

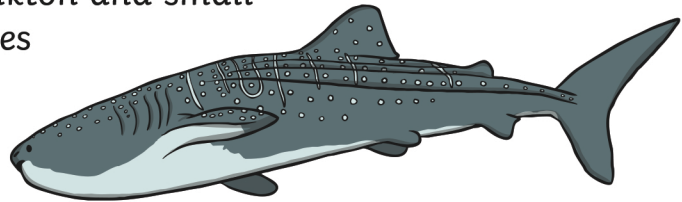
Sharks

Purpose

Sharks are one of the sea's most famous predators, but there are some facts that might surprise you...

Sharks are the top carnivores (meat eaters) of the oceans and the top of the food chain eating other fish, dolphins, seals and would you believe it – seagulls! They have the most powerful jaws of any animal and hundreds of teeth that even replace themselves if they fall out!

Strangely enough, not all of them attack people. Often, it is the biggest ones that are the most harmless. The whale shark is the biggest of them all; it eats plankton and small fish and shrimps but it measures nearly 14m – that's about the length of one and a half doubledecker buses!



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Sharks Comprehension Questions

Purpose

Let's look at the decisions the author has made:

1. Why did the author finish the first sentence with 'there are some facts that might surprise you', and add this '...' afterwards?
2. Why has the author put (meat eaters) in brackets?
3. Why has the author used the phrase 'would you believe it' when talking about sharks eating seagulls?
4. Why has the author used the doubledecker bus example when talking about 14m?
5. Why has the author used an exclamation mark at the end?
6. Why has the author used the phrase 'strangely enough'?

Sharks Comprehension Answers

1. To make the reader want to read on and discover these facts.
2. To explain the word carnivore.
3. It is surprising because sharks live in water and seagulls spend most of the time out of water or on top of it.
4. So you can imagine it based on something with which you are familiar.
5. A shark the size of 1.5 buses is very, very big and therefore surprising.
6. Because most people might assume that all sharks attack people.

Charity Week at School

Cause and Effect

At Hope Valley School, last Friday, there was a charity barbecue and fun afternoon to finish off a successful fundraising week. Many children had been collecting money for their local hospice by doing sponsored walks during the week. Friday was the final celebration.

Some parents were running the barbecue and, by the end of the evening, they only had a few bits of food left. Other parents had baked cakes for the cake stall which raised lots of money from sales and was a huge success. Even the local newspaper photographer was there to take photos for their next edition.



Charity Week at School Comprehension Questions

Cause and Effect

Work out the cause or effect in these questions:

1. What was the effect of the sponsored walks?
2. What caused the newspaper photographer to take photos?
3. What caused the charity week to be a success?
4. What was the effect of lots of people baking cakes for the cake stall?
5. What will be the effect of raising all this money?
6. What was the cause of the good sales on the barbecue?

Charity Week at School Comprehension Answers

Cause and
Effect

1. Money was raised.
2. To report the event in their next edition.
3. Lots of money was raised.
4. There were lots of cakes to sell to make money for the charity.
5. The hospice charity will benefit and will be able to put it towards things they need.
6. We cannot tell, we can guess things like the food was good, or it was a good price, or the smell was tempting people, but from the text we cannot tell for sure.

England and Wales

Compare
and
Contrast

England and Wales are two countries out of four that make up the United Kingdom and have their colours in the Union Jack flag. The other two countries are Scotland (with which England shares a border) and Northern Ireland. England and Wales share a border and also include parts of the UK's longest river, the River Severn. English is spoken in both countries, but in addition to this, many people in Wales speak Welsh.

There is plenty of traditional music and dance in both countries, including clog dancing as well as traditional industries such as coal mining. In addition to this, Wales has a big tradition of male voice choir singing whilst morris dancing and sword dancing are more specific to England. Wales, however, does have a large tradition of Eisteddfods which are festivals of literature, song and dance and include some serious competition.



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England and Wales Comprehension Questions

Compare
and
Contrast

Use the information in the text to compare and contrast the following:

1. List the things that England and Wales have in common.
2. List the things that England has that Wales does not.
3. List the things that Wales has that England does not.

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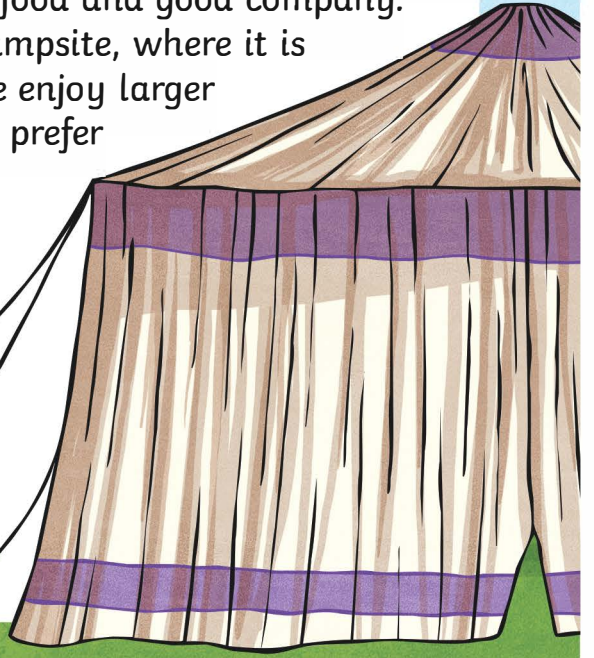
England and Wales Comprehension Answers

1. Both in the United Kingdom, colours in the Union Jack, share a border, River Severn, speak English, traditional music and dance, clog dancing, coal mining.
2. A border with Scotland, morris dancing, sword dancing.
3. Male voice choirs, Welsh language, Eisteddfods.

UK Festivals

Fact and
Opinion

There are many festivals all over the UK where families can listen to music and enjoy the atmosphere with great food and good company. Families can choose to camp on a festival campsite, where it is very exciting to sleep outdoors. Some people enjoy larger festivals, such as Glastonbury, whilst others prefer smaller festivals such as Beautiful Days in Devon. I would definitely recommend a festival for a family holiday as it is great fun.



UK Festivals Comprehension Questions

Fact and
Opinion

Decide whether each of these quotes is fact or opinion:

1. There are many festivals all over the UK.
2. Families can listen to music.
3. Great food and good company.
4. Families can choose to camp.
5. It is very exciting to sleep outdoors.
6. It is great fun.

UK Festivals Comprehension Answers

1. Fact
2. Fact
3. Opinion
4. Fact
5. Opinion
6. Opinion

The Haunted House

Inference

As her foot stepped over the gateway, she felt a shiver go down her spine as her imagination ran wild. The owls and bats were flying around, which made the whole thing even spookier. She cautiously crept up the broken, overgrown path and towards the front door where something scratched her leg as she stepped up to the porch through the undergrowth.

Then a light flickered on and off in the hallway. This was all that was needed to make her turn back and run as fast as she could, dropping some of her leaflets in her haste.



The Haunted House Comprehension Questions

Inference

Work out the answers to these questions using evidence from the text:

1. What time of day is this set and how do you know?
2. How is she feeling and how do you know?
3. Does the house have a gardener and how do you know?
4. What scratched her leg and what evidence do you have for this?
5. What was she doing at the house and how do you know?
6. Where did she run to and what is your evidence for this?

The Haunted House Comprehension Answers

1. Night/evening because owls and bats are flying around and they are nocturnal.
2. Scared/cold – shiver down her spine.
3. No, the path is overgrown.
4. Suggestions of plants with sharp spikes or branches. She is stepping through undergrowth as it happens so it should be a plant but there could also be suggestions of items lost in the undergrowth such as a broken plank of wood.
5. Delivering leaflets as she dropped some on her way out.
6. Away from the house/back out of the gate. The text says she 'turns back' and this means going back the way you came which was through the gate.

Dogs as Pets

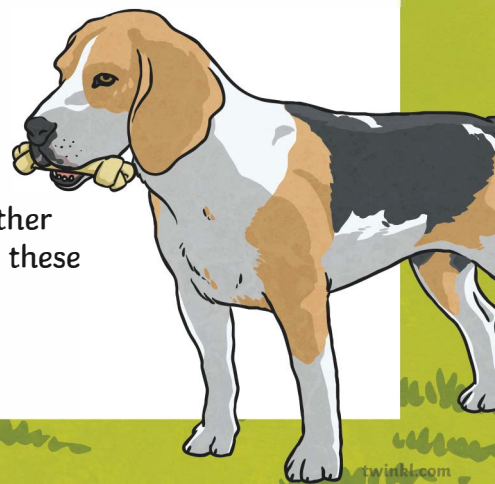
Main
Idea

Dogs make great companions; they are loving and have been proven to make people happier and less lonely. They can also be trained to help with certain things such as answering the door and waking their owners.

Getting a dog is not a decision to be taken lightly as it is a big commitment. Dogs need walking once or twice a day as well as feeding, toileting and having attention. It is not a good idea to get a dog if you are not at home very often.

Choosing the right dog is also important. You may also want to think about rehoming a dog from a local or national charity. You will need to take into account the age and character of the dog as well as its exercise needs. You will also need to consider your life and how the dog will fit in, for example do you have children or other pets in the house? Rehoming charities will help you with these decisions.

So, is a dog the right pet for you?



Dogs as Pets Comprehension Questions

Main
Idea

Now answer these questions on main ideas:

1. What is the main idea of the whole text and how do you know?
2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
3. Choose a phrase or sentence from paragraph 2 that tells you the main idea from the paragraph.
4. What is the main idea from paragraph 3?
5. Write down two phrases that mean 'choosing' in paragraph 3.

Dogs as Pets Comprehension Answers

1. Dogs as pets. It is the title.
2. Dogs make great companions.
3. 'it (getting a dog) is a big commitment'.
4. Choosing the right dog.
5. Any two from: 'You may also want to think about'; 'You will need to take into account'; 'You will also need to consider'.

**Here are some steps for two different activities.
Unfortunately, they are in the wrong order...**

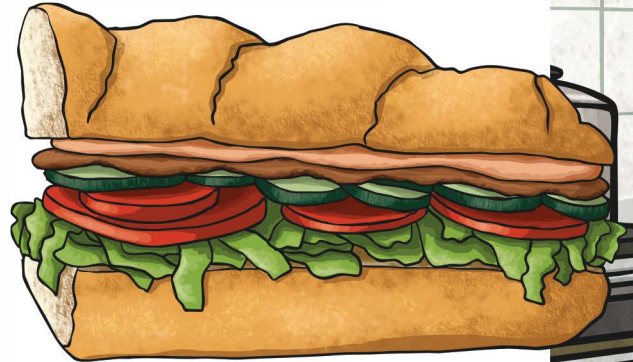
Sequencing

Getting Ready for School

- Leave the house.
- Get out of bed.
- Put on shoes.
- Put on underwear.
- Put on my school uniform.

Making a Sandwich

- Eat the sandwich.
- Slice the finished sandwich in half.
- Cut the tomatoes and place on the cheese.
- Butter two slices of bread.
- Put the second slice of bread on top of the slice with the cheese and tomato.
- Slice the cheese and place on one of the buttered slices of bread.
- Collect two slices of bread, butter, sharp knife and butter knife, cheese and one tomato.



Sequencing Comprehension Questions

Sequencing

Now to put them in the correct order...

1. Use numbered steps and notes only to put the getting ready for school activity in the correct order.
2. Use numbered steps and notes only to put the sandwich activity in the correct order.
3. Use numbered steps and notes only to write your own set of directions from your classroom to the school office or assembly hall.

Sequencing Comprehension Answers

1.
 1. Get out of bed
 2. Underwear
 3. Uniform
 4. Shoes
 5. Leave

2.
 1. Collect ingredients
 2. Butter bread
 3. Add cheese
 4. Add tomato
 5. Put other slice on top
 6. Cut in half
 7. Eat

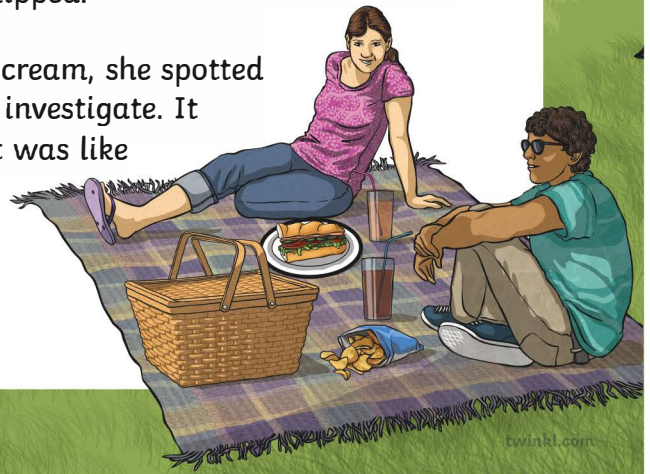
3. Open Ended.

A Quiet Picnic?

It was a bright July day and Lucy was having a picnic in the park with her mum, dad and little brother Jake. The family were laughing and joking as they tucked into their slices of pizza, crisps and cheese sandwiches whilst slurping cool home-made lemonade.

Lucy finished her lemonade and spotted the ice cream van across the park. She thought of the cool ice cream and pleaded with her mum to let her go and buy one. Her mum agreed, only if she bought ice cream for everyone. Lucy laughed and nodded, collected the money and off she skipped.

While she was waiting in the queue for the ice cream, she spotted something in the nearby bush and she went to investigate. It seemed to be some sort of large glowing egg...it was like nothing she had ever seen on this planet...
What should she do?



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A Quiet Picnic? Comprehension Questions

Now to identify the story elements of this text:

1. Who is the main character and identify some of their characteristics.
2. What has happened in the plot so far?
3. What is the setting of the story?
4. What might happen next and why?
5. Identify any themes in this extract.
6. What is the genre of the story and why?
7. Why do you think that the story title has a question mark?

A Quiet Picnic? Comprehension Answers

1. Lucy – kind, caring, inquisitive, good sense of humour, happy, brave.
2. We have met character and established setting. First event is finding the egg. What happens next?
3. July day in a park. Family.
4. Open ended but need reasons to back up ideas.
5. Straying away from family (safety). Keeping secrets (seeing the egg), aliens?
6. Science Fiction (because she has discovered the egg and it is not from this planet).
7. It might not turn out to be quiet now that Lucy has found a strange egg.