousand drawings and sketches.

In 1886 Vincent moved to Paris. Theo was working there as an art dealer, and many artists were working in the city. Van Gogh took art lessons and made friends with artists like Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Camille Pissarro and Paul Gauguin. He hoped to sell his work with Theo's help, but he was not successful. His painting style was not popular and he did not sell anything.



Self Portrait (1887)

Van Gogh was also influenced by the Japanese art that was popular in Paris at the time; he dreamt of travelling to Japan. At the same time, he became tired of life in Paris. In 1888 van Gogh moved to Arles, in the south of France. He hoped to establish an artist's community at his yellow house there.

He was soon joined by Paul Gauguin, with Theo's encouragement. Unfortunately, their relationship was difficult. In December 1888 part of van Gogh's ear was cut off during an argument between them. Following this incident, van Gogh painted his famous Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear.

It was clear that van Gogh needed help with his mental health so he entered a mental hospital in nearby Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. This marked the beginning of an extraordinarily creative period, during which he produced around 150 paintings in a year. His doctors recognised that his art was an important part of his treatment and so he was given a studio as well as a bedroom. One of his most famous works, The Starry Night, is a view from the window of his room in the hospital.

At the beginning of 1890, Dr Paul Gachet agreed to take van Gogh on as his patient and he moved to Auvers-sur-Oise, north of Paris. It was around this time that the only painting sold during his lifetime, Red Vineyard at Arles, was sold. It was bought by Anna Boch, a Belgian art collector, for 400 francs. One hundred years later his portrait of Dr Gachet sold for \$82.5 million! Sadly van Gogh died at Auvers on the 29th of July of a gunshot wound. Experts disagree about how it happened.



Starry Night (1889)

His brother Theo died only six months after him. Theo's widow, Johanna, collected Vincent's work and edited his letters. She discovered that Vincent's mother had thrown away many of his paintings. In 1901 Vincent's work was shown in Paris. That show was the beginning of van Gogh's reputation as an important artist. Today, millions of visitors enjoy his paintings in museums and galleries all over the world.

Vincent Van Gogh

1. When was Vincent van Gogh born?
2. How many brothers and sisters did van Gogh have?
3. Name two jobs that van Gogh tried before he became an artist.
4. Where was his brother Theo living in 1886?
5. How many paintings did van Gogh sell while living in Paris?
6. Where did van Gogh dream of travelling to?
7. What is meant by “an artist’s community”?
8. What happened to van Gogh during an argument with Gauguin?
9. Name the famous painting that is a view from van Gogh’s hospital bedroom.
10. What is the name of the only painting that van Gogh sold during his lifetime?
11. How soon after van Gogh did his brother Theo die?
12. In what year was the art show that marked the beginning of van Gogh’s reputation as an important artist?

Vincent Van Gogh

1. When was Vincent van Gogh born?

30th March 1853.

2. How many brothers and sisters did van Gogh have?

Five.

3. Name two jobs that van Gogh tried before he became an artist.

Any two from art dealer, teacher and book seller.

4. Where was his brother Theo living in 1886?

Paris.

5. How many paintings did van Gogh sell while living in Paris?

None.

6. Where did van Gogh dream of travelling to?

Japan.

7. What is meant by “an artist’s community”?

Something with the sense of a place where artists can work and live together.

8. What happened to van Gogh during an argument with Gauguin?

Part of his ear was cut off.

9. Name the famous painting that is a view from van Gogh’s hospital bedroom.

The Starry Night.

10. What is the name of the only painting that van Gogh sold during his lifetime?

Red Vineyard at Arles.

11. How soon after van Gogh did his brother Theo die?

Six months.

12. In what year was the art show that marked the beginning of van Gogh’s reputation as an important artist?

1901.

Markus Persson

Markus Persson, better known as Notch, is the creator of the bestselling video game Minecraft.

He was born on the 1st of June 1979 in Stockholm, Sweden. His Swedish father, Biger, worked on the railways and his Finnish mother, Ritva, was a nurse. As a young child, he lived in the small rural town of Edsbyn. The town is surrounded by forests and, when he lived there, he spent a lot of time walking in the trees. Another of his pursuits was Lego, which he used to create intricate and complex designs. When he was seven, his father brought home a Commodore 128 computer, one of the first home computers available. Young Markus was immediately hooked and wrote his first computer program when he was eight.

Despite not having finished high school, due to his talent at coding Persson became a games developer. His mother persuaded him to study an online computer programming course, and with those skills he was able to gain employment in his chosen field. He worked for a few different companies and in 2004 he got a job at king.com, publishers of Candy Crush. There he met another games developer, Jakob Porsér, and the two began to work together on games in their spare time. Their games became successful but there was a problem. King.com did not want to employ people who were running their own games company. In 2009, Persson moved to an employer who was happy for him to develop his own games. Persson and Porsér also founded their famous company Mojang at this time. They chose Mojang as it is the Swedish word for "gadget".

Minecraft was released on the 17th of May 2009. Persson had written the code in just one week. He published it quickly as he was in a hurry to get on to his next game, in fact he did not even consider it to be finished. Minecraft was a revolutionary game. Instead of clearly defined goals the player is able to build their own creations, whether a simple house or a grand castle, while battling destructive creepers and undead zombies. In contrast to the highly polished images usually associated with video games, Minecraft's blocky graphics show the influence of his childhood interest in Lego, and it is clear that the setting is inspired by the time he spent in Edsbyn, surrounded by forest.

One factor in Minecraft's huge success was the online community that quickly sprang up around it. The game can be customised by the players, who can write their own "mods" allowing the addition of further items, enemies and mechanics. This community includes Youtubers who make videos of themselves playing the game. Persson also interacted with players in the game, as his avatar Notch.

Minecraft initially sold for \$6 (about £4.20) a copy, and by June 2010 downloads were running at 400 copies a day. This was enough money for Persson and Porsér leave their jobs and to go full time at Mojang. The company added more and more platforms so that Minecraft could be played on consoles, tablets and phones as well as PCs. To date, Minecraft has sold over 70 million copies.

By 2012, Persson was becoming unhappy. His father had recently died and he divorced his wife (they had only been married for a year). He felt that he was not suited to being a businessman, and Mojang was becoming a large company.

In 2014 he tweeted "Anyone want to buy my share of Mojang so I can move on with my life?" At the time Minecraft players were complaining about some changes he was making to the game and Persson was disillusioned with the whole thing. Although at first he meant it as a joke, there was an enormous amount of interest and in September 2014 Microsoft bought Mojang for \$2.5 billion (about £1.7 billion). Persson bought a luxurious mansion in California with his share of the money, reportedly outbidding Beyonce and Jay Z to buy the \$70 million (about £50 million) home.

Minecraft is Persson's most famous game; however did you know that he has developed at least twenty other games during his career?



Markus Persson

- 1) What is Ritva's relationship to Markus Persson?

2. Use the text to complete the missing words in this sentence:
Another of his pursuits was Lego, which he used to create _____ and _____ designs.

3. Using evidence from the text, explain how Persson became successful, even though he didn't finish high school.

4. What is the purpose of this text? Tick the correct answer:
 To persuade people to buy Minecraft,
 To teach people how to play Minecraft,
 To describe Markus Persson's life.

- 5) In your opinion, why was the Swedish word for 'gadget' used for the company name?

- 6) *Minecraft was a revolutionary game.*
Write a dictionary definition for *revolutionary* in this context.

- 7) Using the information in the text, explain how Minecraft was different from other games.

- 8) How did Persson's childhood influence the development of Minecraft?

- 9) *... Persson was disillusioned with the whole thing.*
Draw a ring around the word that is closest in meaning to *disillusioned*.

arrogant disappointed enthusiastic humbled

- 10) Describe how Persson may have felt after selling Minecraft. Explain your answer.

Markus Persson

- 1) What is Ritva's relationship to Markus Persson?
She is his mother.

2. Use the text to complete the missing words in this sentence:

Another of his pursuits was Lego, which he used to create **intricate** and **complex** designs.

3. Using evidence from the text, explain how Persson became successful, even though he didn't finish high school.

He had a talent for coding and he used these skills to get jobs.

4. What is the purpose of this text? Tick the correct answer:

- To persuade people to buy Minecraft,
 To teach people how to play Minecraft,
 To describe Markus Persson's life.

- 5) In your opinion, why was the Swedish word for 'gadget' used for the company name?

Answers will vary but may include references to technology and the use of gadgets by Persson and Porsér.

- 6) *Minecraft was a revolutionary game.*

Write a dictionary definition for *revolutionary* in this context.

Brand new / different from other games / extremely innovative.

- 7) Using the information in the text, explain how Minecraft was different from other games.

* **It didn't have clearly defined goals.**

* **The player is able to build their own creations.**

* **The game has blocky graphics, unlike the highly polished images usually used in video games.**

- 8) How did Persson's childhood influence the development of Minecraft?

The blocky graphics are like Lego (which he played with as a child) and the setting is inspired by the forest around his childhood town of Edsbyn.

- 9) *... Persson was disillusioned with the whole thing.*

Draw a ring around the word that is closest in meaning to *disillusioned*.

arrogant

disappointed

enthusiastic

humbled

- 10) Describe how Persson may have felt after selling Minecraft. Explain your answer...

Answers will vary.

THE NEWS TODAY

BIG BEANSTALK BAFFLES BEWILDERED BURGHERS!



Local villagers are baffled by this enormous beanstalk!

UNBELIEVABLE STORY

By Sam Golden

Residents of the village of Storyville couldn't believe their eyes this morning when they awoke to the appearance of a gigantic beanstalk in the back garden of the Widow Spriggins and her son, Jack.

The beanstalk, which local landowner Squire Storyville estimates to be at least 500 metres tall, sprang up overnight. "It has completely ruined my view!" he complained. "As my tenant, the Widow should have sought my permission for this monstrosity!"

Yesterday, Jack was seen setting out for market with the family cow, Daisy. He is reported to have left very early and returned without the cow.

Nobody remembers seeing Jack at the market. "I certainly didn't notice Jack at the market" insisted Mr Bun the baker, of Bun's Brilliant Bakery. "In fact, I don't think anybody saw him".

"No, I didn't see Jack either," agreed Farmer Field, "but now I think of it, there was a stranger at the crossroads yesterday. He wasn't from round here. He was an old man, wearing a ragged old cloak and a pointy hat. Never seen him before."

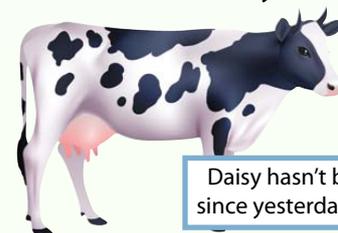
Locals report that the Widow and Jack had an altercation when he returned home. Raised voices were heard. It is believed that Jack was sent to bed without his supper.

"There was an almighty row in there yesterday," explained Mrs. N. Parker, the next door neighbour. "The widow was furious. I'm not sure what it was about but I definitely heard something about magic beans."

Mr Parker added, "I was out weeding my petunias when the kitchen window opened and some stuff came flying out. Looked like little stones, or seeds perhaps. They landed just over there, just where that plant is now."

The Widow Spriggins has spent the day at the bottom of the plant, gazing up. When approached for comment, she just shook her head and muttered "Magic beans! Well I never." Jack is nowhere to be seen. Fears are growing that he may have attempted to climb the giant plant.

A neighbour, who did not wish to be identified, remarked "They have had terrible money worries ever since Jack's father died. They are struggling to make ends meet. That cow was all they had left."



Daisy hasn't been seen since yesterday morning.



3rd May
5 Magic Beans

4 74 1326 600 104



Reach for the Stars!



Name _____

Stars: _____ / 15

1) What is the name of the village where these events took place?



2) What is the name of the family's cow?



3) Who lives next door to Widow Spriggins and Jack?



4) Why are the residents worried about Jack?



5) *The widow and Jack had an altercation.* Which two of these words have a similar meaning to 'altercation'?

- Agreement Compromise
- Argument Disagreement



6) Think of a simile to describe the beanstalk.



7) *Widow Spriggins shook her head and muttered.* Think of a synonym for 'muttered'.



8) *"I didn't notice Jack at the market," insisted Mr Bun.* Rewrite this sentence using reported speech.



9) Why do you think Jack has climbed the beanstalk? Give reasons for your answer.



| Number | Question | Answer | Stars |
|--------|--|---|-------|
| 1 | What is the name of the village where these events took place? | Storyville | 1 |
| 2 | What is the name of the family's cow? | Daisy | 1 |
| 3 | Who lives next door to Widow Spriggins and Jack? | Mr and Mrs Parker | 1 |
| 4 | Why are the residents worried about Jack? | They think that he has climbed the magic beanstalk. | 1 |
| 5 | <i>The widow and Jack had an altercation.</i> Which two of these words have a similar meaning to 'altercation'? | Argument and Disagreement | 2 |
| 6 | Think of a simile to describe the beanstalk. | Any suitable simile. | 2 |
| 7 | <i>Widow Spriggins shook her head and muttered.</i> Think of a synonym for 'muttered'. | Any suitable synonym. Answers might include moaned, murmured or whispered. | 2 |
| 8 | <i>"I didn't notice Jack at the market," insisted Mr Bun.</i> Rewrite this sentence using reported speech. | Mr Bun insisted that he didn't notice Jack at the market. | 2 |
| 9 | Why do you think Jack has climbed the beanstalk? Give reasons for your answer. | Answer might refer to his bravery / curiosity (to find out more about what is at the top of the beanstalk), his anger (following the argument with his mother) or his desire to find money to help his mother. | 3 |



Soar

The comprehension questions on the following pages are based upon a short video called 'Soar'. This is available on Vimeo at the following address:

<https://vimeo.com/148198462>

These video is also available to watch on our Teaching Ideas site at:

<https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/video/soar>

Please watch the video carefully before showing it to your students to ensure that it is suitable for them.

Please also be aware that this video is hosted on Vimeo, which is sometimes blocked by Internet filters in schools. Check that you can view the video in your classroom / setting before preparing lessons based upon it.

Soar

Questions

1. Write a description of the setting of this animation.

2. Pause the video at 0:49. How would you describe Mara's feelings at this point? Why?

3. What does Lucas (the small pilot) use to defend himself?

4. Name three things that Mara uses to help Lucas fly again.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

5. Why is Lucas so desperate to fly his plane again?

6. How would you describe Mara's character? Explain your answer.

7. Which of these is the correct order of events in the video?

- Mara fixes Lucas' plane; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Lucas places a star in the night sky; Mara's plane crashes to the ground.
- Mara's plane crashes to the ground; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; Lucas places a star in the night sky; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head.
- Mara's plane crashes to the ground; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; Lucas places a star in the night sky.
- Lucas places a star in the night sky; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Mara's plane crashes to the ground.

8. This video is called 'Soar'. Think of three synonyms for the word 'soar'.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Soar

Answers

1. Write a description of the setting of this animation.

Any reasonable description, e.g. a grassy meadow.

2. Pause the video at 0:49. How would you describe Mara's feelings at this point? Why?

Any reasoned justifications for her emotions, e.g. She is miserable / upset / dejected

because her plane keeps crashing to the ground.

3. What does Lucas (the small pilot) use to defend himself?

A pencil.

4. Name three things that Mara uses to help Lucas fly again.

1) **Any three from the following: pencils, sticky tape, her toy plane, her paper plans (blueprints)**

2) **and string.**

3) _____

5. Why is Lucas so desperate to fly his plane again?

He needs to place a star in the night sky.

6. How would you describe Mara's character? Explain your answer.

Accept reasonable answer that shows some analysis of Mara's actions in the film.

7. Which of these is the correct order of events in the video?

- Mara fixes Lucas' plane; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Lucas places a star in the night sky; Mara's plane crashes to the ground.
- Mara's plane crashes to the ground; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; Lucas places a star in the night sky; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head.
- Mara's plane crashes to the ground; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; Lucas places a star in the night sky.
- Lucas places a star in the night sky; Mara fixes Lucas' plane; A tiny bag lands on Mara's head; Mara's plane crashes to the ground.

8. This video is called 'Soar'. Think of three synonyms for the word 'soar'.

1) **Accept any suitable synonyms, e.g. climb, fly, rise, ascend.**

2) _____

3) _____
