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Home Learning Pack Year 4

Spring



Monday – Recognising Apostrophes

1. Write the parts of sentences below in the correct group depending on whether the apostrophe is used for possession or contraction.

the book's pages

we would've lost

who'll win

my cat's paws

when I'm home

you're wrong

Thomas's coat

I'll be unhappy

our teacher's pen

apostrophe
of possession

apostrophe of
contraction

2. Place an 'x' in the boxes to show which sentences use an apostrophe for possession.

A. Today, I've got cheese sandwiches in my packed lunch.

B. The driver noticed that the bus's wheel was flat.

C. The dressmaker fixed the rip in the dress's hem.

D. Our car's engine broke down on the motorway.

3. Some apostrophes have been missed out or used incorrectly in the sentence below.

James dog wouldv'e got a treat if hed fetchted the stick straight away, but the dog's nose had picked up an interesting scent instead.

Underline each mistake and explain why they are incorrect.

Tuesday – Apostrophes for Contraction

1. Put an 'X' next to the sentences below that use apostrophes for contraction correctly.

A. Wheres' the drink that I wanted?

B. Here's that glass of water you asked for.

C. Mum and Dad's new car's are just marvellous.

D. Who'd have thought blotches of ink would not come out of those trousers?

2. Underline the apostrophes for contraction in each of the sentences below.

A. It's been ages since the last bus came along.

B. Stu kicked the girl's football away because he didn't want her to play.

C. The children's pencils weren't sharp enough to write with.

D. My brother Alfie wasn't happy because he'd lost his favourite teddy.

3. Jordan has been changing the words below into contractions. Do you agree with Jordan? Explain your answer.



Jordan

	he will – he'll	she had – sh'ed
	I would – I'd	you are – you're
	he shall – he'll	they are – the'yr
	I have – I'v	she would – she'd

Wednesday – Using Apostrophes for Possession or Contraction

1. Circle the words in the sentences below that use an apostrophe for possession.

- A. The bus's doors should've opened at the bus stop but the driver's control panel wasn't working.
- B. Ben exclaimed, "I've finally finished my homework but now I've got to help clean out the hamster's cage!"
- C. The girls' football team lost their match but the teachers couldn't have been more proud of them.

2. Siobhan has written the sentence below.

Unfortunately, the bicycle's chain broke so Andy knew he'd have to buy a new one.



I have only used an apostrophe for plural possession and an apostrophe for contraction.

Is she correct?

3. Daniel has written the sentences below but he has made some mistakes with apostrophes.

Freds dog was playing with his ball in the garden when he noticed some birds in the sky. The dog couldnt stop himself and went rushing through the garden to reach them. The bird's wings flapped fiercely as they all tried to escape!

Circle and correct three mistakes that Daniel has made. Explain Daniel's mistakes.

Thursday – Apostrophes for Plural Possession

1. Underline the words in the sentences below that show the use of an apostrophe for plural possession.

Yesterday, the girls' amazing cricketing skills meant that they comfortably won their match. Their opponents' batting was very poor and the advice from their coaches didn't seem to help them a great deal.

2. Put an X next to the sentence(s) that do not use an apostrophe for plural possession correctly.

A. The hors'es hay is kept dry for them to eat during the winter.

B. The ladies' doubles championship starts today and is on TV.

C. In the swimming pool, the children's shrieks of glee are very loud.

3. Jamila says,



The apostrophe in the sentence below should be after the 's' in 'peoples'.

The peoples reaction to the TV programme was truly shocking.

Is Jamila correct? Explain your answer.

Friday – Punctuating Direct Speech

1. Identify the sentence which has correctly punctuated Ellie's speech.



honestly Chidi, it was an absolute nightmare

- A. "honestly Chidi, it was an absolute nightmare!" exclaimed Ellie.
- B. "Honestly Chidi, it was an absolute nightmare!" exclaimed Ellie.
- C. "Honestly Chidi, it was an absolute nightmare?" exclaimed Ellie.

2. Identify the odd one out in the sentences below by marking it with an 'X'.

		X
A.	The policeman shouted loudly at the criminal, "Stop right there!"	
B.	The little girl whispered shyly, "How can I become an explorer like you?"	
C.	"When would you like to get together to do the project work?" asked Tahani."	
D.	"Can you help me with my homework please, Simone?" asked Shawn pleadingly.	

3. Underline the errors in the sentence below.

one sunny day, Mindy rushed into the kitchen and cried "can we go to the park today Daddy? Pretty please?"

Explain your answer.

Monday – Using Speech in Paragraphs – Fiction

Over the previous few minutes, the grim sky had grown much darker. Sadie watched as a huge, grey cloud began to spiral down towards the ground. A tornado! Feeling very scared, she ran inside. Her dad had said to call him if the weather turned worse before he arrived home. He answered the phone instantly. “You sound terrified, Sadie! You’ll be fine, and I’m driving back home right now. Are you ok?” he asked.

“I’m scared, Dad,” Sadie squeaked. “The warning sirens have started wailing and no one is outside anymore. Where are you?”

“I’ve just gone past the crossroads by the church. The streets are pretty empty so that’ll help me get to you faster. I’ll only be five minutes. While you wait for me, get yourself into the basement.”

Sadie knew it was going to feel like the longest five minutes of her life. Trying to keep calm, she stepped down into the basement.

1. What is the first sentence spoken in the conversation between Sadie and her father?

2. How many times in the text has a new paragraph been started because a new person is speaking?

3. Copy an example of indirect speech from the text.

4. Below are some examples of speech from the text. Match each example to its description.

1) I’m scared, Dad,

2) I’ve just gone past the crossroads by the church.

3) You sound terrified, Sadie! You’ll be fine, and I’m driving back home right now.

A) Sadie’s dad is the first speaker in a conversation

B) Sadie is a new speaker in a conversation

C) Sadie’s dad is a new speaker in a conversation

Monday – Using Speech in Paragraphs – Fiction

Tessa's ship punched through the swirling, red clouds above the landing zone. She could see the whole of the Mars 1 base spread out beneath her. "Mars 1 control centre, this is battleship 232 speaking. We have been hit and need a safe place to land. Can you help?" she asked. As it dropped lower, the spaceship began to shake. Tessa did not have much time.

"Battleship 232, this is Mars 1 control centre speaking." As the voice crackled through her headset, Tessa relaxed. "We can see you and are making a landing bay ready. It will be open in two minutes."

"It's going to take two minutes?" cried Tessa. Inside the ship, thick smoke was beginning to appear. "We don't have two minutes up here! We're leaking fuel and coming down quickly!"

As Tessa began to panic, the voice in her ear told her that everything would be worked out in time. She was not so sure. Would she have to make a crash landing?

5. Write the next two sentences of the story. You must include indirect speech spoken by Tessa and the voice on the radio.

6. The sentence below could be placed after the final sentence of paragraph three:

"Can't they help us?" cried a member of Tessa's crew.

Would the sentence start a new paragraph? Explain your answer.

7. Rewrite paragraph four so that any indirect speech is written as direct speech.

Tuesday – Using Suffixes

1. Add the endings to the words below to create a new word.

discuss	-sion	→	
divide	-sion	→	
envy	-ous	→	
outrage	-ous	→	

You may need to remove, add or change letters!

2. Circle the word that the ending -ous can be added to.

poison basic

Write the new word.

3. Underline the two words which do not have the correct suffix in the sentence below.

The famoose mathematician wrote the conclushun to her research paper.

4. Use your knowledges of suffixes to complete the table below.

root word	root word + suffix
courage	
	fusion
	furious
vary	
confuse	

5. Complete the sentence below using the correct words from the word bank.

It was a _____ mission and the _____ was heard for miles around.

dangerous	exploshun
dangerus	explosion

6. Kalid has written the sentence below. Underline the two words which are not spelt correctly.

Having an adventure in a mountainus region is not a decishun to be taken lightly.

Rewrite the sentence using the correct spellings.

7. Alicia and David have included suffixes in their sentences.

Alicia wrote:

I felt nervus before the play started.

David wrote:

The car journey was horrendous.

Who has used a suffix correctly? Explain your answer.

Wednesday – Adding Suffixes

1. Complete each word by matching it to the correct suffix.

admi	ation
rel	sion
pollu	ssion
introduc	tion
fabul	cian
conver	ous
jeal	tion
mathemati	ous

2. Look at the sentences below. Underline the suffix or suffixes used in each sentence.

A. The celebration was a joyous event.

B. It is dangerous to cross the road if you do not check it is clear.

C. The courageous man was keen to help after the explosion.

D. At school, I learn how to do division in maths.

3. Regan has written some sentences using suffixes. She says she only included a word using the suffixes -tion or -ous in sentence 2. Is she correct? Explain your answer.



Regan

1. You must pay attention to the safety instructions.

2. The old man drops his glasses as he walks across the road.

3. The famous author used his imagination to write a humorous story.

Thursday – Words Ending in '-sure', '-ture' or '-cher'

1. Which sentence has the correct spelling of the underlined word?

A. My favourite wild creacher is an African elephant, due to its loyalty to other elephants in its herd.

B. My favourite wild creature is an African elephant, due to its loyalty to other elephants in its herd.

4. Rewrite the sentence below and correct the spelling mistakes.

Car drivers have to regularly check the air presture in their tyres as, if it gets too low, they run the risk of getting a punccher.

2. Match the start of each word to the correct spelling of the full word.

Start

Full Word

vou

voucher

vouture

depar

departure

deparcher

plea

pleature

pleasure

5. Create your own multi-clause sentence using one word from each column in the word bank. Include at least two adjectives in your sentence.

pleasure

creacher

moischer

researcher

Hint: some of the words in the word bank are spelt incorrectly!

3. Complete the sentence using the correct word from the word bank below.

My elderly grandma, who can't chew very well, has to wear _____ to eat with as the dentist took all her teeth out a long time ago.

denchers

dentures

6. Lena thinks she has written her sentence correctly. Is she correct? How do you know?



I'm excited about our next class advencher as we will be exploring our local area.

Friday – Finding -tion in Text

Find all of the -tion sounds in the text below and underline them.

Highlight any other words that sound the same, like -sion, in a different colour.

Wanda the witch loved making potions; she was quite the expert! Anything you wanted, Wanda could come up with a concoction for you.

One day, Clara, Wanda's cat, was sitting in her favourite basket drinking milk and eating a portion of fish. Wanda gazed at her. "How I wish you could talk so that we could have a conversation," she thought to herself. But this wish could come true; she was the queen of magic potions after all!

Wanda gathered together a collection of ingredients: hair from a wizard's beard, the spots of a toad, slug slime, a gnome's toe nails, and 100ml of milk (which she measured out with precision).

With great caution, Wanda mixed the ingredients together whilst muttering a witchy chant. At last, the potion was ready! Clara seemed a little confused, but happily lapped up the mixture. With an explosion of smoke and an almighty squeal, Clara began to speak!

And from that day on, Wanda and Clara spent their days chatting away like the best of friends.

Reading Task – Get Back on the Bike (Part 1)

“Vincent! Stop! You’re going too fast!”

That was the last part Vincent could remember. He must have hit his head in the crash. Thank goodness he was wearing a helmet!

His mother had told him that, after she had screamed, he had tried to slow down. She had seen him grab his brakes before he disappeared around the corner and she heard the awful noise of his bicycle skidding and smashing into the bins outside Mr. Dubord’s shop.

Vincent did not remember hitting the bins, although he could remember a rather disgusting smell all around him when he woke up to see his mother’s face. Everything was still a bit fuzzy but he had certainly ended up in an ambulance. He could remember his arm feeling like it was on fire and a horrible pain in his leg.

The doctors said he was very lucky. The burning feeling turned out to be just some grazes. His leg was broken, but not too badly. A month or two with it in a cast and he would be fine.

“Fine enough to ride again?” he had asked a doctor eagerly.

“If your mother will let you get back on a bicycle!” the man had joked. Vincent’s mother had not laughed.

At least one good thing had come out of the crash. Limping to the corner where he had crashed, leaning heavily on his crutch and badly scratched bicycle, Vincent was moved to the front of the crowd to get a better look at the riders of the Tour de France as they whizzed through the village. What a great spot! Right on the outside of the bend, Vincent could see all the way up the high street to where the cyclists would come flying around past the bakery. He would be able to watch them speed straight towards him, whip around the corner in front of him and then off down the hill out of the village.

Vincent had made sure he had got to the spot with lots of time to spare. He was not going to miss a chance to see some of his heroes in person! His wall at home was covered in ripped-out pages of cycling magazines showing the famous riders and their amazing bicycles: Chris Froome from Team Sky; young Adam Yates from Team Orica-Scott; Romain Bardet from Team Ag2R. He had even managed to find a newspaper article about his favourite rider, François Bonnet, who had grown up riding the very same streets as Vincent. François was his hero. He was living the life Vincent wanted to live.

Reading Task –
Get Back on the Bike (Part 1)

1. 'He was living the life Vincent wanted to live.' What does this sentence tell you about Vincent's hopes and dreams?

2. Do you think the opening paragraph is effective in grabbing the readers' attention? Why?

3. After reading up to 'Vincent's mother had not laughed', write a short summary of what happened to Vincent.

4. Who is your favourite character in the story so far? Why?

The Same But Different

Children all over the UK attend schools of many different sizes and in many different types of places. This text will look at three different schools in three very different locations around the country and will compare what school life is like for these children. These schools are the same, but different. Read through the text and answer the questions that follow.

Meet the Children!

Meet Antoni

I'm Antoni and I'm a student at Jenson's Primary School. It is right in the centre of Birmingham, which is one of the largest and most populated cities in the UK. At Jenson's Primary School there are over 1,200 pupils and 150 staff here. There are children from a wide variety of backgrounds with over 60 languages spoken at our school. I speak Polish at home and am learning English at school. I love learning about the different types of people who go to my school and their different cultures and beliefs.

Meet Clarissa

My name is Clarissa and I am a pupil at Whitsham Primary School. Our tiny school can be found in Whitsham, which is a small rural village located near King's Lynn in Norfolk. There are around 75 children on our school roll with very small class sizes. There are just seven teachers at our school, many of whom live in the village and have worked here for many years. My class has only 19 pupils from both Year 3 and 4. We all live close to each other in the village and we often play together after school.

Meet Jason

Hi! I'm Jason and I go to St. Martin's Primary School. My school is in Wilmslow, near Manchester. It is an average sized school with 500 pupils located in a busy town. It has two classes in each year group with around 30 children in each class. My best friend Simon is in the other Year 4 class, but we only have maths together, as our teachers put us in different groups for different lessons. We like to play games at break time and lunch, especially when we get to use the school field for games.

Location, Location!

Jenson's Primary School

Birmingham is the largest city outside of London with a population of over 1.1 million people. I am one of the many people that live there. The city is host to lots of different types of entertainment venues such as music spots, theatres, restaurants, and lots of shops. The children at my school love to go to a local entertainment centre called 'Star Town' where we can play crazy golf, play laser tag, watch movies, and play arcade games.

St. Martin's Primary School

I live with my family on the outskirts of Wilmslow, which is a town in Cheshire, 11 miles south of Manchester. The town has a variety of trendy shops, cafes and restaurants. The population in my town is around 25,000 people. There are always lots of things to do in Wilmslow but the children at my school always like to go to the cinema or bowling in our free time.

Whitsham Primary School

I live in Whitsham which is a small west Norfolk village situated 7 miles north east of King's Lynn. There are around 270 people living in Whitsham with only 121 households in the entire village. There is a church and a village hall where we have parties and celebrations. There is also a post office and a few small shops on the High Street. In the summer, we like to play outside on the green, especially games like cricket and rounders.

Favourite Playground Games!

Jason's Favourite Playground Game

I love to play dodgeball. You have to try to hit the other players below the knee with the ball. If you are hit, then you are out of the game. The last one out is the winner.

At Whitsham Primary, they play dodgeball too but they play it standing in a circle. One person stands in the middle whilst the other players pass the ball to each other. They then try to hit the person in the middle. They must make sure it is below the knee so no one gets hurt.

Clarissa's Favourite Playground Game

I like to play lots of traditional playground games. Rhymes are used in lots of playground games all over the world. Our teachers told us that some of the playground rhymes we play are over 100 years old.

Antoni's Favourite Playground Game

At Jenson's Primary, we play a game called 'Caught in the Chain'. When the person who is 'it' catches someone, they join hands in the line which gets longer and longer. It is so much fun when the line becomes really long.

They play a similar game at St Martin's School, but they call it 'Build It Up'. In their version, they play with two opposing teams. If you get tagged, you join that person's team. The team with the most players at the end is the winner.

The Same But Different – Comprehension

1. Use the word bank below to complete the sentence to explain what is meant by the phrase 'the same, but different'.

similarities

differences

key

no

three

The _____ schools have lots of _____ in some ways, but also have _____ differences.

2. Tick the box. How many children attend Jenson's Primary School?

Around 150 pupils

Only 30 pupils

Exactly 75 pupils

Over 1,200 pupils

3. What does the word 'rural' mean when referring to Whitsham village?

Normal

In the countryside

Friendly

Quiet

4. Use the word bank below to complete the sentence to explain what Clarissa means when she uses the phrase 'on our school roll'.

children

school

register

names

attend

village

A school roll is the _____ of names of the _____ who _____ the _____.

5. Why do you think Clarissa's class has children from different year groups in one class? Tick the reason why.

A. Two classes have been put together to make one larger class.

B. Some teachers have free time and send their class to another teacher.

C. There are very few pupils who attend the school.

D. The learning becomes more interesting if there are different age groups.

The Same But Different – Comprehension

6. What evidence is there to show Jenson's Primary School is a multi-cultural school? Tick two.

A. It is in Birmingham which is the second largest city in the UK.

B. Children there have many different cultures and beliefs.

C. There are over 1,200 pupils.

D. More than 60 languages are spoken at the school.

7. Use the word bank below to complete the sentence to explain why there are so few pupils attending Whitsham Primary School.

village

few

small

many

It is located in a _____ rural _____ with _____ people living there.

8. Why do you think the teachers at Clarissa's school in Whitsham have worked there for many years? Tick two.

A. The school will only employ people who live in the village.

B. Many of the teachers live in the village.

C. No one else has heard of the school.

D. People who live there tend to stay there for a long time.

9. What sort of activities can you take part in at 'Star Town' in Birmingham?

Crazy golf

Playing laser tag

Watching movies

Playing arcade games

Skiing

trampolining

The Same But Different – Comprehension

10. Using evidence from the text, how do the entertainment opportunities vary between Whitsham and Birmingham?

Sort the activities into the table.

Birmingham	Whitsham

cricket

rounders

restaurants

theatres

church

village green

lots of shops

parties and
celebrations

village hall

entertainment
centres

music venues

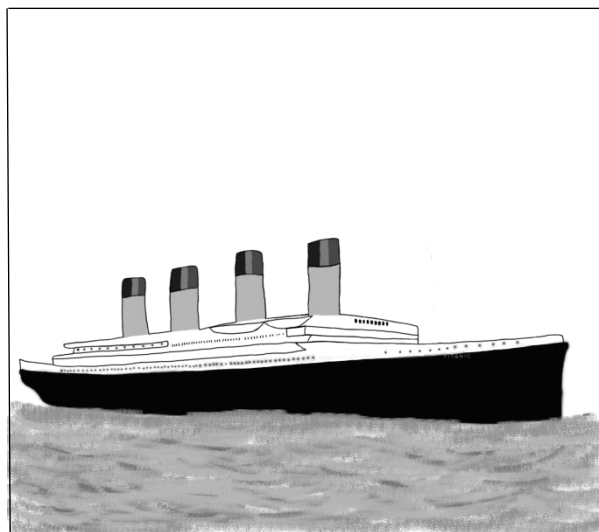
Friday 19th April, 1912

TITANIC DISASTER!

On Sunday, the White Star Line's luxury liner, Titanic, hit an iceberg and plunged into the icy depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

Four days into her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, the luxury liner collided with an iceberg on the starboard side at approximately 11:40pm. The Titanic was widely believed to be unsinkable but with six watertight compartments breached in the collision, she was certainly going to flounder.

Survivors reported that it took an hour before the first lifeboats were launched with only a handful of people in them, including the Managing Director of the White Star Line, J Bruce Ismay. Unfortunately, the Titanic only carried 20 lifeboats (enough for less than half of the passengers and crew on board).

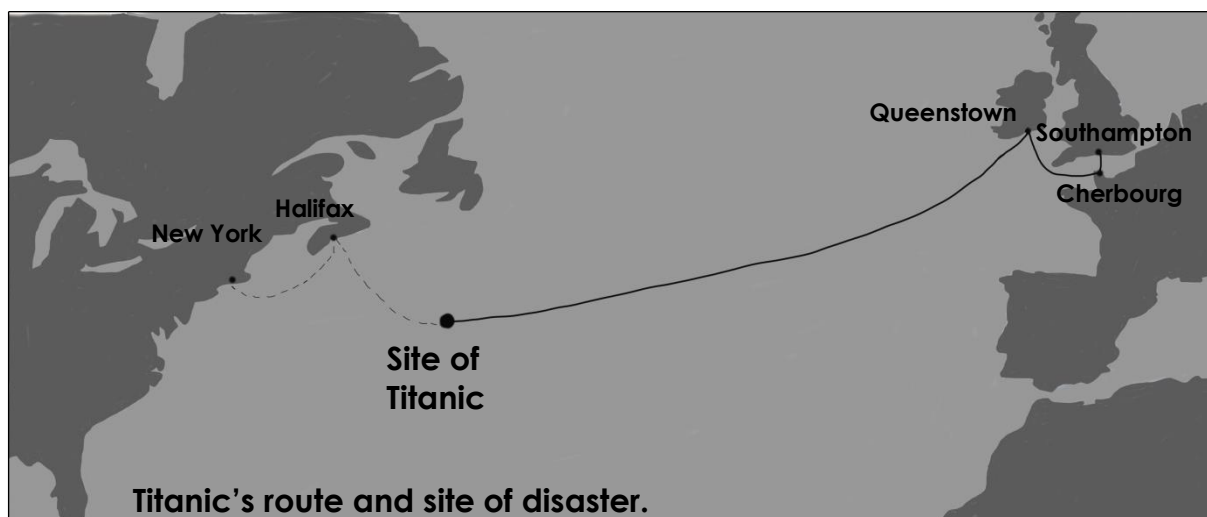


The Titanic leaving Southampton port.

It was originally planned that she would have 48 lifeboats on board, but that number was reduced to make the decks less cluttered. *"It hardly bears thinking about that if there had been sufficient boats that night, every soul aboard could have been saved,"* stated Arthur Rostron, captain of the rescue vessel, Carpathia.

As the ship was rapidly sinking, some jumped overboard, some scrambled into lifeboats (mostly first class passengers) and some decided to retire to bed instead of abandoning ship. Witnesses report that the band were still heard to be playing right until the final moment. It took just over two and a half hours for the Titanic to be completely submerged.

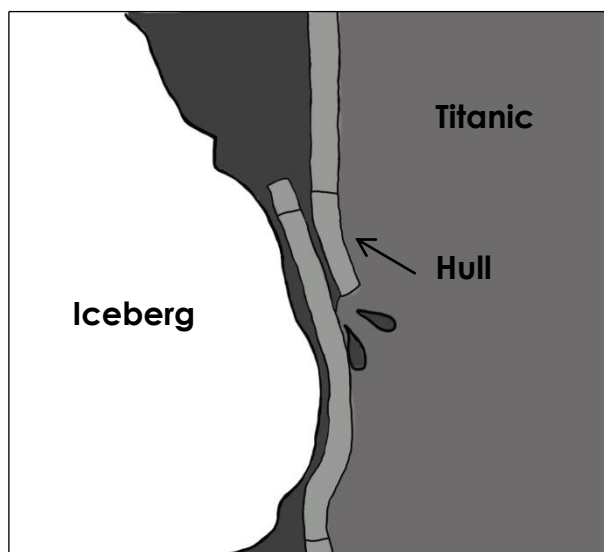
Guided Reading – Titanic Disaster



Whilst exact figures are unknown, it is estimated that approximately 1,500 lives have been lost in the disaster, nearly two thirds of the souls on board. Sadly, most of the victims who entered the negative two degrees water, died in less than an hour. *"The sounds of people drowning are something that I cannot describe to you, and neither can anyone else. It's the most dreadful sound and there is a terrible silence that follows it."* (Eva Hart, survivor) Among those who perished in the disaster were Titanic's own designer Thomas Andrews, and world renowned businessmen Benjamin Gugenheim and John Jacob Astor. It is thought that Captain Edward Smith nobly chose to go down with his ship.

It took roughly three and a half hours for the nearest rescue vessel, the Carpathia, to reach the site of the disaster after receiving the distress call. They found only lifeboats and wreckage from the ship. The 706 survivors rescued by the Carpathia safely reached New York yesterday.

Families and friends of the victims have been arriving at the White Star Line offices in New York and London desperately seeking an explanation. There is growing cause for a public enquiry into why the seemingly 'unsinkable' Titanic claimed so many lives in what is being hailed as the biggest maritime disaster of all time.



Artist's impression of damage to the ship's hull.

Titanic Disaster – Comprehension

These questions are based upon the text Titanic Disaster on pages 20 to 21. Read the text and use this to help you answer the questions below.

1. What type of text is this? Circle the correct answer.

a newspaper
article

a biography

a story

a diary

2. On what date was the text written?

The text was written on _____ .

3. What happened to the Titanic?

It set sail and disappeared somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

It was repaired after it hit an iceberg.

It sank into the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

It sailed all the way across the Atlantic Ocean.

4. Find and copy the words from the text that have the same meaning as the words below. All words can be found on page 20.

first journey – _____

broke through – _____

struggle – _____

under water – _____

enough – _____

5. Why was it a shock that the Titanic sank?

Titanic Disaster – Comprehension

6. What were the names of the ship and its captain who helped to rescue some on the passengers?

The captain was called _____.

The ship was called _____.

7. What could be heard as the ship was sinking?

8. Why do you think that Eva Hart described the sound of the people in the water as 'dreadful'?

To show how loud it was when the ship sank.

To show that she was upset about what was happening.

To help you to understand how terrible it was to be there.

9. How do you think the friends and family of the passengers on the Titanic felt when they heard the news of the sinking? Choose a word from the word bank below and explain your choice. You may choose more than one word.

worried

angry

upset

terrified

10. Underline the word in the sentence below that means 'ship'?

It took roughly three and a half hours for the nearest rescue vessel, the Carpathia, to reach the site of the disaster after receiving the distress call.

Titanic Disaster – Comprehension

11. Number the events below in the order that they happened, according to the text.

The loved ones of passengers went to the White Star Lines office.

The Titanic left Southampton.

The Titanic sank completely into the Atlantic Ocean.

People began to jump into the water.

The Carpathia arrived in New York with 706 survivors.

The Titanic hit an iceberg.

Thomas Andrews designed the Titanic.

Guided Reading – A Load of Rubbish

A Load of Rubbish

Do you want to listen o a RUBBISH story? Some people say that it is just a WASTE of time, but I couldn't REFUSE to tell it. Any ideas on what it's about? No? Well, I'll give you a hint ... it's JUNK! So you think this story will be GARBAGE, do you? Listen carefully and maybe I'll be able to change your mind!

It all started last week when I met my best friend, Ayden, at the local park. It was a sunny day and we had decided to go for a bike ride.

“Hey Ayden!” I called as I cycled over to him. Ayden grunted. He was kneeling next to his bike and was inspecting the front tyre. He wore an irritated look. “What’s the matter?” I asked, putting down my bike and walking towards him.

“Sorry, Kyle, I’ve got a flat tyre. Not only that, but my chain keeps falling off too...this bike is a piece of garbage! I’m going to throw it away.” Ayden stood up and kicked the bike’s tyre. He folded his arms and huffed loudly.

That was when something strange happened. I heard an unusual sound coming from all around us and suddenly, a remarkable lady appeared from nowhere. She was wearing a sparkly green dress and held a glittery clipboard in one hand. As she noticed us, she pulled down her reading glasses and took a closer look. She scrunched up her nose.

“Who on Earth are you?” Ayden exclaimed. His eyes were wide and he was shaking a little. That was when I noticed the lady wore a large badge. It read ‘Mother Earth’.

The lady sighed. “I’m Mother Earth of course. I’m the spirit of the Earth.” She looked around and started to make notes on her clipboard. She eventually noticed Ayden’s bike on the floor and tutted. “You know, I’ve been very unwell lately,” she complained.

“Oh no, what’s wrong? Why have you been so ill?” Ayden asked, looking concerned.

Mother Earth pointed over my shoulder. “Just look at that vile rubbish dump over there...”

“I know. Yuk!” I agreed. I always ride past it on my way to the park.

“Did you know that lots of people use things just once and then throw them away? You humans live your lives as if there is a never-ending supply of everything in this world... and when you live like that, you make a lot of waste and pollution. These things add to what I call your ‘carbon footprint’.”

“Carbon what?” Ayden cried.

Guided Reading – A Load of Rubbish

“Carbon footprint. It’s caused by your misuse of the earth’s natural resources. That’s what is making me so sick.” She coughed a little.

Ayden looked shocked. “Us? We don’t do that.”

“Yes you do. All of you do!” Mather Earth yelled, waving her wand in the air. All of a sudden, we heard a rustling noise coming from nearby.

“What’s that noise?” Ayden said in a trembling voice.

“It’s coming from that wheelie bin over there...” I pointed towards a large black bin out in front of a nearby house. The lid was moving up and down as if something was trying to get out.

“Look, here comes a pile of old magazines. It was once a tree you know...” Before we knew it, a huge pile of magazines had jumped out of the bin and was rolling towards us.

“We overheard you talking. We’ve been so sad in there, just wasted. We could have been recycled and used again. That saves energy and trees! You can reduce your carbon footprint if you recycle us.” I was so surprised, I didn’t know what to say. Eventually, I found my voice.

“Maybe I can help to recycle you!” I offered. As I said it, Mother Earth waved her wand and, in a puff of smoke, a blue recycling bin appeared in front of us.

“Thank you! You know, recycling is so easy to do. You might have a special recycling bin like this that you can put things such as old magazines in. It gets collected and then recycled.” I picked up the pile of magazines and placed them neatly inside the bin.

“Oh yeah, we have one of those bins at home. I think my brother keeps his fishing equipment in it... Mother Earth, is there anything else that can be recycled?” Ayden said.

“I’m glad you asked young man. There are many materials that can be recycled which people just throw away every day.” From the rubbish dump, a plastic container rolled towards us.

As it reached us, it began to talk, just like the magazines. Things were getting stranger every minute! “I would have to be lying here for over four-hundred and fifty years to decompose!” The container sounded unhappy. “If someone had recycled me I could be turned into a toy or even part of a car!”

Guided Reading – A Load of Rubbish

“Well, maybe now you’ll get your chance. Boys, did you know lots of big shops recycle bottles already?” She pointed towards the plastic container.

“I can take them to my local supermarket. I think mom’s going tonight,” Ayden replied. He picked up the plastic container and put it into his backpack ready to take home.

“That’s the plastic sorted then, but what about glass?” I asked.

“Glass can be recycled too!” She waved her wand again and a large glass bottle rolled towards the rubbish dump.

“Thank goodness you came along!” the glass bottle started to say. “I could’ve been laying here for the next million years! I don’t rot like other materials! If only I had been recycled.” I picked up the glass bottle and placed it in the recycling bin. I could just feel my carbon footprint getting smaller.

“Mother Earth, I never knew that re-using stuff was so easy to do,” I said.

“Recycling is very important, you should go and tell all of your friends! I’ve got to be going now... I have so many things to take care of.” She waved her wand one last time and disappeared.

“Right, first things first... I’ve got to fix my bike!” Ayden knelt down and started to tinker with the bike chain. Mother Earth taught us that we need to reduce, reuse and recycle if we want to cut our carbon footprint and save the planet. What could you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

A Load of Rubbish – Comprehension

These questions are based upon the text A Load of Rubbish on pages 25 - 27. Read the text and use this to help you answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think the author has written some words in capital letters in the first paragraph?

2. What were Kyle and Ayden planning to do at the start of the day?

3. Underline 4 sentences in the extract below that show how Ayden is feeling.

“Hey Ayden!” I called as I cycled over to him. Ayden grunted. He was kneeling next to his bike and was inspecting the front tyre. He wore an irritated look. “What’s the matter?” I asked, putting down my bike and walking towards him.

“Sorry, Kyle, I’ve got a flat tyre. Not only that, but my chain keeps falling off too...this bike is a piece of garbage! I’m going to throw it away.” Ayden stood up and kicked the bike’s tyre. He folded his arms and huffed loudly.

4. Which word would you say best describes Ayden's feelings at this point in the story?

annoyed

outraged

furious

seething

5. Find and copy two words from the text that describe Mother Earth’s dress.

A Load of Rubbish – Comprehension

6. Match each word to the correct definition.

huffed

horrible or bad

remarkable

looking over very carefully

tuffed

different or unusual, outstanding

vile

to make a 'tutting' sound at someone to show impatience or dislike

inspecting

to breathe out sharply in anger

7. What does Ayden's brother use the recycling bin for?

8. Find 4 different words used in the text that can replace 'said'.

1.

3.

2.

4.

9. Kyle says, 'eventually, I found my voice'. What do you think this means?

10. True or false? Mother Earth says that recycling is simple to do. Find and copy a sentence to explain your choice.

true

false

A Load of Rubbish – Comprehension

11. Find and copy the words in the text that can be replaced with the words below.

1. break down – _____

2. repair – _____

3. bottle – _____

12. How long does it take for plastic and glass to break down?

It takes _____ years for plastic to break down.

It takes _____ years for glass to break down.

13. Put these events in the correct order.

Mother Earth disappears.

Mother Earth tells the children she has been ill.

The plastic containers speak to the boys.

Kyle and Ayden meet in the park.

The glass bottles talk to the boys.

Mother Earth visits Kyle and Ayden.

Ayden is annoyed his bike is broken.

14. What do you think is the key message of the story?

The message is that people should look after the planet by making sure they put all of their litter into the bin.

The message is that people should reduce, reuse and recycle to reduce their carbon footprint and help save the planet.

The message is the children need to start learning about recycling so that they can protect the future of the planet.

15. Why do you think that the story finishes with a question?
