

## Alfred the Great

Alfred the Great was King of Wessex from 871-886 and King of the Anglo-Saxons from 886-899. He was considered to be an accomplished and scholarly man who diplomatically made peace with invading Vikings, encouraged education and improved the legal system, military structure and the quality of life for the people of England. To this day, he is one of only two English kings to be known as 'the Great'.



### Early Life

Alfred was born in the year AD 849 in the kingdom of Wessex, located in the South West of England. His father, Aethelwulf, was king of Wessex, meaning that Alfred grew up as a prince; however, it was unlikely that he would ever become king as he was the youngest of five sons. Alfred was a thoughtful, intelligent child who had a thirst for knowledge and enjoyed committing poems to memory. At a young age, he accompanied his father on a pilgrimage to Rome where it is reported that he met Pope Leo IV. After his father's death in 858, three of Alfred's older brothers ruled in succession: Aethelbald, Aethelberht and Aethelred.

### Fighting the Vikings

For much of Alfred's life, England had suffered from numerous raids by the Vikings. In 870, all of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms had been conquered, except for Wessex. Alfred quickly became his brother's second in command and he is credited as leading the Wessex army to a brilliant victory at the Battle of Ashdown.

### Becoming King

In 871, the king died in battle and, although Aethelred left behind two sons, Alfred acceded to the throne as the brothers had come to an agreement earlier that whichever of them outlived the other would inherit the property that their father had left them, and that the surviving brother would become king. At the age of 22, Alfred was crowned king. Over the next few years, Alfred continued to combat the Vikings. After many battles, he thought that they had finally achieved some kind of peace; however, in 878 (at Christmas) the Danish King Guthrum led a surprise attack against Alfred and his army. Alfred managed to escape, but with only a few men. He fled in order to plot his counterattack. Many of the men of Wessex were tired of the constant raids and attacks of the Vikings. They rallied around Alfred and soon the king had a strong army again.

### Peace with the Vikings

Despite being very courageous and a great leader, Alfred was a frail man, who struggled with illness for most of his life. He did not let this stop him though and with his new army, Alfred counter-attacked the Vikings. He defeated King Guthrum and took back his land at Chippenham. Alfred then established a peace treaty: the Vikings would remain on the eastern side of Britain and the Anglo Saxons on the west.

### Ruling as King

Once peace had been established with the Vikings, Alfred went about rebuilding his kingdom. With so much focus on fighting off the Vikings, the educational system of England had almost disappeared. Alfred knew that education was important, so he founded schools and rebuilt monasteries. In 886, he re-captured London and was named King of the English on Anglo-Saxon coins. This was the first time a man had ever reigned over most of the country. Alfred also made other reforms and improvements to his kingdom: he built forts throughout the country in order to prevent against future attacks; established a strong navy, by building ships designed for fighting rather than for trade; and brought talented European scholars and craftsmen across the channel to England. He also established a national code of law.

### Death

Alfred died in 899 and was succeeded by his son Edward. It would be his grandson Aethelstan who would eventually be called the first King of England.



## Alfred the Great ANSWERS



- 1) ) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'having or showing knowledge, learning, or devotion to academic pursuits'? **Scholarly**
- 2) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

Guthrum led a surprise attack against Alfred.	<b>4</b>
Alfred led the Wessex army at the Battle of Ashdown.	<b>2</b>
Alfred journeyed to Rome.	<b>1</b>
Alfred was crowned king.	<b>3</b>

- 3) What evidence in the text is there that Alfred was not in good physical health?  
**'Alfred was a frail man, who struggled with illness for most of his life'**
- 4) Which word is closest in meaning to 'overcome and take control by military force'?  
**b) conquered**
- 5) '*They rallied around Alfred and soon the king had a strong army again*'. In this sentence, what does 'rallied around' mean?     **Came together to support**
- 6) Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Alfred was the youngest of four brothers.		✓
Alfred agreed that the Vikings could inhabit the east.	✓	
The education system in England had suffered because of the battles.	✓	
Guthrum's surprise attack was in the middle of summer.		✓

- 7) Which section of the biography is likely to tell you about Alfred's ascent to the throne? Write the name of the section.     **Becoming King**
- 8) Find and copy the group of words that show that Alfred enjoyed learning. **'a thirst for knowledge (and enjoyed committing poems to memory)**
- 9) Why was it not likely that Alfred would become king?     **Because he was the youngest son.**
- 10) Put a tick in each box to show whether the following statements are fact or opinion

	Fact	Opinion
Alfred was the greatest king that England has had.		✓
Alfred went to Rome with his father.	✓	
Alfred was too young to become king.		✓
Alfred re-captured London.	✓	

## Hedgehogs

British hedgehogs (Latin name: *Erinaceus europaeus*) are found almost everywhere, except some of the Scottish islands. Hedgehogs are well established in urban habitats and can, somewhat surprisingly, survive very well in cities, making good use of cemeteries, railway land, wasteland and both public and private gardens. Sadly, there are fewer than one million hedgehogs left in the UK and the number is declining. Since 2002, we have lost around 30% of our hedgehog population. They are becoming increasingly reliant on gardens, so whether you live in the town or the country, you can help to look after garden wildlife like hedgehogs by providing food, water and shelter.

### Diet

Hedgehogs are a gardener's friend, as they like to feast on snails, slugs and insects, such as beetles, caterpillars and earthworms. Many householders put out a saucer of meat-based pet food for their prickly friends. Hedgehogs will treat this as a welcome supplement to its normal diet and will not go hungry if, for some reason, the food is not put out. In the summer months, hedgehogs would benefit from being left a dish of water; however, it is important that they are never fed milk, as it can cause diarrhoea.

### Creating a hedgehog-friendly garden

- Cover drains and holes and place bricks at the side of ponds to give hedgehogs an easy route out. Cover swimming pools overnight and when not in use.
- Check for hedgehogs before using strimmers or mowers, particularly under hedges where animals may rest. Check compost heaps for nesting hogs before forking over.
- Build bonfires as close to time of lighting as possible and make sure to check them thoroughly before lighting.
- Remove sports or fruit netting when not in use to prevent hedgehogs becoming entangled and getting injured.
- Slug pellets are poisonous to hedgehogs and should only be used as a last resort. Instead, you could try using one of many natural alternatives, such as sprinkling crushed eggshells or coffee grounds around the plants you need to protect.

### Hedgehog homes

It's important to pick a shady, quiet spot to put your assembled house, as hedgehogs may be frightened by busy or noisy areas. Ideally, your box should be made from untreated wood and should have a short, raised tunnel to access it. Don't be tempted to skip the tunnel- it means that predators won't be able to swipe their paws inside! Cover with a polythene sheet and pack soil and dead leaves around the outside, leaving the entrance free of debris.

For more hedgehog hints and tips subscribe to our monthly newsletter or visit the British Hedgehog Preservation Society website at [www.thebritishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.thebritishhedgehogs.org.uk)

## Hedgehogs

- 1) What is the name of the organisation that produced this information?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Find and copy a group of words that shows that it was unexpected that hedgehogs would thrive in built-up areas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Complete the sentence by circling the correct response. Since 2002, the number of hedgehogs in the UK is.....  
                  going up                   staying roughly the same                   going down
- 4) In which section are you likely to find information about hedgehog shelters?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Which of these are ways that you can help hedgehogs? Tick the correct answers

Providing meat-based pet food	
Putting a hedgehog house by your back door to regularly check on them	
Providing a saucer of milk	
Using natural alternatives to slug pellets	

- 6) Look at the introduction. Find and copy a word which shows that hedgehogs need gardens in order to survive. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Hedgehogs eat a range of insects.		
Hedgehogs need pet food in order to survive.		
Hedgehogs can become stuck in netting.		
Wood used for hedgehog homes should be treated with waterproofing spray or paint.		

- 8) Which word in the text shows that some items used in the garden can make hedgehogs extremely unwell? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Why is it important that there is a tunnel into hedgehog houses?

So that small children can't play with them	
So that they are safe from other animals	
To keep the house warm	
To hide the house from view	

- 10) Why are hedgehogs referred to as 'a gardener's friend'?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Hedgehogs ANSWERS

- 1) What is the name of the organisation that produced this information? **British Hedgehog Preservation Society**
- 2) Find and copy a group of words that shows that it was unexpected that hedgehogs would thrive in built-up areas. **Somewhat surprisingly (survive very well in cities)**
- 3) Complete the sentence by circling the correct response. Since 2002, the number of hedgehogs in the UK is.....

going up                      staying roughly the same                      **going down**

- 4) In which section are you likely to find information about hedgehog shelters?

**Hedgehog homes**

- 5) Which of these are ways that you can help hedgehogs? Tick the correct answers

Providing meat-based pet food	✓
Putting a hedgehog house by your back door to regularly check on them	
Providing a saucer of milk	
Using natural alternatives to slug pellets	✓

- 6) Look at the introduction. Find and copy a word which shows that hedgehogs need gardens in order to survive. **Reliant**
- 7) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Hedgehogs eat a range of insects.	✓	
Hedgehogs need pet food in order to survive.		✓
Hedgehogs can become stuck in netting.	✓	
Wood used for hedgehog homes should be treated with waterproofing spray or paint.		✓

- 8) Which word in the text shows that some items used in the garden can make hedgehogs extremely unwell? **poisonous**
- 9) Why is it important that there is a tunnel into hedgehog houses?

So that small children can't play with them	
So that they are safe from other animals	✓
To keep the house warm	
To hide the house from view	

- 10) Why are hedgehogs referred to as 'a gardener's friend'? **Because they eat the garden pests that eat plants.**

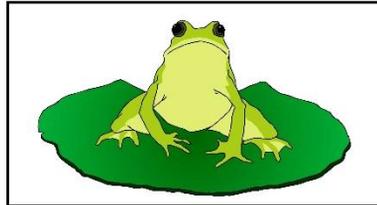
# Airborne Amphibians in Aerial Assault

Town terrorised by flying frogs  
By Mary Lawrence (senior correspondent)

On the evening of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019, the residents of Little Marsh (Essex) were left in shock when they were bombarded by a group of flying frogs.

When 24-year-old Michael Granger was driving home from work on Tuesday evening, he was stunned to see a shocking sight in the sky. "I was just driving home when I saw a frog in the sky. Then another one! I honestly couldn't believe my eyes. I thought I was dreaming," he reported. He went on to explain that he estimated that there were close to a hundred frogs (complete with lily pads) travelling in the direction of Little Marsh at a speed of approximately 10 mph.

A few hours later, several households on the outskirts of the town began to report peculiar events relating to frogs. Elsie Watson (a 67-year-old widow) was hanging out her washing at about 6.30 pm when she was ambushed by a flock of frogs that weaved in and out of the clothes she was trying to peg to the washing line. "It was so bizarre!" Mrs Watson commented. "One moment I was hanging out my washing and the next thing I knew there was a frog in the pair of pink, spotty pants I was holding!" Two of the frogs became entangled in the clothes while a third fell asleep in her wash basket. A few houses down, plumber Michael Collins (54) called the police when he opened his window to let in some fresh air and instead let in a group of amphibians who proceeded to fill his kitchen and chase his cat.



*Fiendish frogs! The creatures caused chaos around the town.*

Within the hour, reports were flying in thick and fast from all over Little Marsh concerning the airborne amphibians. Many residents of the town reported being knocked into by frogs or having wet lily pads land on their heads. Police squads and RSPCA representatives were immediately dispatched to the affected areas to offer support to the victims and try to capture the loose animals. In a statement to the press, Detective Campbell commented, "At this moment, we do not know where these frogs have originated from or why they are here. However, we are working as hard as we can to remove them and restore normality to the town of Little Marsh." He continued on to say that anyone who saw the frogs should inform Essex Police straight away.

Currently, the frogs are beginning to return back to their natural habitats and a clean-up operation has begun in order to remove all traces of the lily pads that had been scattered across the streets. The RSPCA is working closely with the police to determine how the frogs were able to fly and whether it was an isolated incident.

# Airborne Amphibians in Aerial Assault

- 1) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'guessed'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

A widow was hanging her washing out	
People from the RSPCA arrived on scene	
Michael Granger was driving home from work	
The clean-up operation began	

- 3) Roughly how fast were the frogs travelling? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Look at the paragraph beginning 'Within the hour,...' Which word shows that the frogs were flying? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The frogs left a mess behind them.		
The town was in Sussex.		
The authorities were sent to deal with the issue.		
The police knew exactly where the frogs came from		

- 6) Find and copy a group of words that shows that many people reported incidents with frogs in a short period of time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7) One of the residents of Little Marsh thought that he had imagined the flying frogs. Give one piece of evidence that shows this. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 8) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'attacked'? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9) 'Police squads and RSPCA representatives were immediately *dispatched* to the affected areas to offer support to the victims and try to capture the loose animals.' In this sentence, the word 'dispatched' is closest in meaning to...

Hired	
Separated	
Sent off	
Collected	

- 10) Who first saw the frogs flying? \_\_\_\_\_

# Airborne Amphibians in Aerial Assault ANSWERS

- 1) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'guessed'? **Estimated**  
 2) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

A widow was hanging her washing out	2
People from the RSPCA arrived on scene	3
Michael Granger was driving home from work	1
The clean-up operation began	4

- 3) Roughly how fast were the frogs travelling? **10mph**  
 4) Look at the paragraph beginning 'Within the hour,...' Which word shows that the frogs were flying? **Airborne**  
 5) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The frogs left a mess behind them.	✓	
The town was in Sussex.		✓
The authorities were sent to deal with the issue.	✓	
The police knew exactly where the frogs came from		✓

- 6) Find and copy a group of words that shows that many people reported incidents with frogs in a short period of time. **reports were flying in thick and fast (from all over Little Marsh).**  
 7) One of the residents of Little Marsh thought that he had imagined the flying frogs. Give one piece of evidence that shows this. **I honestly couldn't believe my eyes/ I thought I was dreaming**  
 8) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'attacked'? **Bombarded**  
 9) 'Police squads and RSPCA representatives were immediately dispatched to the affected areas to offer support to the victims and try to capture the loose animals.' In this sentence, the word 'dispatched' is closest in meaning to...

Hired	
Separated	
Sent off	✓
Collected	

- 10) Michael Granger

## How to take care of guinea pigs

Do you have guinea pigs that you need to take care of? Are you looking for simple steps to help you to look after them? Then follow these precise instructions to help you set up their home and provide care to keep them happy and healthy.

### Equipment:

- A large cage with metal bars and a plastic base
- Four sheets of clean, staple-free newspaper
- Dust-free sawdust, about two handfuls
- A solid cardboard tube
- Two handfuls of healthy, nutrient-rich guinea pig muesli
- A large bottle with a drip-free nozzle
- Two pieces of curly kale, which contains vitamin C
- One or two healthy guinea pig treats
- A small plastic ball with a bell inside
- A gentle brush with metal bristles
- A sturdy food bowl, 15 centimetres in diameter.

### Method:

- 1) First, you ought to construct the cage. To do this, you will need to clip the metal bars on top of this metal base. It should then be secured using the plastic clips. It is essential that the cage is assembled correctly to keep your pets safe.
- 2) Following this, spread out the four sheets of staple-free newspaper, making sure that the base is completely covered. This will make it easier to clean out the guinea pigs.
- 3) Having finished the last step, a few handfuls of sawdust should be sprinkled around the base of the hutch. Ensure that the corners have plenty of sawdust, as this is where the guinea pigs like to go to the toilet.
- 4) Two handfuls of dust-free hay should be spread out around the cage (although more should be placed in the places that the guinea pigs feel the least threatened).
- 5) You might want to consider placing a small toy –such as a small ball or a tunnel- inside the cage to stimulate the guinea pigs and keep them active and avoid becoming bored. If possible, the toy should be made from natural ingredients as guinea pigs love to chew.
- 6) Fill the plastic bottle with cold water, leaving a little space at the top. The bottle must then be clipped onto the cage where the guinea pigs can reach it.
- 7) A bowl should be filled with vitamin C-rich fruit and vegetable (such as kale): guinea pigs cannot produce vitamin C like humans can and so need to be provided with a supplement. The bowl should be placed on the platform as it will encourage the guinea pigs to not be shy.
- 8) Now that their cage is ready, the guinea pigs should be carefully scooped up and placed in the cage where they can run around happily.
- 9) Twice a week, the guinea pigs' cage should be cleaned out in order to keep the rodents hygienic, healthy and happy.
- 10) The guinea pigs' fur should be brushed regularly (every 2-3 days) to keep it knot-free and smooth.

Now that you know how to provide professional care for your pets, you can enjoy having guinea pigs in your home to play with, care for and love.

## How to take care of guinea pigs

1) Why should the corners of the hutch have plenty of sawdust?

2) Why do guinea pigs need to be provided with food that is rich in vitamin C?

3) Which word in the text means the same as 'important'?

4) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Guinea pigs should be cleaned out twice a week.		
The food bowl should be approximately 5 centimetres in diameter.		
Guinea pigs can become bored without toys to keep them entertained.		
Guinea pigs will not chew any toys they are given.		

5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'make'? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

Spread hay around the cage.	
Fill the bottle with water.	
Place sawdust in the corners of the cage.	
Fill a bowl with vegetables.	

7) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'regularly'?

8) What does the word 'construct' mean?

9) Which word in the text shows that the instructions are very detailed?

10) Why should the bowl of food be placed in the open rather than in a hidden place?

## How to take care of guinea pigs ANSWERS

- 1) Why should the corners of the hutch have plenty of sawdust? **This is where guinea pigs go to the toilet.**
- 2) Why do guinea pigs need to be provided with food that is rich in vitamin C? **Because they cannot produce vitamin C in the same way that humans can.**
- 3) Which word in the text means the same as 'important'? **Essential**
- 4) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Guinea pigs should be cleaned out twice a week.	✓	
The food bowl should be approximately 5 centimetres in diameter.		✓
Guinea pigs can become bored without toys to keep them entertained.	✓	
Guinea pigs will not chew any toys they are given.		✓

- 5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'make'? **Produce**
- 6) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

Spread hay around the cage.	2
Fill the bottle with water.	3
Place sawdust in the corners of the cage.	1
Fill a bowl with vegetables.	4

- 7) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'regularly'? **frequently**
- 8) What does the word 'construct' mean? **Build**
- 9) Which word in the text shows that the instructions are very detailed? **Precise**
- 10) Why should the bowl of food be placed in the open rather than in a hidden place? **To encourage the guinea pigs not to be shy.**

## The mummification process

In ancient Egypt, it was believed that it was possible to live again after death, but this could only happen in a lifelike form that the spirits ba (personality) and ka (life-force) could recognise. It was a complicated, 70-day process with many difficult steps; therefore, only those who could afford the expensive procedure (such as Pharaohs) would be mummified.

First of all, the body would be placed on a table and would be washed and purified using palm oil and water from the River Nile. When it was clean, the organs would be removed. The brain would be taken out through the nose using a long, iron hook. Following this, a cut would be made in the lower body using obsidian (volcanic glass) and the remaining organs were removed by hand. Some of the organs removed were placed in special jars known as Canopic jars. They were carved into the image of the four sons of Horus, one of the ancient Egyptian gods. Each one was tasked with protecting a different organ: Hapi, with the head of a baboon, protected the lungs; Imsety, with the head of a human, guarded the liver; Qebhsenuf, with the head of a falcon, protected the intestines; and Duametef, with the head of a jackal, protected the stomach. These four jars would be put in a chest and left in the tomb with the mummy. Once this was completed, the body could now be stuffed with sawdust in order to maintain its shape. It would then be placed into a bath of natron- a type of salt- to dry out for forty days.

When it was completely dried out, strips of linen were used to wrap the body securely. During this process, the embalmers uttered spells and laid protective amulets on the body (for protection in the next world), wrapping them up in different layers. They would also place a papyrus scroll with spells from the Book of the Dead between the wrapped hands. Amazingly, it would take up to 200 metres of linen strips to completely wrap a body! There were several reasons why mummies were bandaged:

- The linen kept moisture away from the body to keep it dry
- The wrapping helped the embalmers to build up the shape of the mummy and give it a more life-like form
- The wrappings helped to keep everything together, as the mummy would be quite fragile by this point.

Once this lengthy process was finished, a funerary mask would be attached to the head. This new face, which was either a likeness of the deceased or a representation of an Egyptian god, played an essential role in the journey to the afterlife: it helped the spirit find the correct body among the many Egyptian tombs.

Finally, the body was placed in a large stone sarcophagus (coffin) adorned with sculpture or inscription, which was then placed inside the tomb. This would be accompanied by furniture, clothing, valuable objects, precious possessions, food and drink which it was believed the deceased would need.

Mummification was a highly skilled and dedicated process because the dead had to be well prepared for their journey through the underworld.

## The mummification process

1) Why was the mummification process now available for everyone?

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2) Complete this table:

Name	Head	Protecting
Hapi		
	Falcon	
Imsety		Liver
		Stomach

3) What was the purpose of the natron salt in the mummification process?

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4) Which of these is not a reason why bodies were wrapped in linen strips?

They protected the fragile body	
They kept moisture away from the body	
They prevented the body from being seen	
They kept the body in a life-like form	

5) Why was a mask attached to the head?

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6) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'decorated'?

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7) Which word in the text means the same as 'dead'?

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8) Which two words in the text mean 'of great value'?

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9) What is the name for the jars that some of the organs were placed in?

---

10) Which word in the text has a similar meaning to 'important'?

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## The mummification process ANSWERS

- 1) Why was the mummification process now available for everyone? **Because it was an expensive procedure**
- 2) Complete this table:

Name	Head	Protecting
Hapi	Baboon	Lungs
Qebehsenuf	Falcon	Intestines
Imsety	Human	Liver
Duametef	Jackal	Stomach

- 3) What was the purpose of the natron salt in the mummification process? **To dry out the body**
- 4) Which of these is not a reason why bodies were wrapped in linen strips?

They protected the fragile body	<input type="checkbox"/>
They kept moisture away from the body	<input type="checkbox"/>
They prevented the body from being seen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
They kept the body in a life-like form	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 5) Why was a mask attached to the head? **It helped the spirit to find the correct body.**
- 6) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'decorated'? **Adorned**
- 7) Which word in the text means the same as 'dead'? **Deceased**
- 8) Which two words in the text mean 'of great value'? **Precious, valuable**
- 9) What is the name for the jars that some of the organs were placed in? **Canopic jars**
- 10) Which word in the text has a similar meaning to 'important'? **Essential**

# Holy Smoke!

## Great fire rips through London, destroys cathedral

By Francis Collins (senior correspondent)

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666, the citizens of London were left horrified when the worst fire of the century ripped through London, causing wide-spread destruction.

The fire, which has devastated the city of London and left thousands homeless, first started in the early hours of Sunday morning. Thomas Farriner, the owner of Baker's Dozen Bakery, is reported to have left his oven unattended overnight, causing it to catch fire. "I don't know what happened!" claimed Farriner, 29. He followed on to explain that he never usually left the oven on at night and couldn't explain what led to this careless mistake. As the fire took hold of the bakery, nearby neighbours began to notice the disaster. Miss Kitty Harper, a maid, commented that she had been asleep when the fire started. "When I woke up, I was surrounded by thick, dark, swirling smoke. I was terrified!"

By the following day, the fire had worsened considerably. Houses were demolished in an attempt to halt the inferno and many people turned out with buckets of water to douse the flames. James and Alice Jackson- who also live on Pudding Lane- complained that they had lost everything in the blaze. "Of course, we tried to help by joining the water crew," explained Mr Jackson, 43, "But we aren't happy about losing our house and belongings." Disastrously, the fire also demolished St. Paul's Cathedral, causing many people to panic. The cathedral, which has been rebuilt several times in its history, was caught so badly in the inferno that witnesses reported seeing the slate tiles melting off the roof. Onlookers commented that they had been concerned that the Tower of London would also be destroyed. Luckily, it narrowly avoided that fate due to a change in the wind.



*London in flames*

After four days, in which around 30,000 people were evacuated, the inferno finally began to cease. This was largely caused by the wind dropping, which prevented the fire from carrying from house to house. Many people were relieved when the fire was finally extinguished; in fact, there was much rejoicing on the streets of London. Commenting on the final extinguishing of the fire, Mr Farriner apologised for his part in the accident. "I want to apologise deeply to everyone who has lost their homes and possessions," he stated. "I hope that I will be forgiven."

In the aftermath of the disastrous blaze, many changes have been implemented in the city of London: the houses are to be rebuilt using less flammable materials; a fire service is to be established to prevent anything like this from happening again; and streets are to be enlarged with houses spread further apart (to avoid fires spreading between houses). A monument is also scheduled to be built to remember those who lost their lives and their homes and to remind future generations of the Great Fire of 1666.

Holy Smoke!

- 1) What is the name of the bakery mentioned in the text? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Which word in the text means 'to pour liquid over'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

The wind dropped	
St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed	
The fire moved towards the Tower of London	
Kitty Harper explains that she was woken by smoke	

- 4) What prevented the Tower of London from being damaged?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'celebrating'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Which word in the text has a similar meaning to 'destroyed'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) List three things which will be done to prevent a fire from causing such widespread destruction again:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) Put a tick in each box to show whether the following statements are fact or opinion

	Fact	Opinion
The fire destroyed St Paul's Cathedral		
The fire was a scary experience		
Mr Farriner was very irresponsible		
Many houses were destroyed		

- 9) Which group of words show that the day after the fire started was worse than the first day?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'worried'? \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Smoke! ANSWERS

- 1) What is the name of the bakery mentioned in the text? **Baker's Dozen Bakery**
- 2) Which word in the text means 'to pour liquid over'? **Douse**
- 3) Order the events in the order that they occur in the text.

The wind dropped	4
St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed	2
The fire moved towards the Tower of London	3
Kitty Harper explains that she was woken by smoke	1

- 4) What prevented the Tower of London from being damaged? **The wind changed direction**
- 5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'celebrating'? **Rejoicing**
- 6) Which word in the text has a similar meaning to 'destroyed'? **Demolished**
- 7) List three things which will be done to prevent a fire from causing such widespread destruction again:
  1. **The houses will be rebuilt using less flammable materials.**
  2. **A fire service will be established**
  3. **Houses will be spread further apart**
- 8) Put a tick in each box to show whether the following statements are fact or opinion

	Fact	Opinion
The fire destroyed St Paul's Cathedral	✓	
The fire was a scary experience		✓
Mr Farriner was very irresponsible		✓
Many houses were destroyed	✓	

- 9) Which group of words show that the day after the fire started was worse than the first day? **Worsened considerably**
- 10) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'worried'? **Concerned**

## Brazilian Fruit Warbler

Last year, scientists made a fascinating discovery deep in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. What is believed to be a new species of bird has been discovered nesting in the boughs of the kapok tree and named the Brazilian Fruit Warbler due to its distinctive cry and fruit-based diet. This truly is a significant discovery: no other living animal appears to share its properties.

### Appearance

It is thought that this intriguing creature had not previously been seen due to its unusual, transparent feathers which camouflage it against the rainforest environment. Due to new technological advances, the Brazilian Fruit Warbler can now be captured for the first time using an infra-red camera. Although its feathers are transparent, it has a bright, emerald-green beak flecked with yellow spots which also blends in with the exotic plants of the rainforest.

### Hunting

The Brazilian Fruit Warbler has developed an advanced method of hunting. It uses its beak to catch a range of small insects: moths fluttering past; spiders (usually including their webs); and caterpillars which live on tree creepers. When it first begins a hunt, it stands motionless while it observes the creature's movements and then launches an exact, highly tuned strike on the unsuspecting prey. The stealth and speed of this strike is believed to be the most accurate hunting style seen in the wild.

### Life cycle

It is not currently known how long the Brazilian Fruit Warbler lives for although current estimates place it as living as long as 5 years. When it is ready to nest, the Fruit Warbler creates a nest in the canopy layer of the rainforest, which it then lines with moss, ferns and decaying fungi to help protect it from predators such as howler monkeys and snakes. The clutch of eggs- which is laid approximately once every 12 months- will then be incubated over the course of 3 weeks and any viable eggs (those that contain a live chick) will be carefully tended to by both parents. When the chicks hatch, they are initially covered in soft, pale yellow feathers which will eventually turn transparent. When this happens, they can safely leave the nest; however, they are very vulnerable up to this point as they are not able to camouflage themselves.

### Fun facts!

- Did you know that the fastest recorded speed of a Brazilian Fruit Warbler is 90mph? That's faster than a cheetah!
- The Fruit Warbler has an average wingspan of 6 foot- that's nearly as tall as a fully grown man!
- The cry of the Warbler can be heard from a surprising 3km away!
- Around 430 Brazilian Fruit Warblers have been discovered so far in the Amazon, but experts estimate that there are over 1000 living there.

While there is still much that is not known about this mysterious bird, it has certainly raised many interesting questions in the ornithological world. It is hoped that the new understanding that has been gained about the previously unknown capabilities of birds like these will lead the way to pioneering developments that will benefit the human race.

### Brazilian Fruit Warbler

1) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'branches'?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Which group of words shows that much is still unknown about the Brazilian Fruit Warbler?

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Which two aspects of the bird enable it to blend in with the environment?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'looked after'? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'to begin with'? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Which word in the third paragraph shows that the bird does not move at the start of a hunt?

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The bird has features that make it a strong hunter		
The feathers are transparent from the moment the bird is born		
The bird lives in the emergent layer of the rainforest		
The wingspan of the bird is roughly 6 foot		

8) In which paragraph are you likely to find information about the changes of the Fruit Warbler from birth? \_\_\_\_\_

9) Which of these is not a feature of the Brazilian Fruit Warbler?

It has a very fast strike	
It has a very distinctive call	
It has deep green legs	
It can fly at speeds of up to 90mph	

10) How often does the Brazilian Fruit Warbler lay eggs? \_\_\_\_\_

### Brazilian Fruit Warbler ANSWERS

- 1) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'branches'? **Boughs**
- 2) Which group of words shows that much is still unknown about the Brazilian Fruit Warbler? **It is not currently known**
- 3) Which two aspects of the bird enable it to blend in with the environment?
  1. **It has transparent feathers**
  2. **It has a green beak with yellow flecks which is similar to rainforest leaves**
- 4) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'looked after'? **Tended**
- 5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'to begin with'? **Initially**
- 6) Which word in the third paragraph shows that the bird does not move at the start of a hunt? **Motionless**
- 7) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The bird has features that make it a strong hunter	✓	
The feathers are transparent from the moment the bird is born		✓
The bird lives in the emergent layer of the rainforest		✓
The wingspan of the bird is roughly 6 foot	✓	

- 8) In which paragraph are you likely to find information about the changes of the Fruit Warbler from birth? **Life cycle**
- 9) Which of these is not a feature of the Brazilian Fruit Warbler?

It has a very fast strike	
It has a very distinctive call	
It has deep green legs	✓
It can fly at speeds of up to 90mph	

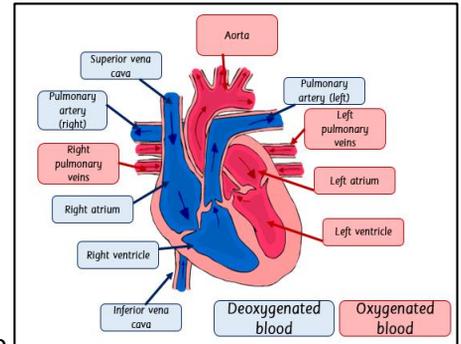
- 10) How often does the Brazilian Fruit Warbler lay eggs? **Approximately once every 12 months**

## The Cardiovascular System

Have you ever wondered how and why your blood travels around your body? The cardiovascular system (also known as the circulatory system) makes up the network that delivers blood to the body. With every heartbeat, nutrients and oxygen are carried to our cells so that each part of our body can function properly. The right side of the heart receives deoxygenated blood (blood with no oxygen in it) and pumps it to the lungs to pick up oxygen and remove carbon dioxide while the left side receives oxygenated blood (blood containing oxygen) and pumps it out to the rest of the body.

### What does the heart do?

The heart is a key organ in the circulatory system as it receives messages from the body that inform it when to pump the necessary amount of blood, depending on how much exercise is being done. Lying between the lungs and slightly to the left of the chest cavity, the heart is made up of four main chambers that are enclosed and protected by thick walls made of muscle. Each chamber has an important part to play: the right atrium receives deoxygenated blood from the body and pumps it to the right ventricle; the right ventricle pumps the deoxygenated blood to the lungs through the pulmonary valve; the left atrium receives oxygenated blood from the lungs and pumps it to the left ventricle; and the left ventricle pumps oxygenated blood through the aortic valve and out to the rest of the body.



### Why do we need blood?

The three main functions of blood are transportation, protection and regulation, and each part of the blood does a different job. Blood is made up of several components: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Over half of our blood is plasma (clear, pale yellow liquid carrying water, salts and enzymes) and its main role is to take nutrients, hormones and proteins to the parts of the body that needs it. Red blood cells carry oxygen around the body while white blood cells defend the body against infection and disease. In a millilitre of blood, there are between five and seven thousand white cells ready to fight harmful invaders (microbes) such as bacteria and viruses.

### Blood vessels

Blood vessels are a series of tubes that move blood to and from your heart.

- Arteries carry oxygenated blood away from the heart to the rest of the body.
- Veins carry the deoxygenated blood back to the heart where it is then pumped to the lungs
- Capillaries carry water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients and waste.

### What happens if the circulatory system fails?

If the circulatory system failed, it would be disastrous. Each organ in our body would be deprived of the essential components - oxygen, sugar and nutrients- it needs to survive. In addition, the heart could become blocked: it would be unable to pump the blood which removes the water material.

It is clear that the cardiovascular system is vital to our survival; in fact, we couldn't live without it!

## The Cardiovascular System

1) Complete this table using information from the text.

Part of the heart	Type of blood it pumps	Where it pumps the blood to
	Deoxygenated	
Right ventricle		Lungs
	Oxygenated	
		Rest of the body

2) Name the three functions of blood.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'looked after'? \_\_\_\_\_

4) What is most of our blood made up of?

Red blood cells	
Plasma	
White blood cells	
platelets	

5) Which group of words show that bacteria and viruses are not meant to be in our bodies?

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Which word in the text means 'an empty space in a solid object'? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Decide whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Our hearts would become blocked if it stopped pumping.		
The heart is an amazing organ.		
The best thing about the heart is that it keeps us alive		
The chambers of the heart are protected by walls of muscle.		

8) What has an impact on how much blood is required to be pumped? \_\_\_\_\_

9) What jobs do the red and white blood cells do?

Red \_\_\_\_\_

White \_\_\_\_\_

10) Why is the deoxygenated blood pumped to the lungs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Cardiovascular System ANSWERS

1) Complete this table using information from the text.

Part of the heart	Type of blood it pumps	Where it pumps the blood to
Right atrium	Deoxygenated	Right ventricle
Right ventricle	Deoxygenated	Lungs
Left atrium	Oxygenated	Left ventricle
Left ventricle	Oxygenated	Rest of the body

2) Name the three functions of blood.

**1. transportation**

**2. protection**

**3. regulation**

3) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'looked after'? **Protected**

4) What is most of our blood made up of?

Red blood cells	
Plasma	✓
White blood cells	
platelets	

5) Which group of words show that bacteria and viruses are not meant to be in our bodies? **Harmful invaders**

6) Which word in the text means 'an empty space in a solid object'? **Cavity**

7) Decide whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Our hearts would become blocked if it stopped pumping.	✓	
The heart is an amazing organ.		✓
The best thing about the heart is that it keeps us alive		✓
The chambers of the heart are protected by walls of muscle.	✓	

8) What has an impact on how much blood is required to be pumped? **The amount of exercise being done**

9) What jobs to the red and white blood cells do?

Red- **Carry oxygen around the body**

White- **Defend the body against infection and disease**

10) Why is the deoxygenated blood pumped to the lungs? **To pick up oxygen and remove carbon dioxide**

## How to construct pyramids

Have you been tasked with providing a burial space for your rulers? Are you not sure how to start this momentous task? Fear not! These simple instructions will give you all the information you need to build sturdy, well-constructed pyramids that will stand the test of time.

### Equipment:

- Foundation deposits
- A large, flat area of desert
- Thousands of granite blocks with straight, angular edges
- Ten thousand slaves
- Wood for ramps
- Limestone
- Gold-covered capstone
- Mallets and chisels

### Method:

1. First, plan where your pyramid will be located. It is essential that you choose an area on the western side of the Nile so that the pharaoh's soul can join with the sun on its descent before continuing with the sun on its eternal journey. Study the stars to line up the four corners of the pyramid with north, south, east and west.
2. Before construction begins, conduct the foundation rituals. These should be done in order to ensure the protection of the gods during the building works and on the finished building. Dig a small mudbrick-lined pit at the entrance and place foundation deposits (such as amulets, scarab, food or miniature tools) inside: this will prevent the tomb from falling into ruin.
3. Next, enlist approximately ten thousand workers. It is essential that they are hard workers as it will take over twenty years to complete the pyramid.
4. When you are ready to begin, cut thousands of granite blocks from the Aswan valley. There are many different options of stone to use for construction; however, granite is preferable as it is strong and can support the weight of the structure. When moving the blocks, it is sensible to lay two long poles side by side on the ground and slide your materials along them.
5. While some of your workers are mining stone and transporting it down the Nile, set others to work levelling the site. To do this, shallow trenches should be dug in the ground and flooded with water. Once this is done, remove any material protruding above the water line.
6. When construction starts, you will need to build ramps to lift the blocks higher off the ground. Those poles will come in useful again to manoeuvre them up the incline. The blocks should be layered evenly, making sure that space is left for inner passageways and chambers.
7. Once the structure is complete, the outside should be covered with smooth, polished limestone. It is essential that the faces of the pyramid are smooth and angled, as they symbolise the rays of the sun and help the king's soul ascend to heaven and join the gods- particularly the sun god Ra.
8. Finally, top the pyramid with a gold capstone in order to display the riches and glory of the pharaoh who will one day reside inside.

## How to construct pyramids

- 1) Which word in the text means 'never-ending'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What material is used to cover the outside of the pyramids? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What is the purpose of putting foundation deposits by the entrance? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Why is granite the best choice of building material?

It is heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is easy to move	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is golden coloured	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is strong	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 5) Why is it important for the pyramid to be on the western side of the Nile?
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 6) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'choices'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) *'While some of your workers are mining stone and transporting it down the Nile, set others to work levelling the site. To do this, shallow trenches should be dug in the ground and flooded with water. Once this is done, remove any material protruding above the water line.'* What does 'protruding' mean?

Floating	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sticking out	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sinking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Looking	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 8) Why will ramps need to be built? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Find and copy the word in the text that means 'to move skilfully or carefully'.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) How long will it take to build a pyramid? \_\_\_\_\_

## How to construct pyramids ANSWERS

- 1) Which word in the text means 'never-ending'? **Eternal**
- 2) What material is used to cover the outside of the pyramids? **Limestone**
- 3) What is the purpose of putting foundation deposits by the entrance? **Prevents the tomb from falling into ruin**
- 4) Why is granite the best choice of building material?

It is heavy	
It is easy to move	
It is golden coloured	
It is strong	✓

- 5) Why is it important for the pyramid to be on the western side of the Nile? **So that the soul can join with the sun on its descent**
- 6) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'choices'? **Options**
- 7) *'While some of your workers are mining stone and transporting it down the Nile, set others to work levelling the site. To do this, shallow trenches should be dug in the ground and flooded with water. Once this is done, remove any material protruding above the water line.'* What does 'protruding' mean?

Floating	
Sticking out	✓
Sinking	
Looking	

- 8) Why will ramps need to be built? **To move the blocks higher**
- 9) Find and copy the word in the text that means 'to move skilfully or carefully'. **Manoeuvre**
- 10) How long will it take to build a pyramid? **Over 20 years**

## The fossilisation process

Fossils are the preserved remains of a dead organism found in the earth's strata (rock layers) which geologists use to create historical timelines, study environmental changes and make predictions about the future. They are rare, as most animals and plants that die simply rot away into the soil; however, under certain special conditions, a fossil can form.

There are four main types of fossil: mould fossils (an impression made which creates a negative image of the organism- much like a jelly mould!); cast fossils (formed when a mould fossil is filled in); trace fossils (fossilised nests, burrows or footprints left behind by animals); and true form fossils (the fossilised remains of the actual animal). This text will explain how mould and cast fossils are formed.

The complex fossilisation process begins when a living thing- such as a dinosaur, ammonite or fish- dies and falls to the bottom of an ocean, lake or other deep body of water. This part is crucial to forming a fossil, as the conditions required occur in water.

Soon, the organic matter of the animal will rot away, leaving behind the hardest parts of the body (usually the bones, shell and teeth). This process does not take as long as you may think: it occurs rapidly, ranging from just a few hours to a few years (depending on the size and nature of the original material).

Over time, the movement of the water drags sediment- such as small rocks, mud or silt- over the remains. This sediment fills in the empty spaces left behind by the soft tissue. As time passes, more layers of sediment settle over the remains, which puts pressure on the layers below. Eventually, these layers turn into sedimentary rock.

During this process, water containing dissolved minerals and other materials seeps into the remains and slowly dissolves the bones and teeth. In its place, an open space in the exact shape and size of the skeleton is left. This is called a mould fossil, as, much like a jelly mould, a negative impression has been created which preserves the shape of the original form. Although this fossil may exhibit characteristics of the original organism, it is just an imprint.

In order for the much rarer cast fossil to form, sediment (such as tiny pieces of rock) is transported into the mould and begins the lengthy process of slowly filling the shape that has been created. Over time, this material builds up to create a replica of the original organism. This is the equivalent of using a jelly mould to create a jelly: the mould has been used to create a solid cast.

As time passes, the material inside the mould will solidify through the pressure being exerted from above and will, eventually, become rock. This creates the cast fossil which creates a replica of the original form.

We can learn many things from fossils, such as how long life has existed on our planet and how different plants and animals are related to each other. We can sometimes work out how and where they lived, and use this information to investigate ancient environments.

## The fossilisation process

- 1) Which word shows that the fossilisation process is not simple? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Why does the author compare mould fossils to jelly moulds? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Which word in the text means 'an exact copy or model of something'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Which word shows that the water moves slowly into the remains rather than fast?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Order these events in the order they happen in the text.

Sediment fills the empty spaces left by the soft tissue	
The material solidifies	
An animal dies	
Bones and teeth are dissolved	

- 6) Match the four types of fossil to their explanation

Mould		A filled in fossil
Trace		Remains of actual animal
Cast		A negative impression
True form		Footprints or nests

- 7) Why is it that not every animal that dies becomes a fossil?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'show'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Which word in the text means 'important or critical'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'moved'? \_\_\_\_\_

## The fossilisation process- Answers

- 1) Which word shows that the fossilisation process is not simple? **Complex**
- 2) Why does the author compare mould fossils to jelly moulds? **Because jelly moulds are familiar so it helps the reader to understand what a mould fossil is**
- 3) Which word in the text means 'an exact copy or model of something'? **Replica**
- 4) Which word shows that the water moves slowly into the remains rather than fast? **Seeps**
- 5) Order these events in the order they happen in the text.

Sediment fills the empty spaces left by the soft tissue	2
The material solidifies	4
An animal dies	1
Bones and teeth are dissolved	3

- 6) Match the four types of fossil to their explanation

Mould		A filled in fossil
Trace		Remains of actual animal
Cast		A negative impression
True form		Footprints or nests

- 7) Why is it that not every animal that dies becomes a fossil? **Because the conditions have to be right/ because fossils tend to form under water and most animals die on land**
- 8) Which word in the text is similar in meaning to 'show'? **Exhibit**
- 9) Which word in the text means 'important or critical'? **Crucial**
- 10) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'moved'? **Transported**

## Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. Darwin first shocked the very religious Victorian society when he suggested that humans and other animals shared common ancestors; however, his non-religious biological theories appealed to professional scientists, and by the time of his death, his view became more widely accepted.

### Early life

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809, where he became the fifth of six children. Growing up, he was an avid reader of nature books, and he devoted his spare time to exploring the natural environment around his home, collecting various plants and insects.

### Education

Following in the footsteps of both his father and his grandfather, Darwin secured a place at the University of Edinburgh Medical School with his brother Erasmus in October 1825. Unfortunately, he did not find the lectures interesting and was distressed by the surgeries, so he neglected his studies. In his second year of university, Charles developed an interest in zoology and heard speakers talk about the latest theories of transmutation (as evolution was then known). After still not committing to his studied, his father withdrew him from Edinburgh and instead send him to Christ's College, Cambridge to study theology. In his first few months, his second cousin William Darwin Fox impressed him with his butterfly collection and introduced Charles to entomology, which influenced him to start beetle collecting. Before his graduation in 1831, Darwin spent much of his time at Cambridge exploring his interests in botany (the study of plants) and zoology (the study of animals) and he became a close friend and follower of botany professor John Stevens Henslow.

### Voyage

Following the completion of his degree, Darwin was offered a position as a naturalist on HMS Beagle, after being recommended by John Henslow. Over the following five years, Darwin visited four continents and spent time on land collecting specimens and investigating the local geography. During the voyage, he found fossils of ten-foot-tall sloths and giant armadillos, which provided the idea that life on earth was very old and made him think about slow processes which occur over vast periods of time.

### Home again

After returning home again in 1836, Darwin began to write up his travels, and a powerful idea began to form in his mind. On the voyage, he had seen how animals more suited to their environment survived longer and produced more young, and he theorised that evolution occurred by a process called 'Natural Selection'. Darwin struggled with this belief as it contradicted the Christian world view and his grandfather's similar views had been shunned previously; therefore, he decided that he should gather more evidence before going public.

### Sharing evolutionary theory

By the summer of 1858, Darwin had written an incredible 250,000 words on evolution, but had published none of it. However, this changed when a letter compelled him to go public with his theory. Alfred Wallace, an admirer of Darwin's, had set off travelling and had independently arrived at a theory of natural selection. Darwin realised that if he didn't share his theory of evolution, Wallace would take the credit for his ideas. After consulting with his colleagues, Darwin decided that that he would present his ideas to the Linnean Society and that extracts from Wallace's paper would be presented there too. A year later, Darwin published 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection', which would go on to become one of the most important books ever written. He was very anxious about releasing his theory: he didn't want to lose his reputation, as his grandfather had. The book's key implication- that human beings were descended from apes- drew criticism from the Church; however, more people than before were now willing to listen to evidence for evolution. Origin of Species was an international bestseller and, with each new edition released, Darwin strengthened his arguments, and he introduced 'survival of the fittest' in 1860 and 'evolution' in 1872.

### Personal life

In 1839, Darwin married his first cousin, Emma Wedgwood and they went on to have 12 children, although three died in childhood. Three of their sons went on to become notable scientists in the fields of astronomy, botany and engineering. From 1837 onwards, Darwin was plagued by ill health and he moved to the country in 1842 to be away from smoke and dirt. Here, he lived a quiet life where he concentrated on his family and writing books and scientific papers.

### Death and legacy

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1882, Charles Darwin died of heart failure at his home. He was buried in Westminster Abbey- a privilege of only the most important people- and his funeral was well-attended by people from all around the world. By the time of his death, Darwin and his colleagues had convinced more scientists that the theory of evolution was correct. To this day, Charles Darwin is often cited as the greatest biologist in history and his legacy lives on: for several years, he was featured on the £10

## Charles Darwin

- 1) Order these events in the order they happen in the text.

Darwin was introduced to entomology	
Darwin went to the University of Edinburgh Medical School	
Darwin published 'On the Origin of the Species'	
Darwin was offered a place on HMS Beagle	

- 2) Where did Darwin present his ideas to?

- 3) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
As a child, Darwin enjoyed reading nature books.		
Four of Darwin's children became notable scientists.		
Darwin's views were in line with the Christian world view.		
Alfred Wallace was an admirer of Darwin.		

- 4) Which two things did Darwin find fossils of during his voyage?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Which word in the 'Education' paragraph is closest in meaning to 'upset'?

- 6) What was evolution originally known as?

- 7) What encouraged Darwin to publish his work?

His grandfather's views had been shunned previously.	
His wife persuaded him to share his views.	
Alfred Wallace had arrived at a similar theory.	
He had finally got enough evidence.	

- 8) What does the phrase 'plagued by ill health' suggest about Darwin's later years?

- 9) What was the key implication from the book that drew criticism from the Church?

- 10) Which phrase in the introduction suggests that humans and other animals were linked in some way?

Charles Darwin - Answers

1) Order these events in the order they happen in the text.

Darwin was introduced to entomology	2
Darwin went to the University of Edinburgh Medical School	1
Darwin published 'On the Origin of the Species'	4
Darwin was offered a place on HMS Beagle	3

2) Where did Darwin present his ideas to? **The Linnean Society**

3) Using information from the text, decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
As a child, Darwin enjoyed reading nature books.	✓	
Four of Darwin's children became notable scientists.		✓
Darwin's views were in line with the Christian world view.		✓
Alfred Wallace was an admirer of Darwin.	✓	

4) Which two things did Darwin find fossils of during his voyage?

**1) ten-foot-tall sloths**

**2) giant armadillos**

5) Which word in the 'Education' paragraph is closest in meaning to 'upset'? **Distressed**

6) What was evolution originally known as? **Transmutation**

7) What encouraged Darwin to publish his work?

His grandfather's views had been shunned previously.	
His wife persuaded him to share his views.	
Alfred Wallace had arrived at a similar theory.	✓
He had finally got enough evidence.	

8) What does the phrase 'plagued by ill health' suggest about Darwin's later years? **That he was constantly unwell.**

9) What was the key implication from the book that drew criticism from the Church? **That humans were descended from apes**

10) Which phrase in the introduction suggests that humans and other animals were linked in some way? **Common ancestors**

## Was it right that children were evacuated away from home during the Second World War?

During the Second World War, it was decided by the government that children living in cities (particularly in London) were evacuated to the country for their own safety as the cities were seen as a target for German bombers. In the first three days of official evacuation, Operation Pied Piper –named after the traditional tale- relocated 1.5 million people to the country. While the scheme was entirely designed for the safety of the country's children, there were many people who had grave concerns about whether it was right to remove children from their parents.

On one hand, there was a strong view that evacuation was beneficial for children. Not only were they safe from attacks, but they were also able to live without constant fear. This also meant that their parents would not have to worry about their families as they knew that they were safe and being cared for in the country. Additionally, many children had positive experiences when they were evacuated as they were able to experience various things that they would not have been able to while living in the city: they helped to rear new-born animals; they assisted in growing, picking and preparing fresh fruits and vegetables; and they had the chance to explore the country, climb trees and play with other children in wide, open spaces rich with nature that they may not have spent time in before. Finally, many children were taken in by kind, loving families who cared for them well while they lived there and treated them like their own children.

On the other hand, many people believe that evacuation had a detrimental effect on children and their wellbeing. Firstly, young children were separated from their family and friends, which would have been very upsetting at an already distressing time. Knowing that their loved ones were still living in a dangerous environment would be very worrying for those children. Additionally, although every effort was made to keep siblings together when they were evacuated, often brothers and sisters were sent to different families. Without the familiarity of family around, children were often miserable and missed home. This was especially hard for them as stamps were rationed, which meant that that evacuees may not have been able to write to or hear from their family members very often. Finally, some children were taken in by families who only wanted the money from the government that was offered to the hosts. These families did not take good care of the children and some expected them to work for them, which they found hard as they were not used to hard labour.

In conclusion, there are strong arguments on both sides of the issue; however, it seems apparent that evacuation was beneficial to children. Although many children had an unhappy time and missed their families, they were removed from a dangerous environment and kept safe from harm. While it is, of course, important that children feel happy and secure where they live, it is essential that they are kept protected.

Was it right that children were evacuated away from home during the Second World War?

- 1) What was the evacuation process known as?
- 2) Which word in the introduction is closest in meaning to 'serious'?
- 3) Decide whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
There are different views on evacuation.		
Evacuation was beneficial for children.		
Children were happier in the country.		
1.5 million people were moved to the country in the first three days.		

- 4) Which word in paragraph three is closest in meaning to 'negative'?
- 5) Why was it hard for children to contact their families
- 6) Why were children moved away from cities?
- 7) What benefit was there to host families for taking in evacuees
- 8) Decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Some children had positive experiences		
Children were moved from the country to cities		
Brothers and sisters were always kept together		
There are different opinions about whether evacuation was beneficial or not		

- 9) Which word in the conclusion is closest in meaning to 'important'?
- 10) Which word in paragraph two is closest in meaning to 'helped'?

Was it right that children were evacuated away from home during the Second World War-

Answers

- 1) What was the evacuation process known as? **Operation Pied Piper**
- 2) Which word in the introduction is closest in meaning to 'serious'? **Grave**
- 3) Decide whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
There are different views on evacuation.	✓	
Evacuation was beneficial for children.		✓
Children were happier in the country.		✓
1.5 million people were moved to the country in the first three days.	✓	

- 4) Which word in paragraph three is closest in meaning to 'negative'? **Detrimental**
- 5) Why was it hard for children to contact their families? **Because stamps were rationed.**
- 6) Why were children moved away from cities? **Because cities were seen as a target for German bombers**
- 7) What benefit was there to host families for taking in evacuees? **They were offered money by the government.**
- 8) Decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Some children had positive experiences	✓	
Children were moved from the country to cities		✓
Brothers and sisters were always kept together		✓
There are different opinions about whether evacuation was beneficial or not	✓	

- 9) Which word in the conclusion is closest in meaning to 'important'? **Essential**
- 10) Which word in paragraph two is closest in meaning to 'helped'? **Assisted**

## Playtime letter

West Park Primary School  
Long Oak Road  
Bristol  
BS3 9QG

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Mrs Collins,

I am writing to you today to request that morning playtimes be banned for children in Key Stage 2. All teachers agree that this would bring many benefits to the school: more focused children; higher SATs results; and improved behaviour. If I were you, I would want attainment to be raised across the school and this is the way to do it.

Firstly, I strongly believe that children's education will be improved if they spend more time in lessons. If they had just 15 minutes extra education a day, they would surely make more progress and, as a result, your SATs results would improve rapidly. Other teachers around the country have already removed playtimes from the timetable; in fact, at Eastwood Primary, results have improved by 50% since break times were scrapped! In a recent parent survey, the overwhelming majority of parents (80%) agreed with the removal of playtimes. Surely you want the best results for the children in your school? Parents certainly agree!

Furthermore, playtimes are no longer necessary because children have so much leisure time outside school. According to the latest statistics, at least 90% of children play with their friends (either outside or via a games console) in the evening; therefore, it is strongly recommended that playtimes in school be removed as they are already receiving an adequate amount of leisure time after school. Additionally, when children spend too long (more than 10 minutes) outside during the school day, they often become tired and lose concentration during their next lesson. If they spent more time in class, they would certainly be calmer and ready to learn. Many people- including leading education expert James Greer- agree that a calm environment with fewer breaks is best for learning. "I would strongly recommend a reduction in free time," reports Mr Greer, "as results have shown that it is highly conducive to a more highly attaining school."

Finally, the weather in England is regularly atrocious. During wet playtimes, children often become frustrated because there is not enough space in the country to play as they would outside. Tempers become frayed, friendships develop issues and children become restless. In addition, teachers- who work incredibly hard to create excellent learning environments- are increasingly concerned about the aftermath of inside play: many children get over-excited and make a mess in their tidy classrooms. Why not solve these problems by getting rid of playtimes entirely?

In summation, I hope that you will carefully consider my proposal of banning playtimes. Despite the benefits of morning break, I truly believe that children's learning will be improved by having increased time in class. No sensible head teacher could possibly deny children the chance of 75 minutes of additional learning a week- that's over an hour!

I look forward to hearing your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kensington

## Playtime letter

1) Which of these are benefits mentioned in the introduction?

The results of tests will be higher	
Children will be more focused	
Children will be happier	
Teachers will be more relaxed	
The behaviour of children will be better	

2) What evidence does the author give that results are likely to rise?

3) What percentage of parents are claimed to support removing playtimes?

4) What reason is given for playtimes not being necessary for children?

5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'really bad'?

6) Decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The letter is addressed to Mrs Collins		
The text includes a quote from James Green		
Teachers are concerned about children making a mess of classrooms		
The author suggests removing playtimes for all children in primary school		

7) Which word in the conclusion is closest in meaning to 'extra'?

8) *'According to the latest statistics, at least 90% of children play with their friends (either outside or via a games console) in the evening; therefore, it is strongly recommended that playtimes in school be removed as they are already receiving an **adequate** amount of leisure time after school.'* Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'adequate'?

fantastic	
poor	
sufficient	
good quality	

9) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'ask'?

10) What kind of environment is being the best for learning?

Playtime letter- ANSWERS

1) Which of these are benefits mentioned in the introduction?

The results of tests will be higher	✓
Children will be more focused	✓
Children will be happier	
Teachers will be more relaxed	
The behaviour of children will be better	✓

2) What evidence does the author give that results are likely to rise? **Results have improved at Eastwood Primary by 50%**

3) What percentage of parents are claimed to support removing playtimes? **80%**

4) What reason is given for playtimes not being necessary for children? **They have lots of leisure time outside school**

5) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'really bad'? **Atrocious**

6) Decide whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The letter is addressed to Mrs Collins	✓	
The text includes a quote from James Green		✓
Teachers are concerned about children making a mess of classrooms	✓	
The author suggests removing playtimes for all children in primary school		✓

7) Which word in the conclusion is closest in meaning to 'extra'? **Additional**

8) *'According to the latest statistics, at least 90% of children play with their friends (either outside or via a games console) in the evening; therefore, it is strongly recommended that playtimes in school be removed as they are already receiving an **adequate** amount of leisure time after school.'* Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'adequate'?

fantastic	
poor	
sufficient	✓
good quality	

9) Which word in the text is closest in meaning to 'ask'? **Request**

10) What kind of environment as being the best for learning? **A calm environment with fewer breaks**