

# Reading Comprehension

GRADE 4

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Read the following article about Pompeii and answer the questions that follows.

## 1. Pompeii - a town with a difference!



***On your next trip to Italy, why not visit the fantastic Roman town of Pompeii?***

In the past, twenty thousand people lived in Pompeii in big houses with big gardens. The Romans built roads in the town and there were many public places like baths, **amphitheatres**, banks, and markets. There wasn't any electricity and people got up with the sun. For breakfast they had bread and cheese. People started work very early and stopped at twelve o'clock for a lunch of fish, bread, cake and fruit.

In the afternoon people went to watch the **gladiators** or to the public baths to wash and meet friends. In the evening they often had **dinner parties**

They were an important part of Roman life. But life in Pompeii stopped in 79 AD when the **volcano** Vesuvius erupted. Today you can see the town exactly as it was nearly two thousand years ago.

**Look at the words in world, what do they mean? Check with your dictionary**

**1** Where is Pompeii?

.....

**2** How many people lived there?

.....

**3** When did people get up?

.....

**4** What did they have for breakfast?

.....

**5** What time did they have lunch?

.....

**6** Where did they wash?

.....

**7** What did they often do in the evenings?

.....

**8** Why did life in Pompeii stop?

.....

Read the following article about the music band cold play and answer the questions that follows.

## 2. BRIT band Coldplay



**Coldplay** are from Britain. The singer is Chris Martin, Jonny Buckland plays the guitar, Guy Berryman plays the bass guitar, and Will Champion plays the **drums**. The band started in 1996 when Chris Martin met Jonny Buckland at university in London. At first their name was Pectoralz, then Starfish, but they changed to Coldplay in 1997. They became famous in June 2000 with the **song** yellow and their first album, Parachutes, won a Grammy for Best Alternative Music **Album** in 2002.

Their second album was A Rush of Blood to the Head which came out in August 2002. This album also won a Grammy and the Song Clocks was Record of the year in 2004. They made a third Album, X & Y, in 2005 and a fourth Album, Viva La Vida is a little different from the first three albums because it has more **Hispanic** Style.

Coldplay have sold more than 32.5 million albums. They are famous all over the world and you can hear their songs on the radio nearly every day.

*Look at the text, what do the words in bold mean. Check with your dictionary.*

Read the text and mark the sentences T (True) or F (False).

- 1 Will Champion plays the guitar. ....
- 2 Chris met Jonny at university. ....
- 3 They changed their name in 1996. ....
- 4 Their first album wasn't popular. ....
- 5 They made their second album in 2002. ....
- 6 Viva la Vida isn't the same as the other albums. ....
- 7 Coldplay don't sell a lot of albums. ....

Read the following article about “The World’s Weather” and answer the questions that follows.

### 3. The Future of the World’s Weather



**Nobody** can be sure what the weather is going to be like in the future, but many people think there are going to be some changes

**Scientists** say that in many places it's going to be **hotter** and it's going to rain less. Countries in Africa and Asia are going to become very **dry** all year, and it's going to be impossible for people to find food and water. In Southern Europe and the United States it's going to be more difficult for plants to **grow**. people there are also going

to have problems finding food in the future.

**Nobody** knows exactly how much the **temperature** is going to go up, but scientists say that the change is going to be at least 2°C. They predict that the ice in the Arctic and the Antarctic is going to **melt** in the next hundred years and a lot of the animals there are going to **die**. There is also going to be more water in the oceans of the world so cities on the coast are going to **disappear**.

**Another** problem is that the weather is going to become more extreme. Scientists say that there are going to be more **hurricanes** and **typhoons** in the future. These storms are going to happen all over the world and many people are going to lose their home.

*Look at the words in bold, what do they mean? Read the text and match the sentence halves.*

- |   |                          |                                 |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 It's going to be very dry             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 Plants aren't going to grow   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 A lot of the animals are going to die | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 Cities are going to disappear | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 There are going to be more storms     | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                 |                          |

- a All over the world.      b On the coast.      c In Africa and Asia.  
d In Southern Europe and the United States. e In the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Read the following personal information and answer the following questions

#### 4. Can you understand this text?



My name's Paola Bruno and I'm from Venice in Italy. I'm married and I have two children, a son and a daughter. My son's name is Guido. He's 15. He's tall with **dark hair**, and he's good-looking. My daughter's name is Chiara. She's 21. She's dark too. She is beautiful? I think she is very beautiful - I'm her mother!



My name's Piotr and I'm from Kielce in Poland. I'm 20. I have two sisters. Their names are Dagmara and Justyna. Dagmara is 26- She's tall, with long blonde hair. She's married. Her husband's name is Wojtek Justyna is 19 and very different from Dagmara – she isn't tall and **blonde**, she's short with dark hair. She isn't married.

Look at the words in bold, what do they mean?

Read the two texts. Answer the questions with a sentence.

1. What's Paola's surname? .....
2. Where is Paola from? .....
3. How old is Guido? .....
3. What's her daughter's name? .....
4. What nationality is Piotr? .....
6. Who is Dagmara? .....
7. Is she married or single? .....
8. How old is Justyna? .....

Read the following article about the food that people from two countries eat and answer the questions.

## 5. What Food Do You Eat?

### Ken from Osaka in Japan



In my family we have a traditional Japanese breakfast. It isn't very different from lunch and dinner. We have rice, fish, and miso **soup**, and we drink **green tea**. Today a lot of Japanese people have a European breakfast. They have bread and croissant and they drink coffee, not tea. But I prefer our breakfast. In my family we don't talk at breakfast. We eat drink and watch TV!

### Katalin from Nikla in Hungary



In Hungary breakfast is an important meal. In my family we have eggs, cheese, **cold** meat, **sausage**, and bread. We drink tea or coffee, and fruit juice. Some men have a small 'palinka' at breakfast time - it's a traditional Hungarian brandy. It's very **strong**, and I don't like it, especially not for breakfast.

What is the nationality we use for people from Japan? .....

What is the nationality we use for people from Hungary?.....

**Look at the words in bolds, what do they mean?**

**Read the texts. Then read sentences 1-5 and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).**

**1** In Japan people eat very different things for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. ....

**2** Ken's family like croissants for breakfast. ....

**3** In Japan lot of people don't have a traditional breakfast. ....

**4** In Hungary people eat a lot for breakfast. ....

**5** Some Hungarian men Juice with breakfast.....

### Writing

Think about what you have for breakfast at home, and write a small paragraph in about 40 – 60 words, describing the foods items that you eat.



Read the following article about a group of people who are speaking English, and answer the questions that follows.

## 6. English at work



**What** do these people have in common - a banker in Mexico City, a waiter in a five-star hotel in Moscow, and a worker in the Hitachi electronics factory in Tokyo? They all speak English at work. Today, English is the common language in **multinational companies** in countries from France to Singapore.

**Jean-Paul Piat** works FBR an IT company in Paris. Every day he has **meetings** with other **managers** in English. He also reads documents and writes emails in English, and **speaks on the phone** in English to offices in other countries.

'**We're** a multinational company with **offices all over the world,**' says Jean-Paul. 'We also have some people in our Paris office who aren't French. We need a common language to communicate, and that language is English. I think it is a good idea, but some people don't like speaking English in a meeting when nearly everybody is French.'

- a) Is English important for these jobs in your island? Write 1-5 in the boxes (1 = English is not important, 5 = English is very important)

A waiter ( )    A Doctor ( )    A Taxi driver ( )    A Police Man ( )    A teacher ( )

- b) Read the text and answer the questions. What do the words and phrases in bold mean?

1 What do the banker, the waiter, and the factory worker have in common?

.....

2 What does Jean-Paul do?

.....

3 Where does he work?

.....

4 What languages does he speak?

.....

5 What language does he speak at work? Is this a problem for him?

.....

Read the following text about James Blunt and answer the questions that follows.

## 7. A day in the life of James Blunt



James Blunt is an ex-soldier who is now a singer. He lives alone in Ibiza, Spain. I live in a beautiful old house. It's about 150 years old and it's on a hill with a lot of trees. From my window I have a fantastic view of the sea

I usually get up at **about** 9.30, and I have a shower. I always wear jeans and a T-shirt. Clothes don't really interest me. I have two pairs of jeans, one jacket, and six T-shirts. I never have breakfast I'm not hungry in the morning. I make a fire and clean the house. **Then** I play the piano, or I sit on the sofa and

play the guitar.

I live near a small village. For lunch I go and buy bread and a tin of tuna, or maybe ham or cheese. I never cook. **After** lunch I sometimes work in the garden. I don't have a TV I only have a music system and my music collection. I like singer songwriters from the 1970s, like Lou Reed and Leonard Cohen. In the evening I usually go out with friends. We have dinner at one of the old Spanish bars, and then we sometimes go to a club. **Before** I go to bed I lock the doors. **When** I'm in bed I look out of the window at the night sky and think how wonderful life is.

- 1 Where does James live? .....
- 2 What time does he get up? .....
- 3 What clothes does he wear? .....
- 4 What does he do in the morning? .....
- 5 Does he have breakfast? .....
- 6 What does he have for lunch? .....
- 7 Does he watch TV? .....
- 8 What does he do in the evening? .....

Complete the sentences with a highlighted word from the text

- 1 I get up at 7.00..... I have breakfast
- 2 ..... I go out in the evenings, I usually go to a pub.
- 3 I never drink coffee..... dinner
- 4 I always have a shower.....before I go to bed
- 5 At the weekend I go to bed at.....half past eleven

Read the following text about Meal times and opening hours in the UK

## 8. Meal Times and Opening Hours in the UK



In the UK people usually start work between 8.50 and 9.00 a.m. Some people have breakfast at home but a lot of people just buy a coffee and something to eat when they go to work.

Most people work five days a week. The typical working days are seven or eight hours with a very short lunch (about half an hour at about 1.00 p.m. People don't go home for lunch - they just have a sandwich in a cafe or sandwich bar, or in their office. People usually finish work at 5.00 or 5.30. They have dinner between 7.00 and 8.00 and this is usually the big meal of the day. During the week they usually go to bed between 10.50 and 11.50 p.m.

People go shopping after work or at the weekend. Some shops close early during the week (5.30-6.00 p.m.) but supermarkets and a lot of shops open until 8.00 in the evening or later. Big shops also open on Sunday, and big supermarkets open 24 hours a day, six days a week.

Read the article and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 British people always have breakfast at home. ....
- 2 They usually work 35-40 hours a week. ....
- 3 They have lunch from 1.00-2.00. ....
- 4 A lot of people have lunch at home. ....
- 5 They usually have dinner at 5.30. ....
- 6 A lot of people go to bed after midnight. ....
- 7 You can go shopping every day in the UK. ....
- 8 Big supermarkets in the UK never close .....

*Discuss with the teacher and the other students, do shops and places in our island open and close at the same times.*

Read the following text. What did some people do on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006?

## 9. ONE DAY IN HISTORY

On the morning of Wednesday 18th October 2006 50,000 people in the UK sat down at their computers. They wrote a blog about what they did the day before for a history website. The idea was to give a picture of life at the beginning of the 21st century.

### 1 Pauline, From Birmingham

Yesterday was our 10th wedding anniversary. The day was very typical, but the evening was special. I went to work by car as usual. The traffic was terrible, and I was very **stressed**. The day went fast. At 4.00 I went to **pick up** my children from the nursery. We went to Pizza Hut and they had a pizza. When my husband came home he had a fantastic **surprise** for me - a present! A trip to Paris on the Eurostar. I didn't have a present for him... Terrible! But we had a good dinner and a bottle of apple juice. We went to bed happy.

### 2 Nick, from Glasgow

4.25 a.m. I got up.

5.45 a.m. I went for a swim - 280 lengths. (At the weekend I sometimes do 400 lengths)

9.30 a.m. went to work. **Nothing special.**

4.30 p.m. went home, and I had a sandwich.

7.50 p.m. went to bed

### 3 Rachel, from Manchester

School as usual. In the afternoon we had history. It was good. Then English - we had a film. At 3.20 we went home and I went on the computer on MSN. Then I did my homework and had dinner. After dinner it was the big match on TV - Manchester United at home to Copenhagen in the Champions League ...3-0 to United. Brilliant! I went to bed late.

### Glossary

**10th wedding anniversary**: exactly ten years after the day a person was married

**Traffic**: the cars on a road.

**Nursery**: school for very small children.

**Eurostar**: a fast train which goes from London to Paris.

**Swim a length**: swim from one end of the swimming pool to the other.

**MSN**: MSN Messenger - an Internet chat network.

Read the blogs. Complete the sentences with P (Pauline), N (Nick), or R (Rachel)

- 1 - Is a teenager .....
- 2 - Is married with children. ....
- 3 - Got up very early. ....
- 4 - Didn't write anything about the morning. ....
- 5 - Did a lot of exercise. ....
- 6 - Had a bad morning. ....
- 7 - Didn't have a very interesting day. ....
- 8 - Went to a restaurant. ....
- 9 - And - had a very good evening. ....
- 10 - Went to bed very early.....

### Writing

Think about the blog post, write a paragraph in about 40 – 60 words mentioning the events of an important day in your life.

Read the following article about Deiderius Erasmus and answer the questions.

## 10. Deiderius Erasmus



**Deiderius Eramus** was born in Rotterdam in Holland, in 1466 or 1469 - we don't know **exactly** when. His mother and father **died** when he was 15 years old. He went to school in Holland, where he was a very good student of Latin. When he finished school he studied at the University of Paris. **Later** he worked as a teacher there for some years. After that he went to England and he was a **professor** at Cambridge University. When he was in England he made many friends including King Henry VIII. After that Erasmus **travelled** all over Europe and lived and worked at universities in many different countries. He studied Greek and Latin. Erasmus died in Switzerland on 12th July 1536. 450 years later the Erasmus programme, where students can study at universities in other countries, was started.

Read the text about Erasmus and tick ( ) the sentences which are true.

- 1 He was German. (      )
- 2 His mother and father died when he was a teenager. (      )
- 3 He went to school in Paris. (      )
- 4 He studied Latin. (      )
- 5 He was a teacher in France. (      )
- 6 He met Henry VIII. (      )
- 7 He studied at Cambridge University. (      )
- 8 He lived in many different countries. (      )
- 9 He was a writer. (      )
- 10 He died when he was 50. (      )

Read the article below about a hotel in the ice and answer the questions

## 11. Our Night at the Ice Hotel



**In** February last year we stayed one night at the ice Hotel in Kiruna, in Sweden. It was a fantastic **experience!**

**The** hotel is made of **ice** and snow! But don't worry about the cold. It was -29 degrees outside but in the hotel it was always -5 degrees. We wore big coats and the temperature wasn't a problem. At night we slept on a bed made of ice but in a **sleeping bag**. We weren't cold at all. There was a shower in the bathroom but no bath. We slept well and in the morning there

was a big Swedish breakfast.

**But** there were some problems. The restaurant was very expensive and the **service** was very slow- we waited an hour for our **starters**. Maybe it was a bad night!

**What** is there to do in the hotel? There aren't any TVs but there is an 'ice bar'. Here you can have a cocktail in an ice glass! It isn't cheap but it's an experience. There's also a spa and sauna. Have a sauna before you go to bed. It's wonderful! We had a great time at the ice Hotel, but one night was **enough**.

Read about a tourist's experience at the Ice Hotel in Kiruna. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 It was -29 degrees in the hotel.....
- 2 There was a shower and bath in the bathroom. ....
- 3 It was difficult to sleep at night. ....
- 4 The cocktails in the 'ice bar 'are expensive. ....
- 5 Chris liked the sauna. ....
- 6 The service in the restaurant wasn't very fast. ....
- 7 Chris wanted to stay another night. ....

Take a look at the words in bold, what do they mean?

### Writing

Have you ever experienced spending a night in a hotel or a similar place? Write a small paragraph in about 40 – 60 words about the experience you had.

Read the following article about running and answer the questions that follows.

## 12. I Ran a Marathon Every Day for Nearly Two Years



On 1<sup>st</sup> January I started my world run at 7.00 a.m. in Greenwich in London. I **ran** every day from about 8.00 in the morning to 4.00 or 5.00 in the afternoon. **Nearly** 45 kilometres a day. (A marathon every day!!) I slept in a tent or in hotels. First I ran through Europe. In Sweden the temperature was -11 degrees. Russia was difficult with a lot of snow and dangerous roads. In Siberia people invited me into their houses for food and drink. In Japan one night I couldn't find my hotel because I couldn't speak Japanese. In Austria it was summer and the temperature was 35 **degrees**. From Australia I **flew** to the United States and I ran north to Canada, then down the east **coast** to New York. Then I went back to Europe and **crossed** the finishing line in Greenwich on 23<sup>rd</sup> October – 22 months after I started. I was the first runner to run all around the world. 26,000 kilometres and **26 pairs of running shoes!!**

What's my next adventure going to be? I'm going to run from the north of Europe to South Africa, then I'm going to fly to Ushuaia in South America, and then run to North America. It's going to take two years.

Take a look at the words and phrases in bold what do they mean?

Write down the nationality for the following countries

Sweden..... Russia..... Siberia..... Japan..... Austria.....  
United States..... Canada..... South Africa.....

- 1 When did Jesper start his run?.....
- 2 How far did he run every day? .....
- 3 Where did he sleep? .....
- 4 Where did he have a language problem? .....
- 5 Where did he have a problem because it was very hot? .....
- 6 Where's he going to start and finish his next run? .....



Read the text below and answer the following questions.

### 13. I lived, I loved, I cried...



I stayed the first night at a hotel. In the morning I bought a map and went to see the University, and I rented a room in a house. I walked through the city to my classes every morning - Italian men said: 'ciao Bella!' I liked it!

I spoke a little Italian from school but when I arrived in Rome I couldn't understand people, and I spoke English or Polish with other Erasmus students. But then I started going to Italian classes and I also made friends with some Italians. They helped me a lot! After three months I could speak quite well. Another problem was that Rome is very expensive, but I found job in an Irish café and I worked three evenings a week.

I learnt a lot about Italy and Italians: you can't start the day without a café; Italian food is the best in the world - but don't ask for ketchup! And the number one topic of conversation in bars is politics and football.

Erasmus changed my life. I lived a different life in a fantastic city. I met new people from all over the world and made some wonderful friends. I learnt to understand another culture. Of course it wasn't all perfect - living in another country isn't easy.

I came back from Italy a year ago, but a small part of me stayed in Rome. I drink espresso every morning, eat a lot of pasta, and I use my hands a lot when I speak. Now I feel European, not only Polish.

Read the text and find the past simple of the verbs. Write R (regular) or I (irregular).

Stay ..... ( ) Buy ..... ( ) Rent ..... ( ) Say ..... ( )

Like ..... ( ) Speak ..... ( ) Can/can't ..... ( ) Start ..... ( )

Make ..... ( ) Find ..... ( ) Learn ..... ( ) Change ..... ( ) Live..... ( )

Meet..... ( ) Break..... ( ) Come..... ( )

#### Writing

Have you ever lived away from your home island? Imagine that you were studying in another island and write a small paragraph in about 40 – 60 lines, describing your life in that island.

Read the following article about life in the Rainforest and answer the questions that follows.

## 14. The Rainforest Children



John Allen is 43 years old and he has four children: two daughters and two sons. John is a plant scientist and he lives with three of his children in the South American rainforest. Their 'house' is a group of tents near the River Orinoco in Venezuela. John's wife and one of his daughters prefer to live in London.

John's children don't go to school because John is their teacher. He teaches them everything he knows, including how to survive in South America.

The children don't know how to use a PlayStation, but they can all drive, even his 9 year old son, Simon. At night they drive their cars 50 metres from the kitchen tent to the bedroom tent because there are a lot of wild animals in the area. They spend their free time playing and reading books in the evening they listen to the news on the radio. They don't have a TV or CD player. In the summer the children's friends come from London to visit. When they go home they tell their parents incredible stories of their holidays in the Venezuelan rainforest.

**Write T (True) or F (False)**

- 1 John is a biology teacher.....
- 2 John's four children live in Venezuela.....
- 3 They live in a house.....
- 4 John teaches them in a school.....
- 5 The children don't play computer games.....
- 6 Simon doesn't know how to drive.....
- 7 They don't watch TV.....
- 8 The children's friends visit their parents.....

Read the following article about a form of English Known as Globish and answer the questions that follows

## 15.If you can't master English, try Globish



It happens all the time. You are at an airport, and the man on your left, who is maybe Korean, starts talking to the man opposite, who is maybe Colombian, and soon they are talking in what seems to be English.

'Where you fly? 'Paris. You?' I go New York business. 'When arrive?' 'Four tomorrow in afternoon. 'Children?' 'One boy, two girl. You?' 'No. Only wife.'"OK. Have good journey. 'Thanks. And you.'

They don't know it, but the Korean and the Columbian are speaking Globish, Its inventor, a Frenchman called Jean-Paul Nerriere, doesn't see it as a real language.

'It isn't a language, it's a tool, a means of global communication. It's a sort of 'English lite' - simple language that people all over the world can understand. 'The language spoken all over the world, by 88 per cent of the people, is not exactly English, but it works; it does the job.'

Nerriere, who retired from the computer giant, IBM, speaks excellent English. The main feature of Globish is that it has only 1,500 words. Grammar isn't important. He had the idea while he was at a meeting in Paris. Before the meeting, one hundred colleagues from over forty different countries were talking in a sort of English. Everyone was happy, and everyone understood. Then the two American speakers arrived to talk to the group. They began by saying

'Hi, I'm Jim,' 'Hi, I'm Bill,' but after that no one understood a word they said. And the Americans had difficulty understanding other people in the group. This is the problem. Do native speakers of English understand Globish? No worries. Nerriere is writing a version of Globish to help the English understand.

### 1 Read the text and answer the questions.

1 What sort of English is Globish?.....

2 Who speaks it? .....

3 Write the full conversation between the Korean and the Colombian.

.....  
.....

4 How does Jean-Paul Nerriere describe Globish?.....

5 What language did the hundred colleagues speak in?.....

6 Why didn't they understand Jim and Bill?.....

### 2 Find words in the text which mean....

1 the act of travelling from one place to another.....

2 a person who makes or thinks of something new.....

3 the most important part of something.....

4 the people who you work with.....

5 people who learnt English as their first language.....

Read the article below about easy English, and answer the questions that follows.

## 16. Easy English?



English is an important global **language**, but that doesn't mean it's easy to **learn**. Many experts have tried to make English easier for students to learn - but they weren't always **successful**.

In 1930, Professor CK Ogden of Cambridge University invented Basic English, It had only 850 words (and just eighteen verbs) and Ogden said most people could learn it in just thirty hours. The problem was that people who learned Basic English could write and say simple messages, but they couldn't understand the answers in 'real' English! It was also **impossible** to explain a word if it wasn't in the Basic English wordlist. For example, if you wanted a water melon, you asked for 'a large green fruit with the form of an egg, which has a sweet red inside and a good taste'!

RE Zachrisson, a university professor in Sweden, decided that the biggest problem for learners of English was spelling, so he invented a language called Anglie. Anglie was similar to English, but with much simpler spelling. 'Father' became 'faadher, 'new 'became 'nue' and 'years' became 'yeerz'. Unfortunately for some students of English, Anglie never became popular.

Even easier is the language which ships' captains use: it's called 'Sea speak'. Sea speak uses a few simple phrases for every possible situation. In Sea speak, for example you don't say, 'I'm sorry what did you say? 'Or 'I didn't understand, can you repeat that?' ... it's just, 'Say again.' No more grammar!

In the age of international communication through the Internet who knows? ... A new form of English might appear. A large number of the world's e-mails are in English and include examples of 'Nerl.ingo' like OIC (Oh, I see) and TTYL (Talk to you later). In another fifty years, English as we know it might not exist ... we will probably all speak fluent Internecish!

1 Is English easy to learn?

.....

2 What was the name of the English invented by Professor CK Ogden?

.....

3 How many hours does it take to learn this form of English?

.....

4 According to the text, what is the biggest problem for English learners?

.....

Take a look at the words in bold what do they mean?

Read the following article about “spoilt kids” and answer the questions

## 17. Spoilt kids' bedrooms are their kingdoms.



Once upon a time a child's bedroom had little more than a toy box. A book shelf and a few posters. Today it looks more like mission control at Houston.

Computers, mobile phones, televisions, DVD players, game machines, and other 21st-century toys fill the room, and often make the child's bedroom the most expensive in the house. Britain's 8- to 16-year-olds have bedroom possessions worth an average of £3.300.

But they don't just have hi-tech items. The average child's room also has designer clothes, sunglasses, watches, jewellery, and sports equipment. More than four in ten children have rooms that combine home office, mini cinema, and gym. Nine in ten have a TV, and seven in ten a DVD player. Nearly all of them have a stereo system and six in ten have either a personal CD player, iPod, or MP3 player. One in four has their own computer.

With so much to do in their bedrooms. It is no surprise that children spend more time there than anywhere else in the house. One girl spends so long on her mobile phone in her room that her parents have to text her to speak to her. Another child disappears into his room as soon as he gets home from school and plays on his PlayStation until bedtime.

Children's bedrooms have become their kingdoms. Some families rarely do anything all together. People eat different meals at different times, and watch different TV programmes in different rooms.

1 Why are these children described as 'spoilt'?

.....

2 Which of these things can the kids do in their bedroom? Please under line

access to internet    chat with friends    listen to music    watch films    do exercise    send an e-mail

3 What things do they have that aren't electronic?

.....

4 What does the girl in the article do in her bedroom? What does the boy do?

.....

5 What is the effect on family life when children spend so much time in their bedroom?

What does the boy do?

6 Which of these things do the majority of children have? Please under line

A TV    A personal CD player    A DVD player    An iPod or MP3 player    A stereo system    A computer

Read the following article about someone who just lost his job and answer the questions.

## 18. Fired from his job



TODD CHRISTIAN, the Human Cannonball, has lost his job, because he is terrified of flying. But it isn't the enormous cannon that scares him, its aeroplanes! He is quite happy to fly 30 metres above the circus at 80 kmph, but he won't get on a plane.

When Todd, 26, injured his leg during a performance, the circus said he should go to Brazil for a special training course. But Todd refused to go. He said, 'I know it sounds crazy, because I'm a human cannonball, but I don't like long flights. If I'm on a plane for a long time, I start to panic.'

'So the circus told him he had to leave his job. Todd said he was very upset. He is now discussing the situation with his lawyer. He thinks he doesn't have to do the course.'

Meanwhile, Brazilian Diego Zeman, the Human Rocket, has arrived at the circus to take Todd's job. Senhor Zeman has already done the special training course. 'I feel sorry for Todd, but this is my dream job and I'm very happy: said the Human Rocket.'

Marnie Dock, who became the world's first female human cannonball at the age of 16, is now the circus's cannon trainer.

She thought that Todd should do the training course. She explained that the circus had to be very strict, as the human cannonball performance could be very dangerous. 'We did it for his own safety: she said. Meanwhile, the circus has offered him another job - as a clown.'

Read the newspaper article and mark the sentences true (T), false (F), or don't know (D).

- 1 Todd is scared of his job.....
- 2 The circus wanted him to go on a training course in South America.....
- 3 He was worried about flying there.....
- 4 The circus said he didn't have to go on the course.....
- 5 Todd doesn't think the training course is necessary.....
- 6 Diego Zeman is a friend of Todd's.....
- 7 Mamie Dock advised Todd to do the course.....
- 8 Todd has decided to take the job as a clown.....

**Find words in the text which mean...**

- 1 really scared.....    2 very big, huge .....    3 hurt (a part of your body) .....

4 a show..... 5 feel really nervous and scared ..... 6 unhappy.....

Read the following article about a travel writer and answer the questions that follows.

## 19.Travelling at the speed of light!



**Travel writer Tom Bradley loses sleep on the ultimate trip an 11-day, 29,000-mile journey round the world**

In getting on the plane at Heathrow Airport, when I realize that I don't want to make this **journey**. I already feel tired just thinking about it. But if I don't go now, I'll waste over£1,000 on my round-the-world ticket - so I get on the plane.

5,500 miles and eight time zone slater, I get off the plane in L.A. It is late afternoon, but my body clock is telling me that it is 5 a.m. When I get to the hotel, all I'll want to eat is toast and jam, not dinner. But if I don't eat now, I'll feel hungry in the middle of the L.A. night.

Next morning I wake up, and try to eat breakfast. Then I go on a quick tour of Hollywood, before I catch my next plane. Another 5,500miles later, and another four time zones later, I get off the plane in Fiji. I am **exhausted**, but this is paradise. When I have a proper holiday next year, I'll come back here. I go to the hotel and lie under a palm tree. But all too soon, I'm back at the airport.

Another 1,341 miles and an **international** dateline later, we arrived in Auckland, New Zealand. Next I'm in Australia, flying from Sydney to Fremantle. Unfortunately, I don't have a clear memory of New Zealand or Australia, except for sheep, a seaplane, whales, and a waterside restaurant. I am just too tired.

I wake up 1,603 miles from Fremantle, and I'm in Bali in the Pacific Ocean. J have never felt so awake before! Bali is beautiful, and I really enjoy my day here. If I ever get married, I'll come back here on my honeymoon.

1,040 miles later, I'm in Singapore. How did I get here? Then I'm flying home, still wishing I was back in Bali. As soon as I get home, I know I'll start feeling bored!

**Answer the questions.**

- 1 How long is the journey that Tom is going to make?.....
- 2 Why doesn't he want to go?.....
- 3 How much did the ticket cost?.....
- 4 When and where does he want to eat toast and jam?.....
- 5 Which parts of the journey can't he remember?.....
- 6 Which places does he want to come back to?.....

**Take a look at the highlighted words, what do they mean?**

Read the following article and answer the questions that follows.

## 20. The Girl Who Reads Aloud



BEIJING- Most mornings, while a noisy queue of traffic is driving slowly along the Third Ring Road into the city centre, a girl called Ouyang Iunying leaves her flat and stands beside the road. She turns away from the traffic, opens a book, and starts reading aloud.

It is one of the worst traffic jams in the city, but Ms Ouyang, 29, has been doing this every morning for nearly five years. She is studying English and believes that the noise helps her to concentrate.

It is also the reason why she has become a sort of celebrity. For thousands of motorists, she is 'The Girl Who Reads Aloud'. While she is reading, the rest of Beijing stares at her and wonders, 'Who is this young woman? How long has she been standing there? And why is she reading in such a terrible place?'

In Beijing, there are 15 million people living in very small flats, so there are lots of people in the city parks, doing everything from tai chi to ballroom dancing. But Ms Ouyang doesn't like the parks. 'If I study in a park, people always watch me and I don't feel comfortable. But if cars pass me in the street, I don't care,' she says

Ms Ouyang, the daughter of a poor farmer, came to Beijing in 1995 to look for work. She has had a number of different jobs. She has also been studying English for nearly ten years, because she hopes that it will get her a better job with better money. Recently she has been on local TV! She has become famous as a person who always works hard and tries her best.

Since the TV programme, she has had a new job. She has been helping an architect in his work. And what has she been doing? Teaching him English, of course



**Read the newspaper article and answer the questions.**

- 1 Which road does Ouyang Junying live near to? .....
- 2 What has she been doing every morning for the last five years?.....
- 3 Why has she been doing this?.....
- 4 What name has she been given by the motorists?.....
- 5 How long has she been living in Beijing?.....
- 6 Why has she been studying English for so many years?.....
- 7 What has happened since the TV programme?.....
- 8 How has she been helping the architect?.....

**Find words in the text which mean...**

- 1 a line of cars or people waiting to do something .....
- 2 a lot of cars moving very slowly .....
- 3 to think carefully about what you are doing .....
- 4 a famous person.....
- 5 looks for a long time.....

Read about the person who invented the World Wide Web and complete the personal information below

## 21. An Ordinary Life, An Amazing Idea



Tim Berners-Lee looks very **ordinary**. He's about fifty years old and has brown hair. He was born in England but now lives in Massachusetts in the USA. But in 1989 Tim had a very important idea. He **invented** the **World Wide Web** (www). Tim went to school in London. Both his parents worked with computers so it isn't surprising that he loved computers from an early age. When he was eighteen, he left school and went to Oxford University where he studied physics. At Oxford, he became more and more interested in computers, and he made his first computer from an old television. He **graduated** in 1976 and got a job with a computer company in Dorset, England. In 1989, he went to work in Switzerland where he first had the idea of an international information network linked by computer. He decided to Call it the world wide web, and he also decided to make his ideas free to everyone - that is why today we do not pay to use the Internet. In 1994 he went to live in the United States where he now works. In 1995 he wrote an article in the New York Times where he said, 'The web is a universe of information and it is for everyone.' Today his idea of a web, where people from all over the world can exchange information, is real.

Take a look at the words in bold, what do they mean?

First Name	
Surname	
Place of birth	
Place(s) of study	
Place(s) of work	
Age	
Unique invention	
Now lives in	

Read the following article about unusual places to visit and complete the table

## 22. Unusual places to visit

### Blue Lagoon - Iceland



Iceland - a country in the North Atlantic near the Arctic Circle -probably isn't the first place you think of for a perfect beach holiday. But every year, thousands of people swim at the Blue lagoon, a beach near the Arctic Circle and just 45 km from the capital city, Reykjavik. The air temperature can be as low as minus 10 degrees: but the water comes from underground and is naturally hot - the usual water temperature is between 35 and 40 degrees. It's like taking a hot bath in the open air!

### London Bridge - USA!!



The original London Bridge actually isn't in London at all ... and it doesn't even pass over a river!! American businessman Robert P Mc Culloch bought the bridge for \$2.5 million in 1968 and moved it - stone by stone - across the Atlantic Ocean. He rebuilt it in lake Havasu City, Arizona - a small town in the middle of the desert, where the temperature is often more than 40 degrees. Nowadays, thousands of tourists come to see the bridge, and there is an English village with water sports facilities, shops and restaurants.

### The Guggenheim Museums



There are not one but five Guggenheim Museums. Solomon R Guggenheim opened the first collection of modern art in New York in 1959. Another museum opened in Italy, and then, in 1997, two more Guggenheims opened: one in Berlin and the other in the Basque city of Bilbao, in the north-west of Spain. It is now one of Spain's biggest tourist attractions, and every year hundreds of thousands of people come to see the paintings and other works of art. The newest Guggenheim museum is the Virtual Museum -the world's biggest Internet art gallery.

	Blue Lagoon	London Bridge	Guggenheim Museums
What it is			
Where it is			
Why People go there			

Read the following text about volcanoes and complete the notes

## 23. Volcanoes



*We have all seen pictures like this from time to time ...perhaps you live in a country where there are volcanoes.*

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about volcanoes.

### **What are volcanoes?**

A volcano is a mountain or hill with an opening through which steam, gases and lava from the centre of the Earth can escape into the air.

### **What is lava?**

Lava is red-hot rock which comes to the Earth's surface through the volcano. It has a temperature of about 1,000 Degree Celsius- ten times hotter than boiling water! Lava can move as fast as 55 kph ... faster than most animals can run.

### **How many volcanoes are there in the world?**

There are about 850 active volcanoes in the world. About sixty percent are in an area called the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean. The largest active volcano is Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii.

### **What's the difference between 'active' and 'extinct' volcanoes?**

An active volcano can erupt at any time. Extinct volcanoes are volcanoes that have stopped erupting.

### **What happens when they erupt?**

A volcano erupts when there is a violent escape of gases and lava from the volcano. In 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupted, destroying the Roman city of Pompeii. The worst volcanic disaster in the twentieth century was in Martinique, a French Island in the Caribbean Sea. A volcano called Mount Pelee near the town of Pierre erupted on the morning of 8th May 1902. Of the 30,000 people in Pierre, just two survived.

### **Can we predict when a volcano is going to erupt?**

Nowadays, scientists usually know when a volcano is going to erupt. In 1991, the Pinatubo volcano, 100 kilometres northwest of Manila in the Philippines, began one of the largest eruptions of the twentieth century. Thanks to the scientists' warnings, more than 100,000 people left the area before the volcano erupted on 15th June.

**Complete the notes below with a name or a number.**

**1** Temperature of lava .....

**2** Speed at which lava can move .....

**3** Number of active volcanoes in the world .....

**4** Percentage of volcanoes which are in the ring of fire .....

**5** Location of Mauna Loa .....

**6** Date when Mount Vesuvius erupted .....

**7** Location of Martinique.....

**8** Date when Mount Pelee erupted .....

**9** Number of people in Pierre who died .....

**10** Number of people who survived .....

**11** Year when Pinatubo erupted .....

**12** Number of people who escaped .....

Read the article below about flying doctors and answer the questions that follows

## 24. Flying Doctors



When baby Thomas James Ellis grows up, he will have a great story to tell his grandchildren about the day he was born.

On Tuesday 6 January 2004, Thomas was born several weeks early on a Flying Doctor aircraft as it landed at Tamworth Airport. Thomas' parents, Genienne and James Ellis, live in the outback, a long way from any towns.

'This is the third time the Flying Doctors have come to my **aid**. It's a wonderful organisation and I don't know what I would have done without them,' Genienne said.

The Flying Doctor service started in 1928. It was the idea of Reverend John Flynn, a minister who was working in the Australian outback. He had many stories to tell about how necessary an aerial medical service was, including one about Jimmy Darcy. Jimmy had a bad fall, and it took his friends twelve hours to take him thirty miles to the nearest town. The only person there who knew first aid was the Postmaster, and he performed a seven-hour operation without anaesthetic, following instructions in Morse code from his first aid teacher, who was 2,000 miles away. Unfortunately, Jimmy died ten days later.

In May 1928, Dr St Vincent Welch made the first official flying doctor visit. In the following year he saw 255 patients. He had no radio, and used a compass and landmarks like rivers and fences to find his way. Nowadays the Royal Flying Doctor Service has forty-six planes, attends about 500 patients each day and services an area of 7,150,000 square kilometres. The service is available twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Modern technology is also available: the doctors have digital cameras and video conferencing facilities. However, a pilot might still need the help of ordinary people on the ground when he is landing the plane in the outback: sometimes he asks them to do a 'roo run', which means driving up and down the landing area to frighten off kangaroos and other wild animals!

People who have never been to Australia have often heard of the Flying Doctors. In the 1980s a TV series was made about them, and shown in fifty countries. Also, next time you have an Australian \$20 note, look more closely - the Flying Doctors and their founder, John Flynn, are on one 'face' of the note.

1. How many times have the flying Doctors come to aid Genienne?

.....

2. When did the flying doctor service start?

.....

3. To what sort of areas do the flying doctors visit?

.....

4. Who was the first official flying doctor and when was it?

.....

5. How many planes do the Royal Flying Doctor Service have?

.....

6. What are the modern technology that the flying doctors use? Name two.

.....

7. How many patients are treated every day?

.....

8. When was the TV series about flying doctors broadcasted?

.....

### Writing

Write an article in about 50 – 70 words explaining

- The last time you visited a doctor
- What happened to you?
- What did the doctor say to you
- Who went with you?

Read the following article about “Spitting” and answer the questions

## 25. Spitting to Survive



Spit keeps our mouths moist and softens our food when we chew. Without spit in our mouths, we would have a hard time talking. We would find it even harder to swallow. But for some animals, spit works better after it has left the mouth. Some animals are experts at surviving because they are expert spitters.

Llamas are animals often found in petting zoos and farms. These animals seem to like their personal space. A llama that feels threatened or annoyed will spit slimy gobs at you to get you to leave it alone. Sometimes llamas even spit on each other to steal food! This trick usually works, because llama spit includes food from the llama’s stomach, and it can be quite smelly. When a llama spits on another animal, the animal usually loses its appetite and walks away, leaving its food behind

The archer fish is a very skilled spitter. This fish is like a submarine with a loaded weapon. It takes aim and spits jets of water at insects and other small creatures to knock them into the water. Then it gulps them down quickly. To create such a forceful stream of water, an archer fish closes its gills, and uses its tongue to form a tube in its mouth. Then the fish sticks its snout out of the water and aims. Aim! Launch! Lunch!

Spitting cobras are also known for their expert aim. These snakes spray poisonous venom from their fangs to protect themselves. Scientists believe that these snakes actually aim for the eyes! When the cobra’s venom gets into the eyes of an animal, the venom causes terrible pain, and even blindness. This gives the snake plenty of time to get away. Spitting is considered to be rude behaviour in people. But for some animals, spitting can be a smart way to get lunch –or a clever way to avoid becoming lunch!



1. List the **three** ways spit helps humans.

.....

.....

.....

2. Which animal creates a forceful stream of water to capture insects?

- a.** humans      **b.** Archer fish      **c.** spitting cobras      **d.** llamas

3. Name **two** reasons a llama might choose to spit

.....

.....

4. How does a spitting cobra use its spit to protect itself?

.....

5. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a.** To tell funny stories about animals    **b.** To teach the reader how animals survive
- c.** To express opinions about animals    **d.** To show how animals are different

Read the following about Bears and answer the questions.

## 26. Three Bears

Did you know that there are eight different kinds of bears found around the world? Three very different ones are polar bears, grizzly bears and Giant Pandas.



Polar bears live in the Arctic Circle, near the North Pole. Polar bears stay warm in very cold temperatures because they have a layer of fat, called blubber, and because they are covered in two layers of fur. Polar bears are excellent swimmers and have short claws to help them walk across ice and snow. Polar bears mostly eat seals, but they will eat other arctic animals as well.



Grizzly bears can be found in Asia, Europe, and North America. Grizzly bears like to eat plants, mammals and fish. They can run over thirty miles per hour. Even though grizzly bears are very big and strong, their cubs only weigh one pound when they are born.



The Giant Panda lives in China and has black and white fur. This bear eats up to thirty pounds of bamboo every day. The Giant Panda is an endangered animal because many of the forests where they live have been destroyed. Many people work hard to protect Giant Pandas.

1. List **two** reasons from that article that explain why polar bears can live in such a cold climate.

.....

2. Words & Definitions

**Herbivore**- an animal that eats only plants    **Carnivore**- an animal that eats only other animals

**Omnivore**- an animal that eats both plants and other animals

Is a grizzly bear a carnivore, an herbivore, or an omnivore? \_\_\_\_\_

Is a Giant Panda a carnivore, an herbivore, or an omnivore? \_\_\_\_\_

Is a polar bear a carnivore, an herbivore, or an omnivore? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why has the Giant Panda become an endangered animal?

.....

.....

4. Which fact was not mentioned in the article?

a. Polar bears are excellent swimmers.    b. Grizzly bear cubs weight less than a pound.

c. Polar bears eat mostly fish.    d. Giant Pandas eat bamboo.

Read the following article about camels and answer the questions that follows.

## 27. One Hump or Two?



**Do** you know what the hump of a camel is used for? If you answered to store water, guess again. This rumour about camels storing water in their humps has been around for a long time, but it's actually not true. A camel's hump is a storage place for fatty tissue.

**Most** animals, including humans, store fat throughout their bodies, beneath their skin. But camels store their fat in one place, their hump. A hump can weigh as much as 80 pounds. Why do camels store their fat this way? The answer is most likely because of their environment. Camels can go up to two weeks without eating because they have this fatty tissue to live off of. Since camels live in the desert where food is scarce, they need this storage of fat to survive.

**Camels** have amazing survival skills built into their bodies. Their humps contribute to the camel staying cooler because all the body fat is concentrated to one area instead of being spread throughout the body. Also camels are great at handling changes in body temperature. They need to reach temperatures over 106 degrees Fahrenheit before they begin to sweat. And when they do sweat, it evaporates while on the camel's skin, instead of on its coat. This cools the camel much faster. Their coats also help them adapt to the heat. While the coat is thick, it reflects the sunlight and protects the camel from the heat that rises off the desert sand.

**An** adult camel measures just over six feet tall at its shoulder and over seven feet tall at its hump or humps. There are two kinds of camels, those with one hump and those with two humps. Camels with one hump are called Dromedary or Arabian camels. They live in the dry deserts in West Asia. Camels with two humps are called Bactrian camels. They live in Central and East Asia.

**Besides** their humps, camels have a lot of interesting features. They can live between 40-50 years. They can carry about 400 pounds and run up to 40 miles per hour. It's true that camels can go long periods of time without drinking water, and they can drink about 26 gallons of water at a time. If that's not interesting enough, camels have three sets of eyelids. Two of these sets come complete with eyelashes, while the third set is skin. Camels can also close their nostrils.

**So** whether a camel has one hump or two, it is one amazing creature that is very well adapted to its environment.

1. What is a camel's hump used for?

- a. to store water
- b. to store fat
- c. to store food
- d. to carry riders

2. How does the colour of a camel's coat help it to survive in the desert?

.....  
.....

3. Fill in the blank lines.

Camels with one hump are called \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ camels.

Camels with two humps are called \_\_\_\_\_ camels.

4. How long can a camel live?

- a. up to 5 decades
- b. up to 5 centuries
- c. up to 5 millennia
- d. up to 5 generations

5. Which sentence is an opinion?

- a. A camel's hump can weigh as much as 80 pounds.
- b. When camels reach temperatures over 106 ° F, they begin to sweat.
- c. Besides their humps, camels have a lot of interesting features.
- d. Bactrian camels live in Central and East Asia.

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article.

- 1 \_\_\_\_ v i r \_\_\_\_ e n \_\_\_\_ (the place where a person or animal lives)
- 2 \_\_\_\_ u r v \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ (ability to live)
- 3 \_\_\_\_ v a p \_\_\_\_ (liquid dries up and becomes a gas)
- 4 \_\_\_\_ s i \_\_\_\_ (largest continent in the world)
- 5 n \_\_\_\_ i l s (openings on the nose that allow air to enter the body)
- 6 \_\_\_\_ o n c e \_\_\_\_ r \_\_\_\_ e d (gathered in one place)
- 7 \_\_\_\_ e m \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ a t u \_\_\_\_ (measurement of heat)

Read the following article about how creatures protect themselves and answer the questions.

## 28. Camouflaged Creatures

In nature, predators and prey seem to play a game of hide-and-seek. Prey need to hide, so predators do not find them and eat them. Predators need to hide too, so smaller prey cannot see them approaching. Some animals have special colours or marks on their bodies that help them hide among trees, rocks, and grass. This blending is called camouflage.



**Can you see the green snake in this picture? The snake's shape and colour help it hide among the green forest leaves**

The earth tone colours of deer and squirrels help them hide from predators among the browns of trees, bushes and soil. A brown squirrel can be difficult to see when it is scampering among brown autumn leaves. A brown deer can be overlooked when it is hiding between tree trunks. The deer and squirrel's special colouring help them hide from predators.



**This owl sleeps during the day, so it does not want to be seen by other animals. Notice how its feather pattern and colouring match the tree trunk.**

**African** lions have a tan body colouring. However, lions use it not to hide from predators, but to hide in savannah grasses while watching for prey. A lion can sneak up on prey without being seen more easily by blending into the grassy environment.

**Another** popular animal camouflage colour is green. The green tree frogs of Australia blend in and hide from predators better because of their colour. Green tree pythons and emerald boas, meanwhile, are more like lions, using their green colour to blend in. When a likely meal (a rodent, bird or lizard) comes along these snakes strike quickly, catching the prey.



**Is this polar bear camouflaged to protect itself from predators or to hunt prey?**

The praying mantis takes things a step further. While its green to brown colour helps it blend in with vegetation, the mantis also mimics the shape of a stem or leaf. The mantis uses these camouflage methods both to hide from predators like birds, frogs, snakes, spiders and bats, and to await prey such as insects (including other mantises!), spiders, hummingbirds, and small frogs and mice.



**This praying mantis' body mimics its environment. It looks much like a leaf or twig. This type of blending is called mimicry.**

**Just** as important as colour camouflage and mimicry is pattern camouflage. Tiger stripes and leopard and jaguar spots are all patterns which help these cats hide among the plants and shadows when they search for prey.

**A tiger has vertical stripes that help to hide it among tall grass. This is pattern camouflage**

In nature, hide-and-seek is a game of life and death. Pattern and colour camouflage, and mimicry, can give predators and prey a survival advantage. Can you think of any other animals that have camouflage?

1. How does a lion's special colouring help it survive?

- a. It helps protect the lion from predators.
- b. It helps the lion sneak up on predators without being heard.
- c. It helps the lion hunt prey without being seen.
- d. It makes the lion completely invisible.

2. Explain how a praying mantis uses more than just colour to blend into its surroundings.

.....  
.....

3. How does camouflage help a polar bear become a better predator?

- a. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see in the woods.
- b. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see on rocky ledges.
- c. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see in a snowy environment.
- d. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see underwater.

4. Read the following sentence from the article and choose the best definition for the underlined words. The earth tone colours of deer and squirrels help them hide from predators.

- a. colour of summer leaves
- b. colour of the morning sky
- c. colour of soil and ground
- d. colour of the planet Earth

Read the following article about Giraffe and answer the questions that follows.

## 29. The Long Giraffe



Most people know what a giraffe looks like. They're tall, spotted animals from the African savanna. They're famous for their long necks that allow them to munch on treetop leaves that other animals cannot reach.

With its 6-foot long legs and 6-foot longneck a male giraffe can grow over 18 feet in height. That's almost as tall as a two-story building! Even a baby giraffe has a long neck and legs. In fact, the calf is 6 feet tall at birth and can stand within an hour.

We humans have seven bones, or vertebrae, in our short little necks. So, how many vertebrae do you think a giraffe has in its neck? Maybe 20? Or 50? Or 100? In fact, a giraffe's neck has exactly the same number of bones in its neck as a human! However, the giraffe's vertebrae are larger and much longer.

A giraffe's heart is also long, with a male's heart being up to two feet. It takes a powerful heart to move blood up the long neck into the brain. The giraffe has special valves in their arteries. These valves prevent blood from rushing to the head when the giraffe bends low to drink. And when it drinks it takes a long drink, swallowing up to 10 gallons of water. The giraffe must spread its long legs apart so its long neck can reach the water. Since it can't protect itself when in this position it doesn't drink very often. Instead, it gets a lot of moisture from the plants it eats.

And speaking of plants, a giraffe's favourite food is the leaves of the thorny acacia tree. The giraffe wraps its long 18-inch tongue around the tree's branches and strips off the leaves. The long tongue's roughness helps protect it from the thorns.

A giraffe is a ruminant, which means it has a four chambered stomach like a cow. After they swallow leaves the first time the giraffe will bring the leaves back up their throat and chew again for long periods.

A healthy adult giraffe does not have many natural predators. Its hooves areas long and wide as a dinner plate, and it can kick its long legs any direction. The kick is so strong it can even kill a lion.

With its long neck, long heart, long tongue, long legs, and long hooves, the giraffe is surely one of the most beautiful animals on the African savanna.

1. How many bones are in a giraffe's neck?

- a. 7    b. 20    c. 50    d. 100

2. Why does a giraffe need a large, powerful heart?

- A. so it can pump blood down into its legs                      b. So it can pump blood up to the brain  
C. to help the giraffe drink water more easily                  d. To help the giraffe digest plants and leaves

3. The second page of the article contains many facts, but there is one sentence that is an opinion. Copy the opinion sentence on the lines below.

.....  
.....

4. Complete each sentence by writing a word or number on the line.

A giraffe's tongue is about \_\_\_\_\_ inches long.

A \_\_\_\_\_ giraffe is called a cow.

A baby giraffe is about \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall when it stands up.

A giraffe's favourite food is leaves from a \_\_\_\_\_ tree.

**Find the hidden word, a clue has been provided**

1. \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ e s      (hard coverings over the toes of horses, cattle, deer, or giraffes)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ n \_\_\_ a      (a flat grassland habitat)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ l o \_\_\_ s      (units for measuring liquid capacity)

4. \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ a \_\_\_      (organ inside the body for digesting food)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ r \_\_\_ s      (sharp points on a plant's stem or branch)

6. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ c \_\_\_      (to chew something in a noisy way)

7. \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ \_\_\_ d      (liquid that runs through an animal's body through veins and arteries)



Read the article below about ecosystem and answer the questions that follows.

### 30. The Mountain Ecosystem



A habitat is where a plant or animal lives and grows. A habitat is part of an ecosystem where lots of different plants and animals live. Mountains, with their many levels are an ecosystem containing many different habitats.

At the base of a mountain, you will probably find a forest filled with lots of plants and trees. A grizzly bear or a garter snake might cross your path. You might catch a glimpse of an owl in a tree.

Climb higher, toward the middle of the mountain side and leave the forest behind for grasslands and maybe a stream. Here, you might encounter a mountain lion stalking its prey or a salamander slipping underneath of a leaf to hide. Goat's might be leaping from rock to rock.

Climb even higher, toward the top, and you'll notice a change in the temperature. It's getting colder and snow is covering the mountaintops. There aren't many plants near the mountaintop, but you might see fuzzy lichen covering rocks like carpeting. The air is thin at the top of the mountain, which makes it difficult for large animals to breathe. When people climb very large mountains, they often take special air tanks filled with oxygen. Even though you won't see many big animals, millions of tiny insects like snow fleas might dot the landscape.

Depending on the elevation, you could see deserts, river valleys, meadows, forests and snow caps all on one mountain. And with each unique habitat, comes unique plant and animal life.

1. Define habitat.

.....

2. What happens as you climb higher and higher up a mountain?

a. You see more animals.    b. The temperature rises.    c. Forests become thicker.    d. The temperature drops.

3. What types of animals would you be most likely to see near the top of a mountain?

A. bears    b. Insects    c. owls    d. There are no animals at the top.

4. What type of habitat would you probably find at the base of a mountain?

.....

5. Why do you think most mountains do not have large lakes on them?

---

# The Mountain Ecosystem

Crossword Puzzle



Use animals mentioned in the article, "The Mountain Ecosystem" to complete the puzzle.

**Across**

2. Tiny wingless insect      5. Amphibian that looks like a lizard  
6. Large, furry omnivorous mammal

**Down**

1. mammal with backward-curving horns      3. large, carnivorous cat  
4. nocturnal bird with excellent hearing      5. reptile with no legs

Read the following article about animal migrations and answer the questions that follows

## 31. Animal Migrations



Have you ever noticed that we only see certain animals in certain seasons? Many animals move from one area to another at different times during the year. This movement is called migration.

Animals migrate for different reasons. Some, like the manatee and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, migrate to stay warm in the winter.

Some animals migrate for food, water, and protection. Caribou move south each winter to evergreen forests. The forests protect them from the cold winds and provide a better food supply.

Other animals, like the Emperor Penguin, migrate for their children. These penguins choose the coldest time of year and the coldest place on the planet- Antarctica- to raise their young. They migrate inland, away from the sea, so they are far away from predators when their eggs hatch.

These journeys are often thousands of miles. It's amazing that so many animals are able to find their way back to the very same places in the world year after year.

Loggerhead Turtles travel thousands of miles to lay their eggs on the very same beach where they were hatched themselves.

Monarch butterflies often end up migrating thousands of miles to the very same tree that their ancestors roosted in generations before.

California Gray Whales have the longest migration journey of any mammal. They travel 10,000-14,000 miles round trip each year.

We know the many reasons why animals migrate, but no one really knows how they find their way. They do not have a map, compass or GPS to guide them. Maybe you will become the famous scientist that solves the mystery of animal migration.

1. What is migration?
  - a. animals sleeping through the winter
  - b. animals preparing to hatch eggs
  - c. animals traveling long distances
  - d. animals getting lost

2. Complete the table with information from the article.

Species	Reason For Migrating
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	
	Protection from cold winds and to find more food
Emperor Penguin	

3. Which animals hold the record for the longest migration? .....

4. Where do Emperor Penguins go when they migrate?

- a. inland, near the North Pole
- b. towards the sea, near the North Pole
- c. inland, near the South Pole
- d. towards the sea, near the South Pole

5. What information about animal migration is not known?

- a. where the animals migrate to
- b. why animals migrate
- c. which species of animals migrate
- d. how animals find their way when they migrate.

Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. seasons   | a. Well-known  |
| _____ 2. caribou   | b. tool with a needle that points north                |
| _____ 3. journey   | c. family members who lived before you were born       |
| _____ 4. hatch     | d. trip from one place to another                      |
| _____ 5. ancestors | e. times of the year: winter, spring, summer, and fall |
| _____ 6. compass   | f. large reindeer that live near the North Pole        |
| _____ 7. GPS       | g. to come out from inside an egg                      |
| _____ 8. famous    | h. electronic computer that tells your location        |

Read the article below about people from different cultures and answer the questions below.

## 32. Different Cultures



Amy's school needed to have a fundraiser so they could earn money to buy more computers.

Amy knew that many of her classmates' families were from different countries around the world. They had many special **traditions**, spoke many different languages, and ate many different types of foods.

Amy had a brilliant idea for a fundraiser! She suggested that every student could bring in their favorite **dish** and hold an **ethnic** dinner night. She knew parents and members of the community would be glad to pay money in order to try foods from all over the world!

"That's a great idea," Amy's teacher said. "Let's call it 'Dinner around the World'." Amy brought in her favorite meal, **chicken** and **dumplings**, with **mashed** potatoes.

Her friend Amina was from Ethiopia, an African country. She brought in **stewed beef** with **spices** over rice **pilaf** with Ethiopian bread.

Ibrahim, from Morocco, brought a dish of **spiced grilled lamb** over white rice with fried eggplant and **hummus** with **pita** bread. Juan, from Mexico, brought **chicken fajitas** with Spanish rice and **tortilla chips** with **cheese dip**.

Rajat, whose family is from India, brought in **chicken curry** over rice with **raita**, a sauce of yogurt mixed with cucumber.

August, a **vegetarian**, brought a meal with no meat. She brought **lentil soup**, **dinner rolls**, and a salad.

The fund raiser was a great success. Everyone enjoyed seeing, smelling, and tasting foods from so many different cultures.

1. What did the teacher name Amy's idea for the fundraiser?

.....

2. Where is Amina from?

.....

3. What did Ibrahim bring?

.....

4. What is raita?

.....

5. Why did Amy's school need to raise money?

.....

6. Why did August choose to bring lentil soup, dinner rolls, and salad?

.....

Read the following about Zakir Naik and fill in the form below.

### 33. Dr. Zakir Naik



Zakir Naik was born on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1965, he is 46 years old. He was born in Mumbai in India. He lives at 23 High Level Road, Mumbai, India.

He spends most of his time advising people about Islam and giving public speeches on various topics about Islam. He, by hearted Quran at a very young age. He is considered to be one of the best religious scholars in the world.

Most of his speeches are broadcasted on Peace TV

He can be contact via e-mail by [naik@peacetv.com](mailto:naik@peacetv.com)

First Name	
Last Name/ Sir Name	
Date Of Birth	
Age	
Address	
Country	
E-mail address	

Read the following about camels and answer the questions that follows.

### 34. Ships of the Desert



Perhaps they aren't the most beautiful animals in the world. But in the hot lands of North Africa and in the Middle East they are certainly one of the most useful. But how much do you know about camels.

Camels normally live for about 40 years but they usually stop working when they are about 25 years.

Camels don't normally like running – it's too hot – but when they need to, they can run at 20 kilometres an hour. The dromedary, or Arabian camel, has one hump. The Bactrian, or Asian camel, has longer hair and has got two humps. There are about 14 million camels in the world, and most of them are dromedaries.

An adult camel is about 2.1 metres tall and weigh about 500 kilograms. Camels can walk for more than 600 kilometres without drinking water. They only need to drink water every six or eight days. But when there is water, they can drink up to 90 litres.

1. How long do camels live?.....
2. How fast can a camel run?.....
3. How many humps does an Arabian camel has?.....
4. How many humps does an Asian camel has?.....
5. How many camels are there in the world?.....
6. How many kilograms does a camel weigh?.....
7. How far can a camel walk?.....
8. How tall does an adult camel grow?.....
9. How long can a camel stay without drinking water?.....
10. How many litres of water can a camel drink?.....

Read the following about two National Heroes and answer the questions.

## 35. National Heroes and Heroines

### Mustafa Kemal Ataturk



Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is the father of modern Turkey. He was born in 1881. He chose the army as a career and in 1915, during the First World War, he led the Turkish army at Gelibolu and Istanbul. By the end of the war he was a hero and from that time on all of the Turkish people supported him. He led the Turkish army in the War of Independence (1912 – 1922) and in 1923 he became the first president of the new Republic of Turkey. During the last fifteen years of his life Ataturk introduced many new things to improve life in Turkey. He died in November 1938, but today the people of Turkey still think of him

with great respect.

### Florence Nightingale



A hundred and fifty years ago, most nurses did not study nursing: but a British woman called Florence Nightingale tried to change all that. In the 1850s, she worked in a hospital for wounded soldiers in the Ukraine. People say she never slept, but spent all her time helping the men. The soldiers called her “The Lady of the Lamp” because her of the lamp she always carried as she walked around at night. When she returned to England, she began a school of nursing in London. She died in 1910.

1. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was born in 1881 .....
2. He joined the army in 1917 .....
3. He lead Turkey during the First World War .....
4. He became president of Turkey in 1923 .....
5. He became a hero in Turkey .....
6. He died in 1938 .....
7. Florence Nightingale is the first person who studied nursing .....
8. The soldiers called her “Lady of Light” .....
9. She open a school in London for nursing .....
10. She died in 1920 .....



Read the article below and answer the questions that follows.

## 36. The Man with the Thirteen Jobs

Seumas McSporrán is a very busy man. He is 60 years old and he has thirteen jobs. He is a postman, a policeman, a fireman, a taxi driver, a school-bus driver, a boatman, an ambulance man, an accountant, a petrol attendant, a waiter and an undertaker. Also, he and his wife, Margaret, have a shop and a small hotel.

Seumas lives and works on the island of Gigha in the west of Scotland. Only 120 people live on Gigha but in summer 150 tourists come by boat every day.

Every weekday Seumas gets up at 6.00 and makes breakfast for the hotel guests. At 8.00 he drives the island's children to school. At 9.00 he collects the post from the boat and delivers it to all the houses on the island. He also delivers drinks to the island's only café. Then he helps Margaret in the shop.

He says: 'Margaret likes being busy, too. We never have holidays and we don't watching television. In the evenings Margaret makes supper and I do the accounts. At 10.00 we have a glass of juice and then we go to bed. Perhaps our life isn't very exciting, but we like it.'

### Questions

1. Where does Seumas live? .....
2. How old is he? .....
3. How many jobs does he have? .....
4. What's his wife's name? .....
5. What does she do? .....
6. How many people live on Gigha? .....
7. How many tourists visit Gigha in the summer?.....
8. What does Seumas do in the morning? .....
9. What does he and Margaret do in the evening? .....

Read the following about a great artist and answer the questions.

### 37. A Famous Painter



Today the artist Vincent van Gogh is very famous, but he was never famous during his life.

Vincent was Dutch. His family was from a small village in the Netherlands. His brother: Theo, was a very important person in his life. Vincent was usually poor, but his brother always helped him with money

Vincent was always good at painting, but he had many different jobs. He worked for an art company, and in a bookshop, and ne was a teacher: He was interested in religion, and he wanted to study theology, but he wasn't a very good student .When he was 27 he started to work as a painter: He lived in Belgium, the Netherlands, and France, where he was with his friend, the painter Paul Gaugin.

But Vincent was never really happy, and he was often not well. When he was only 37, he ended his life.

When Vincent was alive, he wasn't famous and his paintings weren't popular. Today his pictures are very expensive, and you can see them in art galleries all over the world.

#### Read the Text Above and Identify the Sentences as True or False

1. Vincent van Gogh was famous during his life. ....
2. Vincent was from Germany. ....
3. Theo van Gogh was Vincent's father. ....
4. Before he was a painter, Vincent was a teacher. ....
5. Vincent was interested in Painting. ....
6. He was a good student. ....
7. Paul Gaugin was Vincent's friend. ....
8. He was a happy person. ....
9. Vincent's paintings were popular in his life. ....
10. Today his pictures are very expensive.....

Read the article about a woman who has travelled alone.

### 38. Around the World Alone



Ellen McArthur was born on 8 July 1976 in Derbyshire, England. She is 38 years old. When she was eight years old, her aunt took her sailing and Ellen fell in love with the sea. She didn't live near the sea, so she couldn't learn to sail, but Ellen spent a lot of time reading stories and books about sailing. She saved all her money and bought a boat. When she was a child, Ellen wanted to work with animals. But when she was 17, she changed her mind and decided to become a sailor.

When she was 18, Ellen sailed round Britain alone in her boat Iduna. Then, in 1997, when she was 20, Ellen went to France. She learned French, bought a boat called Le Poisson ('the fish') and did a lot of work on it. She sailed Le Poisson 3,000 miles across the Atlantic in the Mini Transat solo race and finished 17<sup>th</sup>.

In 2005, Ellen became world-famous when she sailed her boat 27,000 miles around the world alone. The journey took 71 days, 14 hours and 18 minutes and she broke the world record. Was Ellen frightened on that journey? 'Yes,' she said. But she wasn't lonely. 'I never needed anyone,' she said. 'Sailing is my job and I get to do what I love every day. It's a fantastic job and I'm very lucky.'

Read the information on the text and fill in the information below

First Name	
Last Name	
Age	
Date Of Birth	
Country	
Profession	

Read the article again "and number the events in order. Number the sentences 1 to 6

- a) She bought her first boat. -----
- b) She sailed solo around the world. -----
- c) Ellen went sailing with her aunt. -----
- d) She sailed across the Atlantic -----
- e) She read a lot of books about sailing. -----
- f) She sailed around Britain alone. -----

**B) Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?**

- a) Derbyshire is near the sea. -----
- b) Ellen's aunt bought her first boat. -----
- c) When she was eight, Ellen wanted to be a doctor -----
- d) Ellen decided to become a sailor when she was 17 -----

Read the following about Dubai and answer the questions.

39. **“I’ve been to Morocco in Dubai”**



Visitors to the Dubai Shopping Festival are carrying back with them a novel memento of their trip to Dubai – their own pictures looking like ‘traditional’ Moroccans.

‘It’s an unusual way of saying “I’ve been there”. And it is attracting Arabs from all the Gulf States, and Europeans and Asians,’ says Yasmine Al Basheer, a Moroccan school teacher resident in Dubai, who hit upon the idea as the best way to spread awareness of this western most Arab country.

The traditional attire of men, women and children in Morocco is colourful and exotic, representing the various regions of the country. Yasmine set about acquiring the dresses along with cultural artefacts from different stores in the city – and even had some flown in to create a truly exotic setting.

Then she got in touch with a professional photo studio to take the pictures. Part of the Moroccan Pavilion at the Global Village, the Seema Studio stall provides the glossy colour prints for \$15 or \$25 depending on the size of the enlargements.

- (a) What sort of souvenir is proving popular with visitors to the Dubai Shopping Festival?  
.....[1]
- (b) What is Yasmine Al Basheer’s main job?  
.....[1]
- (c) As well as buying them in Dubai, how were other Moroccan clothes acquired?  
.....[1]
- (d) Where in Dubai are the photographs taken?  
.....[1]
- (e) Why are there two different prices for the photographs?

**Read the article about the author of the Harry Potter books and answer the questions that follows.**

### 40. The Writer and the Wizard

J.K Rowling was born in England in 1965. She loved reading, and wrote her first book named “Rabbit”, when she was 6 years old. She studied French at school, then worked as a secretary in London. This was her first job. She had the idea about writing the Harry Potter series when she was on a train. “Harry just walked into my head”, she said later. She started writing the first Harry Potter book the next day.

In 1992 she went to live in Portugal for three years. She wrote Harry Potter in the morning, and worked as an English teacher in the afternoon and evening. She got married to a Portuguese TV journalist and had a daughter called Jessica.

Then she returned to Britain and lived in Edinburgh. She was unemployed at that time, and wrote in café’s because they were warmer than her small flat which was very cold. After five years she finished the first book. “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone. The book sold millions of copies all over the world, she became very famous and very rich, but she still writes her books in café’s.

- 1. What was the name of the Author who wrote the Harry Potter Series?

.....

- 2. When was she born?

.....

- 3. What was the name of the first story that she wrote and how old was she when she wrote it.

.....

- 4. What was her first job?

.....

- 5. Where did she get the idea of Harry Potter?

.....

- 6. How many years did she spend in Portugal and what did she teach there?

.....

- 7. How long did it take for her to finish the first Harry Potter Book?

.....

Read the following about how students study in South Korea and answer the questions.

## 41. Studying In South Korea



Life is very different for many young people in South Korea. It's very important for people to go to school, and find a good job. So studying is very, very important! Young people get up at about six o'clock, have breakfast with their family, and then go to school. Schools in South Korea start at seven o'clock.

After five hours of lessons in the morning, it's time for lunch. Most people have lunch at school. Then there are more lessons until six o'clock, but that's not the end! Many young Koreans go to the library and study from about eight o'clock to eleven or twelve o'clock, when the libraries close.

At that time, they go home in a special minibus. Most students don't go to bed before one or two o'clock, and then the next day, after just four hours of sleep, it's time to get up again!

1. What time do most young people get up in South Korea?.....
2. What time do schools start in South Korea?.....
3. Where do most young people have lunch?.....
4. What time do schools in South Korea finish?.....
5. Where do many people go in the evening?.....
6. What time do the libraries close?.....
7. How do students go home?.....
8. What time do they go to bed?.....

Write down the opposite of the following words.

- a) Finish ..... b) Morning ..... c) go to bed .....
- d) open ..... e) go out ..... f) a snack .....
- g) start school ..... h) the week .....

Read the following Shark Attacks and answer the questions that follows.

## 42. Shark Attack



When he was eight, Mohamed Ibrahim went on holiday to Mozambique with his parents and his younger brother. One day, they went fishing in a small motor boat on an enormous lagoon.

After an hour, the motor boat stopped, and they couldn't start it again. They shouted, but nobody heard them. Suddenly something moved in the water near the boat. At first, they thought it was a dolphin. But then they realised it was a big, grey shark. It started knocking the boat. They were terrified. Mohamed's father tried to push the shark away. They thought they were going to die.

Eventually, people in a fishing boat heard them and took them home. Everybody in the town heard about their story and talked about it. Mohamed's father became a local hero. Two days later, a local fisherman caught the shark and put it in the main square. Everybody came to see the monster and took pictures of it.

Many years later, when Mohamed saw the film "Jaws", he relived the terrible experience. But he loved it.

### Are the following sentences true or false?

1. Mohamed lived in Mozambique-----
2. He was nine years old at the time.....
3. Mohamed went fishing with his family.....
4. There was a dolphin near the boat.....
5. They thought they were doing to die.....
6. Mohamed fell in the water.....
7. Mohamed's father became a hero.....
8. The local fisherman later caught the shark.....
9. Mohamed loves the film "Jaws" .....
10. People took pictures of the shark when it was caught.....



Read the article about Male Hukuru Miskiy and answer the questions that follows.

### 43. Male Hukuru Miskiy



Malé Hukuru Miskiy or Malé Friday Mosque is an ancient decorated mosque located in the city of Malé, Kaafu Atoll, Maldives. The mosque was originally constructed in 1658 AD under the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar I. It is now more than 350 years old. It took 2 years to build the mosque. The mosque was built with coral. It inside is decorated with beautiful wooden parts. The building is surrounded by a 17th-century cemetery, whose coral stone headstones are intricately and uniquely carved. The site also includes a coral stone minaret.

Hukuru Miskiy (Friday Mosque) has a perimeter of 199 ft. There are three parts of the mosque, they are

1. Mihuraabuge: The room or section used by the Imam in leading the prayers.
2. Medhu Miskiy: The middle Mosque.
3. Fahu Miskiy: The back Mosque.

1. What is the name of the mosque? ( 1 mark)

.....

2. Where is the mosque located? ( 2 marks)

.....

3. How old is the mosque? ( 1 mark)

.....

4. How long did it take the build the mosque? ( 1 mark)

.....

5. What is the name of the king who built the mosque? ( 2 marks)

.....

6. What are the three parts of the mosque? ( 3 marks)

.....

.....

.....