

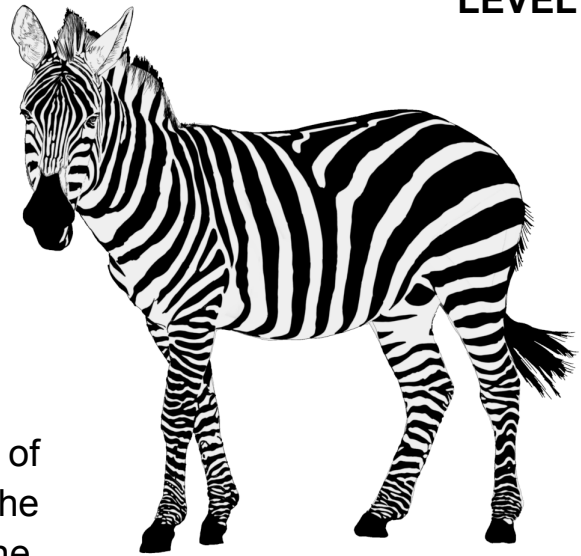
# Amazing zebras

## Before you read

- What do you know about zebras?
- Have you ever seen one?
- Where do you think they live?

## *Different types of zebra*

There are three main different types of zebra. These are the plains zebra, the mountain zebra and the Grevys zebra. The most common kind is called the plains zebra. You can find this zebra in grassy areas across southern Africa. There are lots of zebras living in wildlife reserves in Zimbabwe.



## *Why do zebras have stripes?*

Zebras are black with white stripes. The stripes help the zebra in different ways. They help to keep biting flies away from the zebra. The stripes make it more difficult for lions and other dangerous animals to hunt the zebra. The stripes might also be a way for the zebras to stay cool on hot days. Scientists think that zebras know each other from their stripes. Every zebra has its own pattern of stripes. No zebra looks exactly the same as another.

## *What do zebras do all day?*

Usually, zebras live in groups of seven or eight adult zebras. These groups are called herds. They eat all day, if they can. They eat grass, leaves and bark from trees. At night, Zebras go to sleep standing up.

## *How do you know how a zebra is feeling?*

You can see how a zebra is feeling if you look at its ears. When a zebra is afraid, the zebra's ears go forwards, but when it is angry, the ears go back. If a zebra in a herd sees a dangerous animal, like a lion, a hyena or a crocodile, it makes a noise like a big angry dog. This noise tells the other zebras in the herd "Danger! Run away!" When there is danger, they run from side to side, in zigzags. This makes them more difficult to catch.

## *What's the difference between zebras and horses?*

You can't ride a zebra like a horse and they don't like living with humans. They are strong animals and can bite and kick other animals. They can't run as fast as a horse, but they can walk a very long way. Sometimes, when they are looking for food and water, they travel more than 200 kilometres in a day.

## Answer the questions

1. What is this?  
a) an animal story      b) facts about zebras      c) a letter about zebras
2. How many kinds of zebra are there?
3. How do zebras sleep?
4. What is the name of a group of zebras?
5. What are two important differences between zebras and horses?

## True or False?

1. Zebras come from the north and east of Africa. *TRUE / FALSE*
2. The plains zebra only lives in Zimbabwe. *TRUE / FALSE*
3. Zebras stripes aren't useful. *TRUE / FALSE*
4. No zebra has the same stripes as another zebra. *TRUE / FALSE*
5. Zebras like living on their own. *TRUE / FALSE*
6. You can't ride a zebra. *TRUE / FALSE*

## Looking at words

### Match the words with the definitions

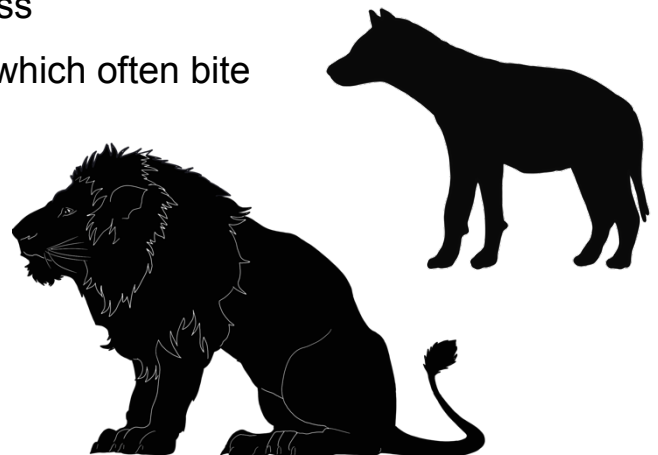
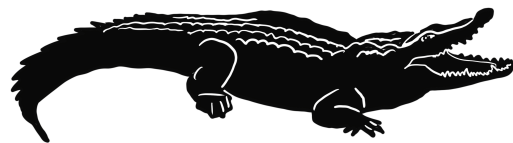
- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. wildlife reserve | a) the chance of something bad happening      |
| 2. stripes          | b) not too hot                                |
| 3. zigzag           | c) to hit with your foot                      |
| 4. flies            | d) bands with different colours               |
| 5. grassy           | e) a shape like the letter Z                  |
| 6. kick             | f) a place where animals can live and be safe |
| 7. cool             | g) with lots of grass                         |
| 8. danger           | h) flying animals which often bite            |

### Find three things that zebras can eat

g\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_

### Find three animals that eat zebras:

l\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_



# Two travellers

## Before you read

- What is the longest journey you have ever made?
- Did you like travelling?
- Did you meet people when you travelled?



Once there was an old woman who was sitting on a bench under a baobab tree by the road. A traveller walked along the road and sat down next to her without saying a word.

“Are you a stranger here?” the old woman asked the traveller.

“Yes, I am. What are the people like who live in this village?” he asked.

The old woman thought for a while.

“What kind of people were they in the village where you have just come from?” she asked the traveller.

“Awful!” replied the traveller. “They were cold, rude and unfriendly. They were very unwelcoming to strangers. I didn’t like them at all.”

“Then I’m sorry to tell you this,” replied the old woman, “but you will find that the people here are exactly the same as that.”

The traveller went away, complaining all the time. The old woman carried on sitting under the tree.

An hour later, another traveller was walking along the road. He also sat down on the bench next to the old woman.

“Good afternoon, madam”, he said to the old woman. “This is my first time in this village. Can you tell me what kind of people live here?”

“What were the people like in the last village you were in?” asked the old woman.

“Lovely!” the second traveller replied.” They were warm, welcoming and friendly. They were very kind to me, a stranger on the road.”

“Then,” said the old woman, “I am happy to say that you are going to find exactly the same kind of people in this village, too.”

The second traveller went on his journey, whistling a little tune.

## Answer the questions

1. What does the first traveller say to the old woman when he sits down?
2. Why didn't the first traveller like the people in the village he visited before?
3. Why did the second traveller like the people in the village he visited before?
4. Why did the old woman give two different answers to the same question?
5. What is the difference between the two travellers?
6. What is the message of this story?
7. Do you agree with the message in this story?

## Looking at words

### Match the words with the definitions.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. complain    | a) someone who does not live in your area       |
| 2. whistle     | b) a kind of tree                               |
| 3. a stranger  | c) make music by blowing air through your lips  |
| 4. a traveller | d) the way music goes up and down               |
| 5. baobab      | e) a long seat for two or more people to sit on |
| 6. tune        | f) someone who is travelling                    |
| 7. bench       | g) say you are unhappy about something          |

### Put the words into the right box.

welcoming    warm    lovely    awful  
cold    friendly    unwelcoming    rude

Negative adjectives (words about bad things)	Positive adjectives (words about good things)

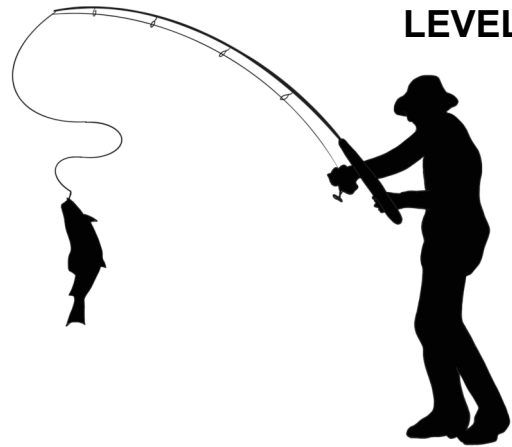




# The golden fish

## Before you read

- Do you know any stories about wishes?
- Have you ever seen a lake?
- Do you think it is easy to catch a fish?



There once was a poor man called Thulani. He lived in a very small hut near a lake. He went out to catch fish one day in the lake. Soon he caught a beautiful golden fish. As he was taking the fish out of the water, it spoke to him.

“Please throw me back in the lake, and you can have whatever you wish for.”

Thulani was very surprised, but after a moment he said, “Golden fish, I wish I had a bigger hut.”

“I’ll make your wish come true. Go back home and you will find what you have asked for,” said the fish.

Thulani threw the fish back into the water and it swam away quickly.

When Thulani got back home, he saw that his small hut was now much bigger. His wife was pleased, but the next evening, Thulani wasn’t smiling. He said to his wife, “I made a mistake. I wished for a larger hut. Why didn’t I ask for a big house with lots of trees in the garden, a cook and lots of money?”

So the next day, he went back to the lake and spoke to the fish.

“Golden fish, I wish I had a big stone house and a garden full of trees, a cook and lots of money.”

“I’ll make your wish come true,” replied the fish. “Go back home and you’ll find what you’ve asked for.”

When Thulani got back he saw everything he wished for. The trees were beautiful, the stone house was large. A cook was making a delicious meal. Thulani saw a purse on the table. Inside the purse there was a lot of money. For a whole week, he was pleased, but then, he said to his wife, “I am an important man now. I deserve more. I’ll go back to the fish and ask him for what I deserve.”

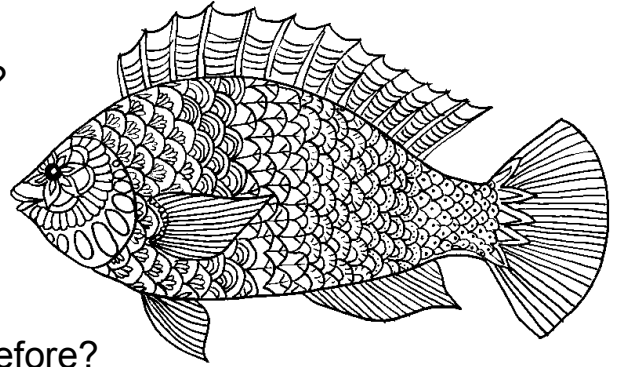
So Thulani went back to the lake again and called to the fish, “Golden fish, give me everything I deserve!”

Once more the fish replied, “I’ll make your wish come true. Go home and you will find what you have asked for.”

When Thulani got back home he saw the small hut he used to live in. “This is what I deserve”, he said to himself. “I wasn’t grateful for the things I had.”

## Answer the questions

1. What is this?  
a) information about fishing  
b) a traditional story  
c) a true story about a fisherman
2. How many wishes did the fish give Thulani?
3. What was Thulani's first wish?
4. How did his wife feel about the change?
5. Why wasn't Thulani happy?
6. What was his second wish?
7. What is the message of the story?
8. Have you heard other stories like this before?
9. What would you ask the golden fish for?



## Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

**stone      cook      purse      catch      lake      mistake**

1. There are lots of little fish in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ a fish in your hands.
3. I put the money into my \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ made the dinner.
5. The house was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I made a \_\_\_\_\_ in my homework.

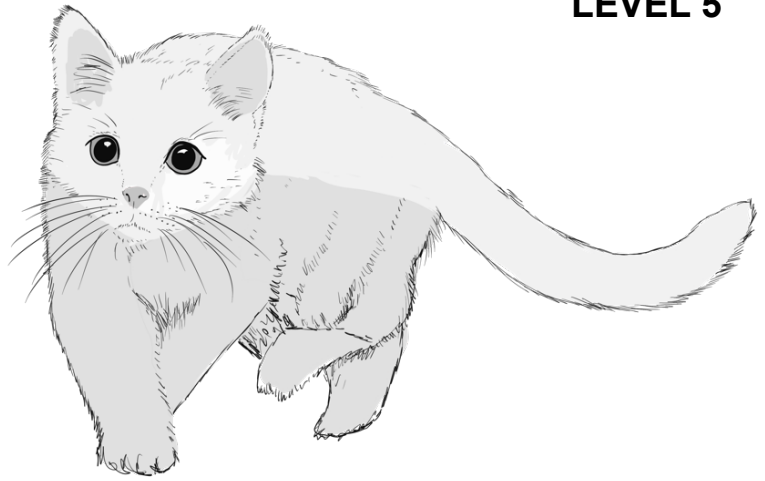
## Match the words with the definitions

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. to deserve | a) happy  |
| 2. to smile   | b) to earn something because of being good or bad |
| 3. a wish     | c) saying thank you for what you have             |
| 4. whole      | d) all of something                               |
| 5. pleased    | e) fast   |
| 6. quickly    | f) something you want a lot                       |
| 7. grateful   | g) to make your face look happy                   |

# Two cat poems

## Before you read

- Do you like cats?
- What do they like to eat?
- Are they useful animals?



## 1. Pangur Ban

*This poem is more than a thousand years old.*

Oh Pangur Ban, my little white cat,  
How happy we are together.  
You and I are here alone  
With nobody else to bother us.  
You have your work and I have mine.  
You have to hunt mice.  
I have to study.  
Your eyes are on the hole in the wall.  
My eyes are on a book.  
You are happy when you catch a mouse.  
I am happy when I understand an idea.  
We are both pleased with our own work.  
We don't stop the other from working.  
We can live together and never get bored.

## Answer the questions

1. In the poem both the cat and the writer are working. What are they doing?
2. Both the cat and the writer are happy about something. What are they happy about?
3. How does the writer feel about his cat?
4. How do you feel when you focus on one piece of work?
5. Do you like this poem? Say why you like it or why you don't like it.

## Looking at words

Choose a word from the poem to complete the sentences.

**together    understand    alone    hunt    stop    else**

1. The noisy dogs \_\_\_\_\_ me from sleeping.
2. Trying to \_\_\_\_\_ new ideas can be difficult.
3. The cat likes to \_\_\_\_\_ small birds and animals.
4. When I am \_\_\_\_\_ I can think clearly.
5. There was nobody \_\_\_\_\_ in the room.
6. I'm bored with working alone. Let's work on this \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. The Hunt

She sees a bird. She wants it.  
She lies down flat and crawls.  
She runs so fast she doesn't touch the ground,  
Her eyes are as round as balls.

Her mouth moves a little, hungry.  
She imagines the bird in her mouth.  
She jumps, but the bird jumped first.  
Poor cat, your bird has gone south.

Your hopes for a bird supper  
Made your tongue hang out.  
You jumped too late, your bird has gone.  
You'll have to go without.

*Adapted from a poem by Emily Dickinson (USA, 1830 - 1886)*

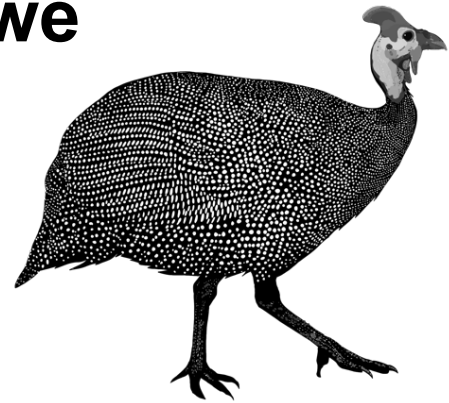


- Which poem do you prefer? Why?
- How is the second poem similar to the first one?
- How is it different?
- Find the **rhyming words** in the second poem.

# Three birds of Zimbabwe

## Before you read

- How many bird names do you know?
- What is your favourite bird?



## 1. Southern Yellow-Billed Hornbill

The hornbill is one of Zimbabwe's most famous birds. You can often find it in woodlands, because it likes to sleep high up in trees. It has a long yellow beak which curves down to the ground. The beak looks very big on the bird's body. It has a long tail, long eyelashes, short legs and little toes. Its eyes are yellow and its feathers are grey and white. The hornbill likes to eat insects, like caterpillars, ants and grasshoppers, and it also eats fruit, nuts and eggs from other birds. It has a loud voice and you can hear its cry from a long way away.

## 2. Helmeted Guineafowl

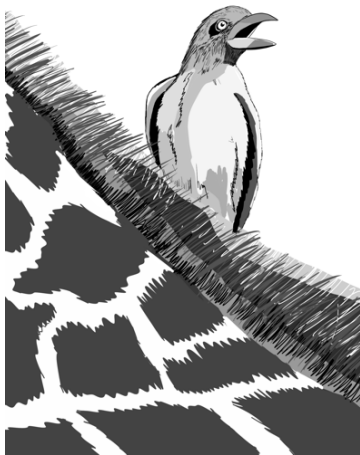
This is a large bird with a round body and a small blue head. It has grey and black feathers, with white spots. It has short wings and it can't fly very far, but it is very good at walking. It can walk 10 kilometres a day, and it can run fast. Guineafowl like to live in groups of about 25. When they see danger, they make a very loud noise together. When they live in villages and towns they often wake people up early in the morning. They like eating ticks, crickets, spiders, small snakes and frogs, but they also eat plants and seeds. Their claws are sharp and they can dig well.

## 3. Red-billed Oxpecker

This bird has yellow and red eyes and grey feathers. Its beak is sharp and pointed and bright red. It makes a sound like a hiss and a crack and it flies fast and in straight lines. The oxpecker lives in holes in trees and it uses hair from cows and other animals to make its nest comfortable. You can often see this bird where cows and zebras are eating grass. It likes to eat the ticks that live in the hair and skin of animals, but it is not all good news for the zebras and the cows! The oxpecker loves to drink blood and pecks at the animals' skin to drink.

## Answer the questions

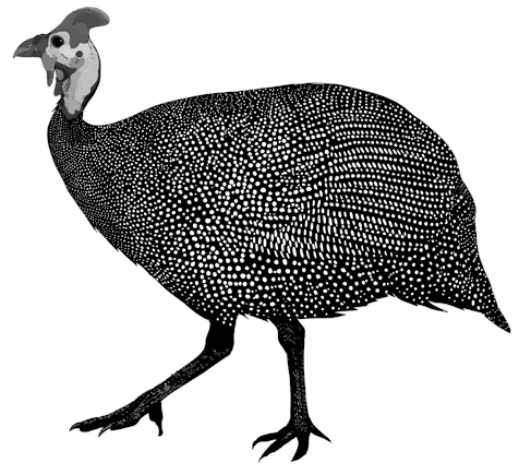
Match the bird to the pictures.



Number \_\_\_\_



Number \_\_\_\_



Number \_\_\_\_

Are these sentences about the Hornbill, the Guineafowl or the Oxpecker?

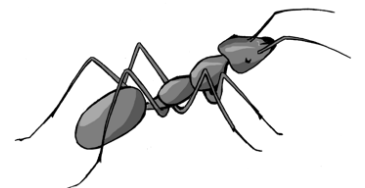
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ drinks the blood of other animals.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes eats frogs and small snakes.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ eats grasshoppers, nuts and eggs.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ can't fly very well.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ likes sleeping high in the trees.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ flies in straight lines.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ both have very loud voices.



## Looking at words

Put the words into the right boxes

ant   beak   claws   cow   cricket   feathers   frog   grasshopper  
holes   nest   snake   tick   wings   woodlands   zebra



Animals	Insects	Parts of a bird	Places birds/animals live

# The fox and the crow

## Before you read

- What do you know about foxes?
- What noise does a crow make?
- This traditional story was written more than two thousand years ago.

One day a hungry fox was walking along, when he saw a crow high up in a tree. The crow had a piece of cheese in his beak.

The fox called up to the crow, "Hello, there, my very good friend. I hope you are well."

The crow said nothing, but nodded his head at the fox.

"I have to say I have never seen such a fine bird as you before in my whole life! Your feathers are the shiniest black. They are as black as the darkest midnight on a starless night."

The crow nodded again, but didn't reply.

"And to tell you the truth," the fox continued, "your beak is beautifully curved. It reminds me of the curve of a new moon up in the sky."

Again, the crow nodded, looking pleased with the fox's praise.

"And I can't help noticing your splendid tail. It is the perfect shape and length. I don't think there can be a more beautiful bird than you anywhere in the world."

The crow nodded again at the fox, happy that someone at last recognized his beauty. But still he didn't open his beak.

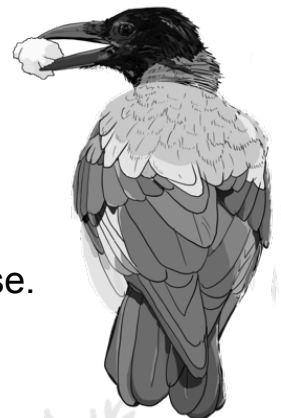
"I wonder," said the fox, "what your voice is like. A bird as beautiful as you are must surely sing the sweetest songs. I'm certain your voice is like honey. Will you sing for me, please? Just a few notes? I would be so grateful."

Finally, the crow opened his beak.

"Caw!" he sang.

"Caw! Caw!

Caw!"



As he sang, the cheese fell from his beak onto the ground next to the fox. The fox snapped it up in one bite, and it was gone in a moment.

“Well, my friend,” the fox explained to the angry crow, as he walked away. “I have taught you a useful lesson, I hope. Don’t trust sweet words. People who flatter you usually want something in return. I think that is a cheap lesson for the price of a piece of cheese.”

## Answer the questions

1. What kind of story is this?  
A. a funny story about lots of animals  
B. a story with a message  
C. a true story about animals  
D. a modern story about birds
2. What does the fox praise about the crow?  
A. his intelligence and appearance  
B. his beautiful home  
C. his movement and shape  
D. his appearance and voice
3. How does the crow feel about the praise?  
A. He is bored.  
B. He is pleased.  
C. He doesn’t trust the fox.  
D. He wants the fox to stop it.
4. How does the fox get the crow to open his beak?  
A. He asks for his opinion.  
B. He asks him for a story.  
C. He asks for the cheese.  
D. He asks for a song.
5. What is the message of this story?  
A. Flattery will not work on most people.  
B. If you can’t say nice things, be silent.  
C. Don’t listen to people who flatter you.  
D. The best people say the nicest things.



## Looking at words

1. The fox \_\_\_\_\_ up the cheese in one bite.  
A. snapped      B. opened      C. nodded      D. flattered
2. I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ anyone in this photograph.  
A. explain      B. called      C. recognise      D. flatter
3. I am very \_\_\_\_\_ to you for all your hard work.  
A. splendid      B. grateful      C. angry      D. cheap
4. Thank you for your kind words but I think you are \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
A. curving      B. recognising      C. flattering      D. explaining
5. I hope this was a \_\_\_\_\_ lesson for you.  
A. grateful      B. useful      C. certain      D. angry
6. It’s always nice to hear \_\_\_\_\_ about yourself.  
A. praise      B. honey      C. lesson      D. shape



# The golden cup

## Before you read

- Do you know any traditional stories about kings?
- What kinds of treasures do you think they owned?



Long ago there was a king who lived in a great city in Africa. He was very rich, and he had more than a hundred servants. His home was full of beautiful things from many different countries. He owned precious jewels from India, marvellous carpets from Turkey, beautiful pottery from China and lots of other priceless things. The king's favourite treasure was a gold cup which was a gift from the Queen of Sheba.

One day, the King was hunting. When he returned, he saw that his favourite gold cup had been stolen. He was furious, and he suspected his servants of the crime. He questioned all of them, but could not discover the truth. Then his youngest daughter came up to him and whispered in his ear. She had a plan to find the thief and to get his cup back.

The king called all his household together to the great courtyard. Everyone was there: all the king's family, his guards and his servants. In a loud voice, he made an announcement to the assembly.

"Listen to my daughter," he said. "She has magic powers. She will find the thief in my household."

The daughter stepped forward.

"It is very simple," she said quietly. "Here in my hand are some magic sticks. They are all the same length, as you can see. Each of you must take one and come back tomorrow with your own stick. The stick which belongs to the thief of the gold cup will grow by the length of a finger by tomorrow morning. I will measure them all then."

All the household took their sticks and left the courtyard, chattering excitedly.

The next day, everybody was back in the courtyard, with their sticks in their hands. They queued up to show the King's daughter their stick. Soon, she cried out, "This is the thief! Here he is. It's my uncle!"

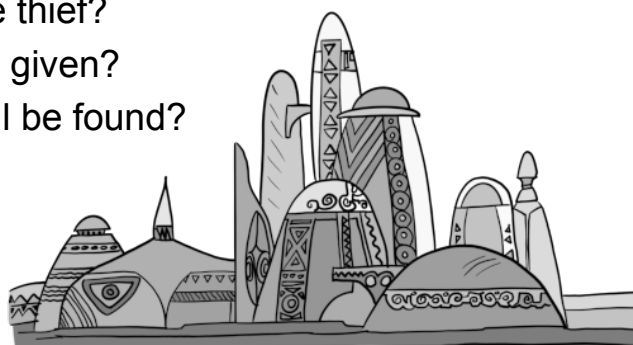
The guards searched the uncle's hut and found the golden cup hidden under his bed.

"But how did you know?" asked the king's brother, angrily. "My stick was no longer than anyone else's."

"I know it wasn't." replied the girl. "But you are the only person who has cut off the end of their stick."

## Answer the questions

- What is the story about?  
a) finding treasure      b) a magic cup      c) catching a thief
- Which belongings of the king does the story mention?
- What was happening when his cup was stolen?
- Who makes a suggestion for finding the thief?
- What object was everyone in the crowd given?
- How does the daughter say the thief will be found?
- Could the daughter really do magic?



## Looking at words

### Match the words with the definitions

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. chatter      | a. a line of people                    |
| 2. queue        | b. how long something is               |
| 3. suspect      | c. to talk in a lively way             |
| 4. announcement | d. a group of people gathered together |
| 5. assembly     | e. a public speech, giving news        |
| 6. length       | f. to think something (without proof)  |

### Put the words with the right headings.

Precious things	Places	People	Describing words (adjectives)	Action words (verbs)

Africa	carpets	China	cup	cut
daughter	furious	gold	hunt	jewels
king	measure	pottery	priceless	return
rich	search	servant	Sheba	simple
thief	Turkey	uncle		

# Below our feet

## Before you read

- What do you know about soil?
- What do you think is in it?

## What is soil?

Soil is a layer that covers the land. It is made of a mixture of sand, bits of rock, water, air and humus. Humus is organic material: it is dead plant and animal material, and plants need it to grow.

## Why is good soil important?

Good soil is important for us because we need plants to eat. Good soil makes growing plants much easier.

## Is soil alive or dead?

Millions of tiny plants, insects and other animals live in the soil. You can see some of them, but most of them are too small to see. Most of these creatures are good for the soil. They break up the dead plants into useful plant food, and they make the soil healthy.

## What is under the soil?

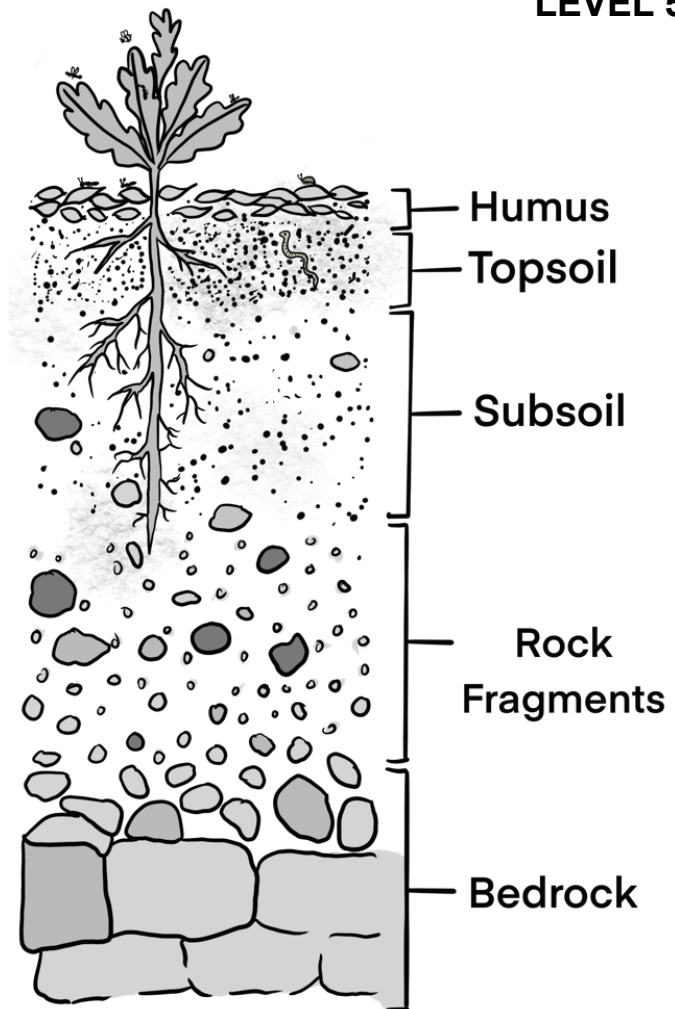
Below our feet there are different layers of soil. The first layer is top soil, which has most of the living things in it. This is what plants need to put their roots into to grow. Then there is subsoil, which has more rocks and less plant food in it. After that, there is bedrock, which is too hard for tree roots to find water.

## What is the best soil for plants?

The best soil is called 'loam'. This is soil which has sand and lots of humus (organic material). It holds water better, and has lots of plant food in it.

## How do you make soil better?

There are lots of ways to make sandy soil better, but one of the oldest ways is to make compost. This is like humus. It is made from dead leaves, grass and other waste. Farmers use compost to make the plants grow better and to produce more food for us.



## Answer the questions

### True or False?

1. It doesn't matter what soil you use to grow plants.
2. Soil is made of humus, sand, bits of rock, air and water.
3. Insects are bad for the health of the soil.
4. Plant roots go into the soil to get plant food.
5. Subsoil has more plant food in it than topsoil does.
6. Farmers use waste material to make compost.

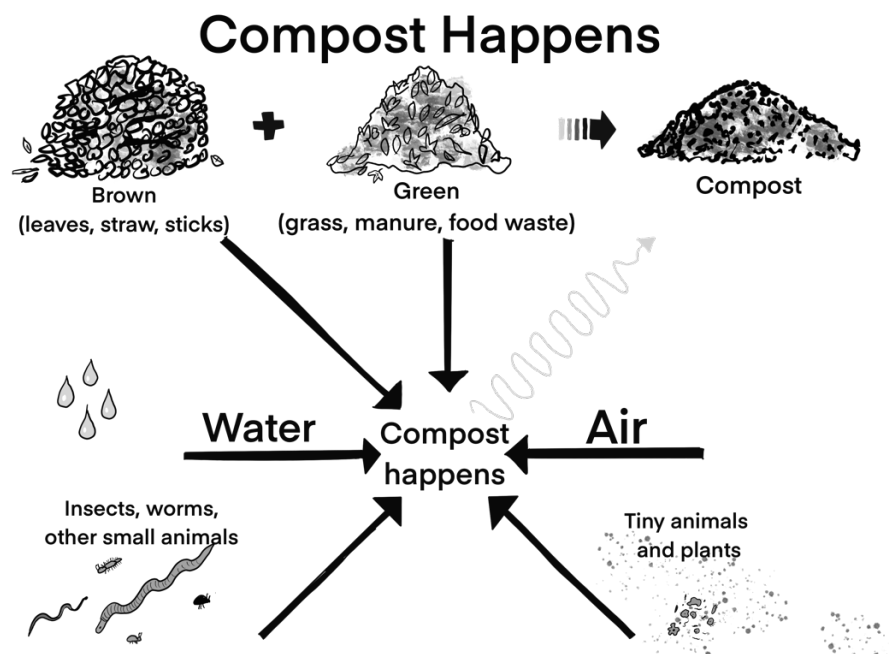
### Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

material    topsoil    farmers    soil    roots    compost    insects

1. The three layers of soil are \_\_\_\_\_, subsoil and bedrock.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ use compost to make the soil healthy.
3. Humus is the dead plant and animal \_\_\_\_\_ that helps plants to grow.
4. There are millions of tiny \_\_\_\_\_ and other animals living in the soil.
5. You can make \_\_\_\_\_ out of dead leaves, grass and other waste.
6. The best type of \_\_\_\_\_ is called loam.
7. Plants put their \_\_\_\_\_ into the soil to find water and food.

### Match the words with the definitions.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1. useful  | a) not alive   |
| 2. healthy | b) made from materials which are or were living things |
| 3. sand    | c) can be used   |
| 4. organic | d) material which is left over or unwanted             |
| 5. dead    | e) <b>very</b> small pieces of rock                    |
| 6. waste   | f) in good condition                                   |



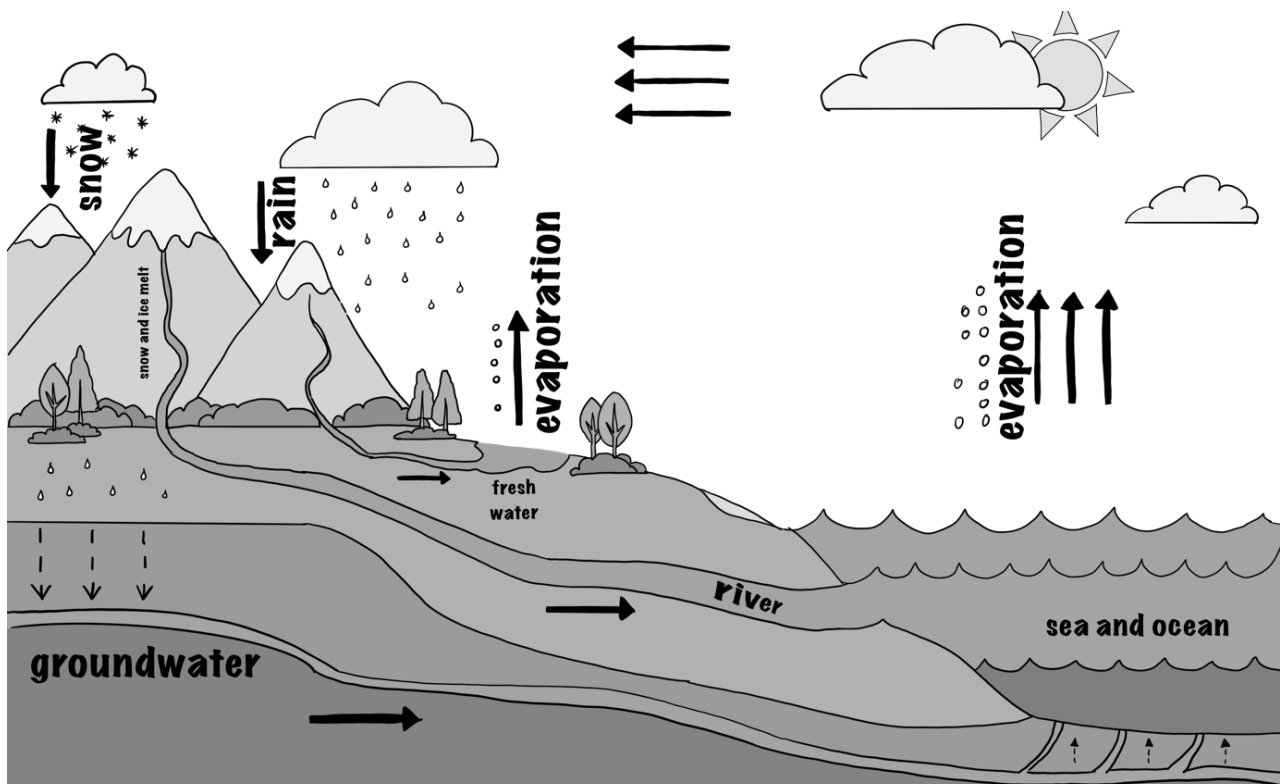
# What is the water cycle?

## Before you read

- How many water words can you think of?
- What's the difference between a **river**, a **lake** and a **sea**?

Water is always moving. You can't make it and you can't destroy it. It is recycled again and again and again. The process is called the water cycle.

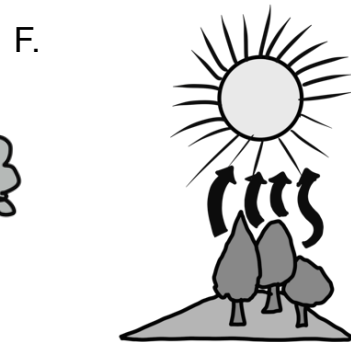
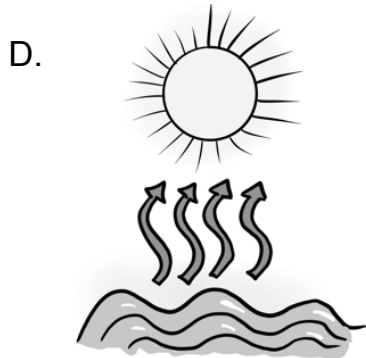
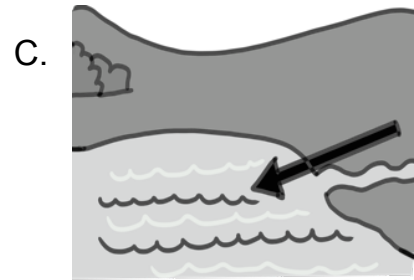
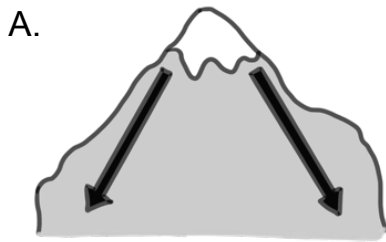
1. When the sun shines, the water everywhere heats up. The water in the land, in the rivers, lakes and seas gets warmer and changes into water vapour. The water vapour goes up into the air. (This is called **evaporation**.)
2. Plants lose water through their leaves. This water vapour also rises up into the sky. (This is called **transpiration**.)
3. When the water vapour gets higher up it cools down. Then it changes back into little drops of water to make clouds. (This is called **condensation**.)
4. When the clouds are full of water drops, they become heavy. Then the water falls back to the ground as rain or snow. (This is called **precipitation**.)
5. The rain water goes down mountains and hills to lakes and rivers. (This is called **run off**.)
6. The rivers take it back to the sea. The water cycle starts again. (This is called **collection**.)



## Answer the questions

Put the pictures in the order of the text, and match them with the words.

collection    transpiration    precipitation    evaporation    condensation    run off



### Are these sentences true or false?

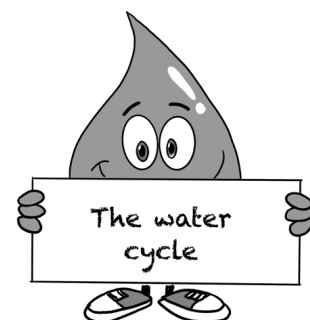
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Water cannot be made or destroyed.            | TRUE / FALSE |
| 2. When water gets colder it turns into vapour.  | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. The sun turns water into vapour.              | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. When vapour goes up, it gets warmer.          | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. When vapour gets cold it becomes water again. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 6. Plants lose water vapour through the ground.  | TRUE / FALSE |
| 7. The water moves from the sea to the rivers.   | TRUE / FALSE |

## Looking at words

Choose the right word.

cycle    snow    sea    leaves    vapour    drops

1. Water \_\_\_\_\_ make the clouds heavier.
2. Rivers take rain water into the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Water \_\_\_\_\_ is lighter than water drops.
4. Water falls to the ground from clouds as rain or \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The water \_\_\_\_\_ is the movement of water from one form to another.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ on plants lose water in transpiration.



# The unluckiest man in the world

## Before you read

Can you think of examples of good luck and bad luck?

Samero thought he was the unluckiest man in the world. He decided to go on a journey to ask a wise woman how to change his fortune. On the way, he met an unhappy lion.

“What’s the matter?” Samero asked the lion.

“I don’t know. I feel weak, but I don’t know why,” the lion replied.

“I’m going to see the wise woman to change my fortune. I’ll ask about your problem, too,” Samero told the lion.

Next on the road, he met an unhappy young woman.

“What is the matter?” Samero asked.

“I am bored and sad but I don’t know why,” she replied.

“When I see the wise woman, I’ll ask her about your problem, too,” he promised her.

Next Samero met an unhappy tree.

“What’s the matter?” he asked the tree.

“I don’t know. I am not growing properly. Something seems to be wrong.”

“When I meet the wise woman, I’ll ask about your problem too,” he told the tree.

At last Samero arrived at the wise woman’s hut.

“How can I change my fortune?” he asked her.

“The answer is right in front of you. You only have to open your eyes.”

Samero also asked about the problems of those he met on his way there, and then he started on his journey back home.

He got to the tree, and he told the tree what the wise woman had said.

“There’s a big box of gold buried under your roots,” he explained. “You need someone to take the gold away before you can grow strong again. “Please can you do this for me?” asked the tree. “You can keep the gold.”

“No, sorry,” said Samero, sadly. “I can’t. I have no time. I have to go back home and find my luck. The wise woman told me it was right in front of me.”

So Samero walked on. He came to the young woman and told her the wise woman’s advice.

“You are bored and sad because you are lonely. You should find a good man to be your friend and husband,” he explained.

“Then will you stay and we can marry?” she asked. “I like you, and I think you would be a good husband.”





“No, sorry,” he said, sadly. “I can’t. I have no time. I have to go back home and find my luck. The wise woman told me it was right in front of me.”

Samero continued his journey till he came to the lion. He told him the wise woman’s advice.

“You are weak because you are hungry,” he explained. “You should eat the first stupid idiot who comes your way.”

So then the lion ate Samero, and he never got back home to find his luck.

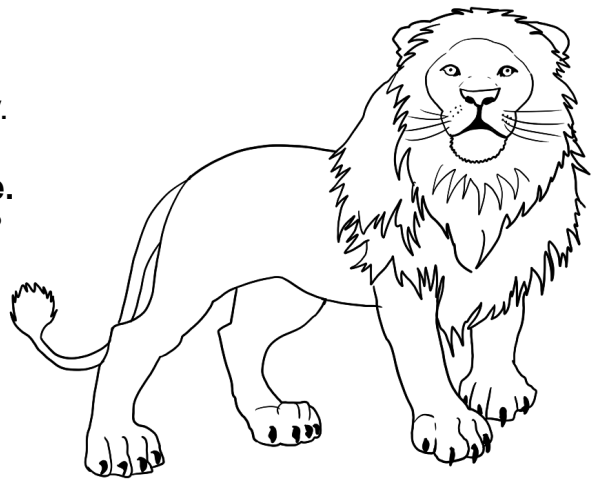
## Answer the questions

### Match the people with their problems.

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Samero          | a) isn’t growing properly. |
| 2. The young woman | b) feels weak.             |
| 3. The lion        | c) is bored and sad.       |
| 4. The tree        | d) thinks he is unlucky.   |

### The wise woman gives four pieces of advice. What advice does she give to these people?

1. The wise woman tells Samero to...
2. She says that the tree needs....
3. She advises the young woman to...
4. The wise woman tells the lion to..



### What do you think the message of this story is?

## Looking at words

### Choose a word to complete the sentences.

journey    idiot    gold    husband    luck    advice

1. My grandfather often gives me good \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The ring was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It was good \_\_\_\_\_ for me to meet you.
4. It was a long \_\_\_\_\_ by bus into the city,
5. My aunt’s \_\_\_\_\_ is my uncle.
6. Don’t be an \_\_\_\_\_! Think before you speak!



### Match the words with the definitions.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1. weak     | a) clever and knowing many things                |
| 2. bored    | b) in the right way                              |
| 3. lonely   | c) the opposite of strong                        |
| 4. properly | d) feeling sad because of not having any friends |
| 5. wise     | e) the opposite of interested                    |



# The hare and the tortoise

## Before you read

- What do you know about tortoises and hares?
- Have you ever seen these animals?
- Do you know the story about the hare and the tortoise?
- This poem is based on a traditional story by Aesop. He wrote the story more than 2,600 years ago!



A tortoise walked along the track. She didn't need to worry.  
She had her home upon her back. She wasn't in a hurry.

On that same track a busy hare was running very fast.  
He nearly kicked poor Tortoise, as he was going past.

"Look out, I'm here!" the tortoise said. "Watch where you put your feet.  
You should remember, Mr Hare, we have to share the street."

"I didn't see you," said the hare. "You gave me such a shock.  
You were hardly moving there. I thought you were a rock."

"You move too fast," the tortoise said. "Your speed makes me dizzy.  
Just slow down and take your time. No need to be so busy."

"That's where you're wrong, my little friend. You're really very slow.  
You'll take a hundred thousand years to get where you must go."

"Let's have a race," the tortoise said. "You think you are so smart.  
From here down to the river there. I'll give you a head start."

"A race with me?", the hare replied. "I think you must be crazy.  
"Against you, I know I'll win. You're far too slow and lazy."

The race began. The tortoise ran. The hare was running faster.  
“No walking rock can out-run me,” said Hare. “I am the master.”

The hare looked back along the track. Tortoise was far behind.  
“I said I’d win. Of course I will. She is out of her mind.”

“I’m so much quicker,” thought the hare. “I’m already halfway there.  
I’ll have a nap. No need for speed. There is time to spare.”

“A little sleep under this tree, then I’ll be on my way.  
I’ve time to run this race three times. Tortoise will take all day.

The hare slept longer than he thought. There was the setting sun.  
And at the river, the tortoise stood. She had already won.

You’ve heard the story of this race and so what has it taught us?  
Don’t be like that boasting hare. Be like the steady tortoise.

The fastest does not always win. Boasting does not pay.  
Just keep trying. Don’t give up and you will win the day.

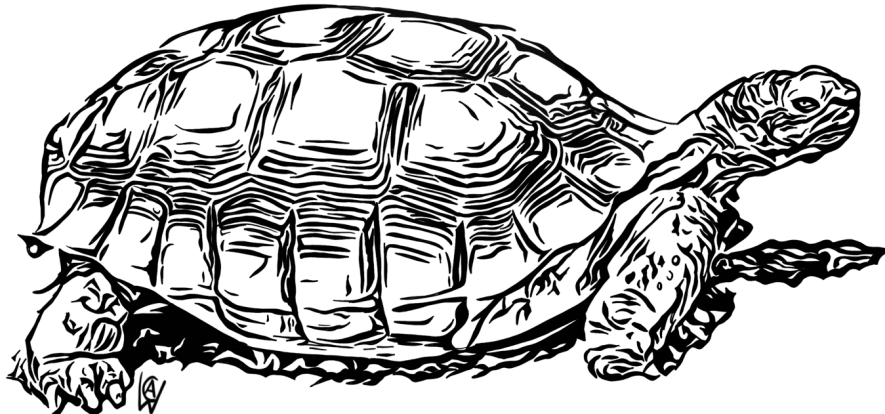
## Answer the questions

1. What is the message of the story?
2. What mistake did the hare make when he decided to have nap?

## Looking at words

Find words at the ends of the lines that rhyme with:

eat • hair • meat • one • toe



# The monkey and the elephant

## Before you read

- What is **harvest time**? When is harvest time for maize?
- What are **crops**? Can you think of three examples of crops?



Once there was an elephant who was good friends with a monkey.

“Listen,” Elephant said to Monkey one day. “We should plant some crops. It’s easier than having to go out to look for food every day.”

“Excellent idea, my friend,” said Monkey. “We can each work on our own fields and then share what we grow.”

However, Monkey was very lazy. He planted nothing in his own fields, but he pretended to Elephant that he was working hard to grow lots of food. When it was harvest time, Elephant invited Monkey to eat some maize with him.

“My maize is very good,” said Elephant, “but perhaps yours will be even better.”

“I’ll bring some tomorrow and we’ll find out,” said Monkey.

That night, when Elephant was sleeping, Monkey went into Elephant’s fields and stole some of his maize. The next day, Monkey arrived at Elephant’s house, saying “Here is some of my harvest. But I have bad news. Someone stole some food from my fields last night.”

“They stole from mine too!” said Elephant. “How awful!”

Elephant thought to himself, “This looks just like my own maize. Is Monkey tricking me? I’ll set a trap to catch him.” So after monkey had gone home, he made a statue of a man from wet mud and sticks, and put it by his crops.

That night, Monkey came back to steal again. He saw the mud man, and he was afraid. He shouted out, “Who are you, there, stealing from my friend Elephant?” and he hit the mud man with one hand. His hand stuck in the mud and Monkey shouted again, “Get off me, you thief!” Monkey hit the mud man with his other hand and that got stuck in the mud too.

When morning came, Elephant came to his field and he found Monkey stuck to the Mud Man. He guessed what had happened.

“You tricked me and stole my maize, Monkey. I’m going to punish you. I could stamp on you, or sit on you!”

“The worst punishment for me,” said Monkey, “would be if you threw me up into that tree. I know I would hate that. Please don’t throw me up that tree there.”

Elephant picked Monkey up by his tail and threw him high into the tree to punish him.

Monkey ran away, laughing and rudely shouted down at Elephant. "I was born in high trees, Elephant. Trees don't scare me!"

And that is the reason why the monkey and the elephant are not friends.

### Answer the questions

- What is the story about?
  - a lazy elephant who steals food
  - friends who work well together
  - a monkey who tricks his friend
  - ways to grow maize
- How much work did Monkey do in his fields?
  - none at all
  - more than Elephant
  - the same as Elephant
  - a little
- Where did Monkey get maize to bring to Elephant?
  - from his own fields
  - from Elephant's fields
  - from the market
  - from a shop
- What was Elephant's statue of a man made of?
  - maize and sticks
  - maize and mud
  - sticks and stones
  - mud and sticks
- What happened to Monkey when he hit the mud man?
  - The mud man ran away.
  - The mud man fell over.
  - Monkey's hands got stuck.
  - Elephant heard.
- How did Elephant punish Monkey?
  - He stamped on him.
  - He threw him into a tree.
  - He did nothing.
  - He sat on him.



### Looking at words

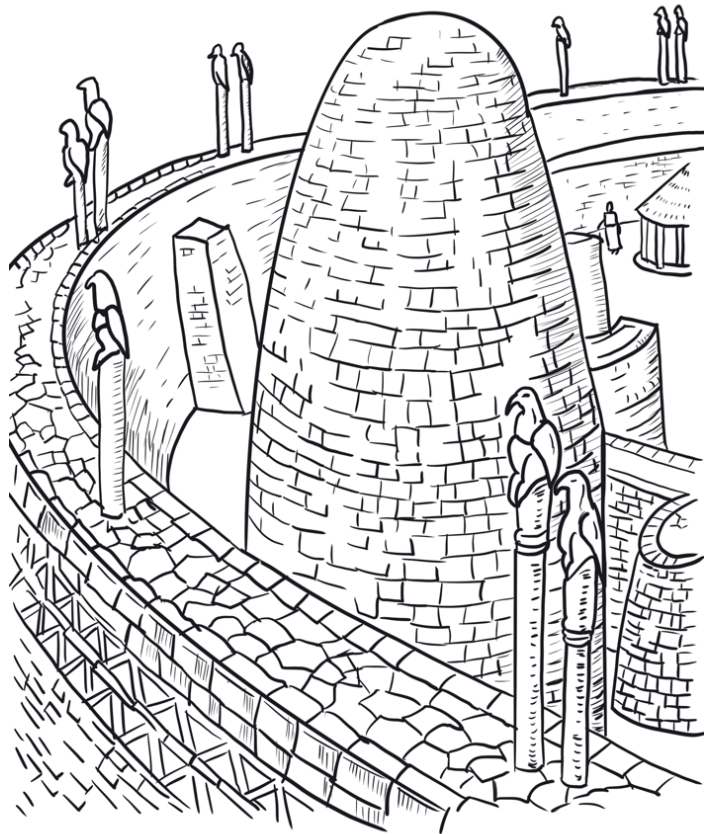
- The thief \_\_\_\_\_ the food from the bag.
  - pretended
  - stuck
  - stole
  - put
- My foot got \_\_\_\_\_ in the mud.
  - scared
  - thrown
  - stuck
  - punished
- I'm sorry to hear about your broken leg. How \_\_\_\_\_!
  - excellent
  - rudely
  - awful
  - lazy
- My brother was \_\_\_\_\_ to be asleep, but I saw him open one eye.
  - trapping
  - punishing
  - bringing
  - pretending
- The hunter \_\_\_\_\_ a trap for rabbits.
  - set
  - guessed
  - invited
  - planted
- I didn't know for sure, but I \_\_\_\_\_ the right answer.
  - threw
  - stuck
  - guessed
  - stole

# Great Zimbabwe

## Before you read

- Have you ever heard of Great Zimbabwe?
- What do you know about it?

Near the town of Masvingo in the south eastern hills of Zimbabwe, there is a ruined city called Great Zimbabwe. Although today nobody lives in the city, once up to 18,000 people lived there. The city covered an area of seven square kilometres. Storytellers sometimes call it the capital of the Queen of Sheba, but this is only a legend.



Great Zimbabwe was first founded as a city in the eleventh century, nearly 1,000 years ago. The Gokomere people, who were ancestors of the Shona people, chose this hilly spot as a good place to live and build. It is close to Lake Mutirikwe, so it was easy for the people to get water. The stone buildings we see now were built as a royal palace, but most people lived in simple huts around the larger buildings.

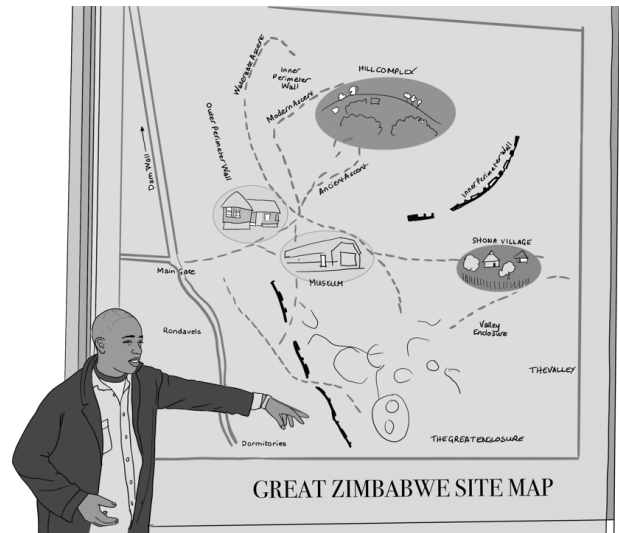
Great Zimbabwe grew, and by the thirteenth century it had become an important trading centre. Traders came from China, India and Persia to sell pottery, pens and other goods.

The city did well for three hundred years, but then it was abandoned. Nobody knows exactly why this happened. Historians think that perhaps it was because the climate changed, and the land around could not feed the people there.

Today, the ruined city is a national monument and a world heritage site. You can take a guided tour of the ancient city walls and visit the museum to learn of the history of the place and the people who built it. Inside the museum you can see some of the stone sculptures which were found on the site. The site is open every day of the year, and many visitors from all round the world come to see this very important historical monument.

## Answer the questions

- What is this text?
  - facts about a place
  - a story about a city
  - someone talking about a visit
- What is this text about?
  - the Gokomere people
  - the best museums in Zimbabwe
  - an important historical site



## True or False?

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. There is a lake near Great Zimbabwe.                      | TRUE / FALSE |
| 2. The Queen of Sheba lived in Great Zimbabwe.               | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. The site is closed at weekends.                           | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. Nobody knows exactly why the city was abandoned.          | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. More than 20,000 people lived there.                      | TRUE / FALSE |
| 6. The city lasted for at least three hundred years.         | TRUE / FALSE |
| 7. Most of the people of the city lived in the stone palace. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 8. The city traded with many different countries.            | TRUE / FALSE |

## Looking at words

Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

**simple   hilly   ancestors   abandoned   ruined   founded   traders**

- The city was \_\_\_\_\_ in the eleventh century.
- Great Zimbabwe is now a \_\_\_\_\_ city
- The Gokomere people were the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Shona people.
- The area around Great Zimbabwe is very \_\_\_\_\_.
- For 300 years \_\_\_\_\_ came to the city.
- Most of the people in the city lived in \_\_\_\_\_ huts.
- By the fifteenth century, the city was \_\_\_\_\_.

## Match the word with the definition.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. palace      | a) a story which is usually not true             |
| 2. pottery     | b) weather conditions                            |
| 3. goods       | c) a very large house, often for kings or queens |
| 4. storyteller | d) the most important city                       |
| 5. climate     | e) someone who tells a story                     |
| 6. legend      | f) pots, dishes etc. made of clay                |
| 7. capital     | g) things you own or can sell                    |

# Anansi and the talking melon



## Before you read

- Do you know anything about Anansi the Spider?
- What is he like?
- Have you ever eaten melons?
- How do they grow?

One day, Anansi the Spider was walking past Goat's garden. Anansi was hungry, and he saw a beautiful melon in the garden. He wanted to have it for himself. He climbed over the fence and bit a hole in the melon. He climbed into the hole, and when he was inside the melon he ate and ate. He tried to get out again but now he was too fat.

"Oh no! I'll have to wait here until I am thinner," Anansi thought.

Then Goat came into the garden and picked the melon and shook it, to feel how ripe it was.

"Ow!" said Anansi, inside the melon.

"Who is that?" asked Goat.

"It's me, the melon," replied Anansi.

"That's amazing! It's a talking melon!" said Goat. "I must take it to show the Queen."

So Goat set off. On the way she met Chicken.

"Where are you going with that melon?" asked Chicken.

"I'm taking it to the Queen," said Goat.

"That's silly. The Queen has lots of melons. She doesn't need yours," said Chicken.

"But this melon is special," replied Goat. "It can talk."

"A talking melon! Are you crazy?" said Chicken.

"Who are you calling crazy, you crazy chicken?" said Anansi to Chicken.

"Wow!" said Chicken, amazed. "It really does talk. I'll come with you to show it to the Queen."

On the way, they met lots of other animals. They were all amazed by Goat's talking melon. Goat and the other animals arrived at the Queen's palace.

"Why are all you people here? I was sleeping," said the Queen.

"We brought you an amazing thing," Goat answered. "It's a talking melon."

"Don't be so stupid," said the Queen. "Melons don't talk."

"Who are you calling stupid, you stupid Queen?" said Anansi inside the melon.

The Queen was furious, and she threw the melon out of the window. It broke into lots of pieces, in the long grass outside.

"How dare you come to me with such a rude melon!" the Queen said to the crowd of animals. "Now get out of my house and let me go back to sleep!"

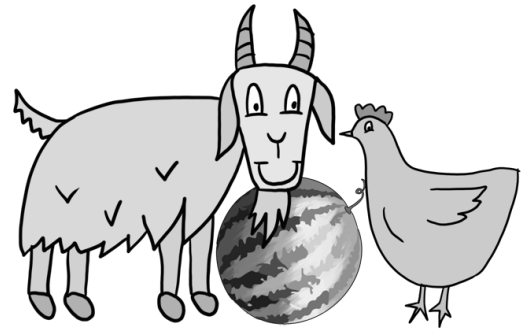
Sadly, Goat went back home to her garden, without the melon.

“I’ll never listen to a talking melon again,” said Goat to herself.

“That’s good,” said a mango from Goat’s tree. “You can never trust a talking melon.”

### Answer the questions

1. Why does Anansi the Spider climb over the fence?
2. How does Anansi eat the melon?
3. Why can’t he get out?
4. How does Anansi trick Goat?
5. Where does he decide to take the melon?
6. What happens when the Queen asks the melon to talk?
7. What does Goat hear when she gets back to her garden?
8. Do you like this story? Why? / Why not?



### Looking at words

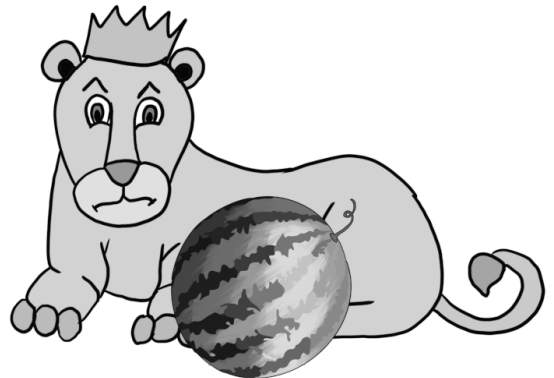
Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

**shake fence ripe crowd trust hole**

1. There was a big \_\_\_\_\_ of people outside the school.
2. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ in my shoe, and the water gets in.
3. You can borrow my bicycle. I \_\_\_\_\_ you to give it back.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was broken, so the goats got out.
5. This mango is green and hard. It’s not \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the bottle of fruit juice before you drink it.

### Match the words with the definitions.

- |            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. amazing | a) not intelligent, silly     |
| 2. rude    | b) very surprising, very good |
| 3. furious | f) in a sad way, not smiling  |
| 4. thin    | d) very angry                 |
| 5. stupid  | e) not polite                 |
| 6. sadly   | f) not fat                    |



### Writing

Put the events in the correct order. Then retell the story in 100 – 200 words.

- a) The Queen breaks the melon.
- b) The animals arrive at the Queen’s house.
- c) The mango talks to Goat.
- d) Goat meets Chicken.
- e) Anansi can’t get out.
- f) The Queen is angry.
- g) Anansi eats the melon.
- h) Anansi climbs the fence.





# A butterfly dream

## Before you read

- Do you ever dream about animals?
- Can you remember what you dreamt about last night?
- This poem is based on a dream of a writer called Zhuangzi who lived more than 2,200 years ago!

## A butterfly dream

Last night I had a butterfly dream.  
 I flew over a flowing stream.  
 My wings were fast, my colours bright.  
 Nothing more lovely than my flight.  
 A butterfly above the trees,  
 Moving on the gentle breeze.  
 No thoughts of my human life below.  
 Was it a dream? I just don't know.

My butterfly dream felt more than it seems.  
 I felt really alive in my dreams.  
 I wake this morning with no wings,  
 Unsure of what this morning brings.  
 I flew all night without a break.  
 Now it feels strange to be awake.

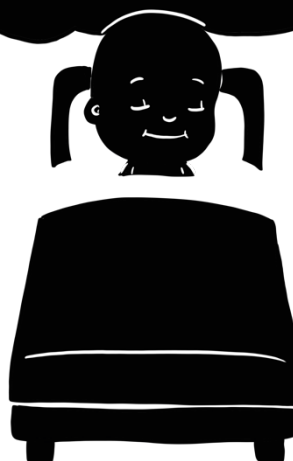
I'm not sure now what is true.  
 Who am I? I don't have a clue.  
 Is butterfly me really real?  
 Is human me how I feel?  
 And what difference does it make  
 If I don't know that I'm awake?

Last night I had a butterfly dream.  
 Things aren't always what they seem.

Am I dreaming?



Am I dreaming?



## Answer the questions

1. The writer dreamed that he was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) running by a river                      b) flying over trees  
c) asleep                                      d) a bird
2. The dream butterfly was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) slow and dark    b) bright and fast    c) strange                      d) one colour
3. When the writer wakes up he feels \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) relaxed                      b) strange                      c) really alive                      d) tired
4. The writer \_\_\_\_\_ what the dream means.  
a) is sure                      b) explains                      c) doesn't know                      d) asks us
5. Do you think this poem has a message? What is it?

## Looking at words

### Match the words with the definitions

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1. a stream | a) flying                    |
| 2. flight   | b) a woman, man, boy or girl |
| 3. breeze   | c) not dead                  |
| 4. unsure   | d) a small river             |
| 5. human    | e) a gentle wind             |
| 6. alive    | f) not certain               |



## Rhyming words

### Find the rhyming words in the poem

below    •    wings    •    make    •    true    •    real  
make    •    dream    •    bright    •    trees

## Writing

Write about one of your own dreams.

## Writing

Can you write a short poem about a butterfly?

# A good first impression

## Before you read

- Do you think first impressions are important?
- What do you think happens at a job interview?

Anopa was sixteen years old. He wanted to get a job as a mechanic. His father's friend owned a mechanics' shop in the next town. His father arranged for Anopa to have a job interview with the friend. Anopa had never met this friend of his father's before. He was hoping to make a good first impression. He planned what he would say, so he would get the job.

Anopa caught the bus into town, but the bus was slow and late. At one stop there was a man who had a lot of boxes. He was trying to put the boxes on top of the bus. Anopa was getting angry because he wanted to be on time for his interview.

"Can't you hurry up?" he shouted out of the window at the man. "Some of us have important things to do."

"I will be faster if you help me," replied the man.

"I don't want to help," replied Anopa. "I will spoil my good clothes if I get dusty and sweaty."

So the man loaded the boxes on his own, and eventually the bus drove off.

When they arrived in town, Anopa got off the bus and followed the directions his father had given him to his father's friend's shop.

"I'm here for an interview for a job," he told a mechanic.

"Come this way, through the work shop. The boss is right here in the office," said the man.

As soon as Anopa opened the door, he had a shock. There behind a desk was the man with the boxes from the bus.

"Ah yes, pleased to meet you, Anopa," said the man. "I see your clothes are nice and clean. It's very important to make a good first impression."



## Answer the questions

1. What job did Anopa want?
2. Who arranged for his interview?
3. What did Anopa do to prepare for his interview?
4. How did he get to his interview?
5. Why was Anopa getting angry?
6. Why didn't Anopa want to help the man on the bus?
7. Do you think he got the job? Why / Why not?
8. What do you think the message of this story is?



## Put the events from the story in the right order.

- a) Anopa got angry.
- b) Anopa found his father's friend's office.
- c) Anopa met his father's friend for the first time.
- d) Anopa met his father's friend for the second time.
- e) Anopa's father arranged an interview.
- f) Anopa got off the bus.

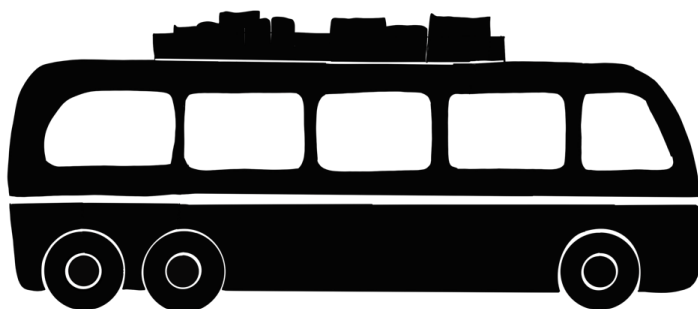
## Looking at words

### Match the words to the definitions.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. mechanic      | a) the person who is in charge, the most important person |
| 2. on time       | b) to damage something, to make something bad             |
| 3. dusty         | c) covered in sweat, from the heat or hard work           |
| 4. sweaty        | d) someone who fixes cars and other machines              |
| 5. boss          | e) the way to get somewhere                               |
| 6. job interview | f) at the right time, not late                            |
| 7. directions    | g) covered in dust, dirty                                 |
| 8. spoil         | h) a meeting to decide if somebody gets a job             |

## Write a summary of the story

If you want, you can change the characters, places and jobs. For example, Vimbai was going for an interview for a job as a hairdresser. Write 100 – 150 words.



# The Billy Goats Gruff



## Before you read

- What do you know about goats?
- What do you know about crocodiles?

Once long ago there were three billy goats who were brothers. Their family name was Gruff. One summer, the grass on their side of the river was brown. It was sweet and green on the other side. They decided to go there so they could eat it. They had to go over a bridge to cross the river. Under this bridge there was a big hungry crocodile. Its huge jaws were full of sharp teeth.

The youngest goat set out to cross the bridge. He wanted to be quiet, because he didn't want to wake the crocodile. When he stepped on the bridge, his hooves made a loud noise: "Trip, trap, trip, trap!"

The crocodile woke up and said, "Who is that crossing my bridge? I will eat you!"

"It's only me. I am the smallest Billy Goat Gruff," said the goat, in a small voice. "I'm crossing the river to eat the grass. You don't want to eat me. I'm too small and thin. You should wait until my big brother comes. He's much bigger than me. He will be a better meal for a big crocodile like you."

"Go on, then," said the crocodile. "I'll eat your brother when he comes."

Then the second goat stepped onto the bridge, and sound of his hooves was, "Trip, trap, trip, trap!"

"Who is that, crossing my bridge? I will eat you!" the crocodile shouted.

"It is only me, the second Billy Goat Gruff," the goat said. "I'm crossing the river to eat the grass. You don't want to eat me. You should wait until my big brother comes. He's much bigger than me."

"OK, you can go," said the crocodile. "I'll eat your brother when he comes."

The second goat crossed the bridge and the crocodile went back to sleep.

Then the third and biggest Billy Goat Gruff stepped onto the bridge.

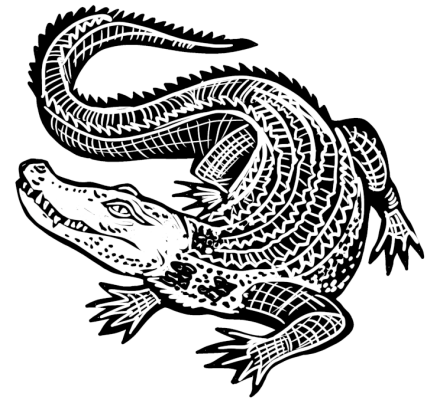
"Trip, trap, trip, trap!" was the noise of his hooves on the bridge, much louder than his brothers' hooves.

"Who is that crossing my bridge!" roared the crocodile.

"I am the biggest Billy Goat Gruff," said this goat in a big, deep voice. "I have big horns and strong hooves. I will fight you with my horns and kick you with my hooves."

The crocodile was not brave. He was afraid of the horns and the hooves which made such a loud noise on his bridge. The big goat started to run towards the crocodile, and the crocodile swam away as quickly as he could.

The goats all crossed safely to the other side of the river, and enjoyed eating the delicious green grass.



## Answer the questions

1. Why did the goats want to cross the bridge?
2. Who lived under the bridge?
3. Why did the first goat try to be quiet?
4. How did the first two goats persuade the crocodile to let them cross?
5. Why do you think the second goat made a louder noise on the bridge?
6. What did the third goat promise to do to the crocodile?
7. Why did the crocodile swim away?

## Looking at words

Find words in the story to match these definitions.

1. Goats and antelope have these on their heads.  
h \_\_\_\_\_
2. This is a word for the feet of horses, goats and antelopes etc.  
h \_\_\_\_\_
3. This is a word for the whole of the mouth, with all the teeth.  
j \_\_\_\_\_
4. This describes someone who is not afraid when there is danger.  
b \_\_\_\_\_
5. Lions and other large animals make this loud noise.  
r \_\_\_\_\_
6. This means in a way that isn't dangerous.  
s \_\_\_\_\_



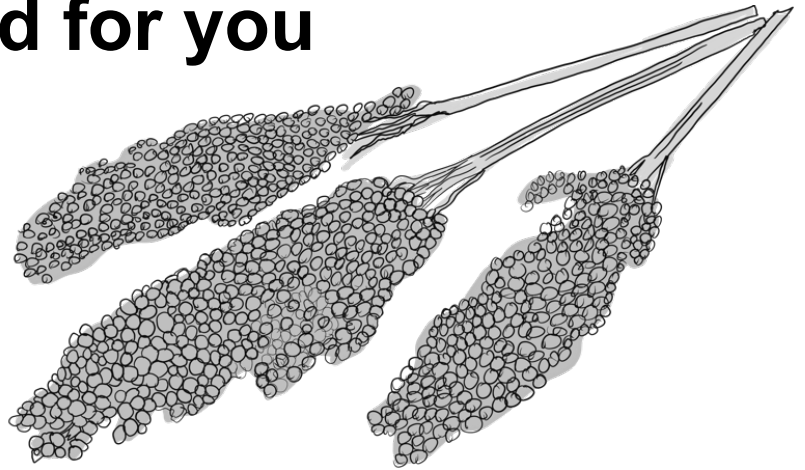
## Choose the right word.

1. How can we **step** / **cross** / **over** this river?
2. They **swam** / **stepped** / **sang** onto the bridge.
3. The crocodile **had** / **went** / **slept** back to sleep.
4. He didn't want **to make** / **do** / **be** a noise.
5. I **roared** / **kicked** / **fought the** ball as hard as I could.
6. The crocodile **grew** / **swam** / **crossed** away from the goat.

# Rapoko is good for you

## Before you read

- What grains are popular in Zimbabwe?
- Have you tried rapoko (or zviyo or finger millet)?
- Do you like it?



My name is Anodiwa and I'm from a farming family. We grow a variety of crops on our fields, but recently we've been growing more rapoko. This is another name for finger millet. My dad says it is the food of the future, because it is becoming more popular in our country and internationally. My grandmother says her grandparents used to grow it, so I guess it is also the food of the past!

It is easier to grow than maize because it doesn't need so much water. It's a plant that comes from Africa so it works better with our climate. It's drier than maize so it keeps for ages. You can store it for 50 years and it will still grow well! Dad says it's better than maize because you don't need to buy expensive seeds every year.

The grains are small, like little balls. When the rapoko is ready to harvest, the ears of grain turn golden brown. You cut them down and let them dry in the shade. Then you take the grain off the plant. You hit it lots of times and the grains fall off. This is called threshing. It's hard work, and it takes a long time. We hope that in the future we can buy a machine to do this.

You can make rapoko into flour and use it in lots of different recipes. We make sadza from rapoko, and I think it tastes better than sadza made with maize. It's full of energy and it has calcium in it, which makes your bones and teeth strong. Our family eats it with some chicken and greens. We all agree that it's delicious!



## Answer the questions

1. What crop do Anodiwa's family grow?
2. Is rapoko a new crop?
3. How do you know the grains are ready to harvest?
4. What do you have to do with the plants after cutting them?
5. What do Anodiwa's family want to buy?
6. How does Anodiwa like to eat rapoko?
7. How do you cook with it?

## Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

**calcium harvest shade climate energy crop**

1. The most important \_\_\_\_\_ on our farm is finger millet.
2. This food gives you lots of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This plant grows well in our country's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It is time to \_\_\_\_\_ the grains now.
5. The plants have to dry slowly in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. You need \_\_\_\_\_ to have strong teeth and bones.

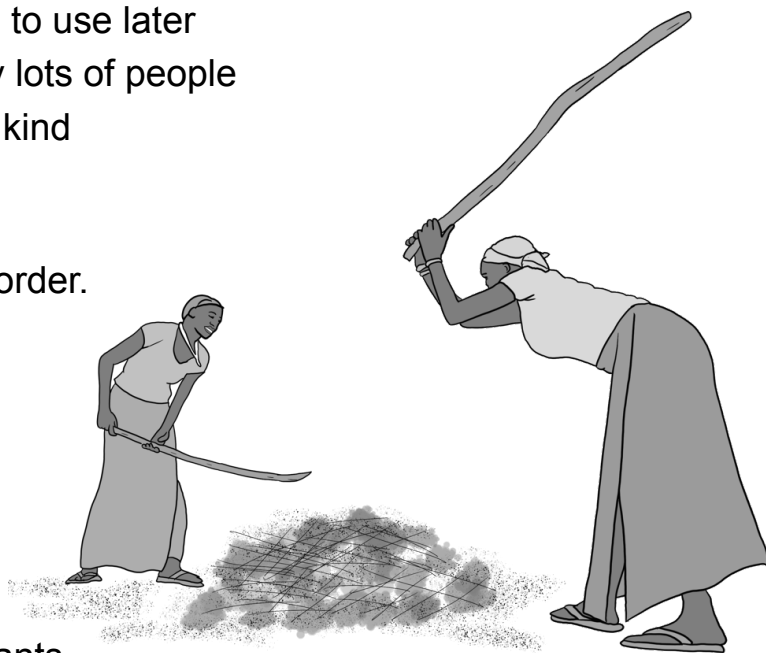
Match a word to the definition.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. expensive       | a) in countries all over the world                     |
| 2. variety         | b) to separate grain from the other parts of the plant |
| 3. internationally | c) not cheap, costing a lot of money                   |
| 4. popular         | d) to keep to use later                                |
| 5. store           | e) liked by lots of people                             |
| 6. thresh          | f) type or kind  |

## Writing

1. Put the instructions in the right order.

- a) harvest the plants
- b) plant the seeds
- c) cook and eat the grain
- d) store the grain
- e) water the seedlings
- f) dry the plants
- g) thresh the grain from the plants



2. Write instructions for how to grow rapoko. Use your own words.



# Why the hyena and the lion are not friends



## Before you read

- Here are some words from the story. How many do you know?  
**partnership leftovers share swap trick greed belly**
- What kind of story do you think this will be? What will it be about?

A hyena and a lioness who were hunting partners. Hyena found zebras and impalas to hunt, and she told Lion where they were. Hyena and Lion together were very efficient hunters. Hyena ran around and sent the prey towards Lion, and Lion killed them easily. Then they went to Lion's house to divide the meat. Lion always took the best parts and gave the leftovers to the hyena.

One day, after they had killed a fat zebra, Hyena started to think about this. She wasn't getting a fair share of the meat. Hyena said to Lion, "Today I'll take the good meat, and you can have the leftovers."

Lion laughed loudly, "What a good joke! No, the good meat is mine. The leftovers are what you hyenas get. Now carry my share of the meat back to my family. I want to have a nap in the shade here."

As usual, Hyena divided the meat into two bags. One big bag had the best meat, the second small bag had the rest. Hyena carried both bags back to Lion's house.

"This isn't a fair partnership," she thought. "Why should Lion have the best meat all the time?" When she got to Lion's house, she left the bag of leftovers instead of the best meat. Hyena took the other bag back to her own family, who lived in a cave behind some rocks. It felt good to give them the best of the food, and not the worst parts.

Later that evening, Hyena heard the Lion shouting her name outside her cave. Lion couldn't enter Hyena's house because the entrance was too narrow. She called out, "You made a mistake. I have your bag of leftovers. You have accidentally taken my bag of meat. I'm here to swap back again."

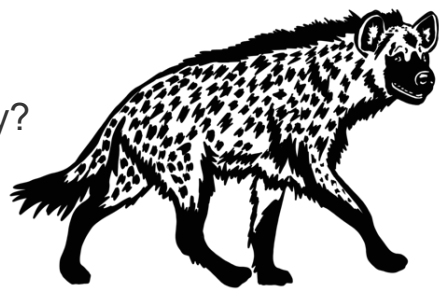
"Lion believes that she is better than me, even though she hardly works at all," Hyena thought angrily. "Just because she was born strong and powerful, she thinks she deserves the best of everything." She decided to trick Lion. She took some stones and wrapped them in some zebra skin. She called out to Lion. "I have your meat here. I'll throw it to you."

Hyena threw one stone and Lion swallowed it whole. Then Hyena threw another and another and another. Lion was so greedy, she didn't notice that the 'meat' was really stones. After Lion had eaten six large stones, her belly felt very full, and she went away to sleep off her dinner.

The next day the Lion was roaring with pain at the stones in her belly. She was furious with Hyena for her trick with the stones. She tried to find Hyena's house again, but she had moved. This is why today hyenas and lions are not friends any more. Lion has never forgotten Hyena's tricks with the stones, and Hyena has never forgiven Lion for the years of leftovers.

## Answer the questions

1. How did the two hunters divide their work
2. How did they divide the meat?
3. Who usually carried the meat to Lion's family?
4. How did Hyena feel about the partnership?
5. Where did Hyena's family live?
6. Why couldn't Lion come into Hyena's cave?
7. What trick did Hyena play on Lion?
8. What do you think is the message of the story?



## Looking at words

**Match the words with the definitions.**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. fair share | a) a short sleep                            |
| 2. partners   | b) dividing things equally                  |
| 3. furious    | c) stomach                                  |
| 4. greedy     | d) animals which are hunted for food        |
| 5. prey       | f) very angry                               |
| 6. leftovers  | g) not in the sun                           |
| 7. nap        | h) a big hole in some rocks                 |
| 8. shade      | i) wanting too much food, or money or power |
| 9. cave       | j) food that nobody else wants              |
| 10. swap      | k) people who work together on the same     |
| 11. belly     | l) exchange for something else              |

## Writing

**Write a summary of the story in 100 to 200 words.**

# Anansi and the pot of wisdom

## Before you read

- What do you know about Anansi the spider?
- What does **wisdom** mean?
- Can you really put wisdom in a pot?



One day Anansi the spider said to himself, “I want to own all the wisdom in the world. I won’t share it with anybody. It will be for me and me alone.”

So he started to search for all the wisdom, and collected it into a big pot. After a long time, he had found all the wisdom in the world. He put a big cork in the top of his pot to seal it, but he was still worried about having to share it.

“It’s all mine now,” he thought. “But somebody will certainly steal this pot from me, if they find it. If I put it up high in a tall thorn tree, then it will be safe.”

He carried the heavy pot into the forest and found the tallest thorn tree. It was starting to rain, and it was very difficult for him to climb the tree with the pot in his eight hands. Again and again he fell down to the ground.

Just then he heard the sound of a little boy laughing at him.

“Why are you laughing? Don’t you know I have all the wisdom in the world.”

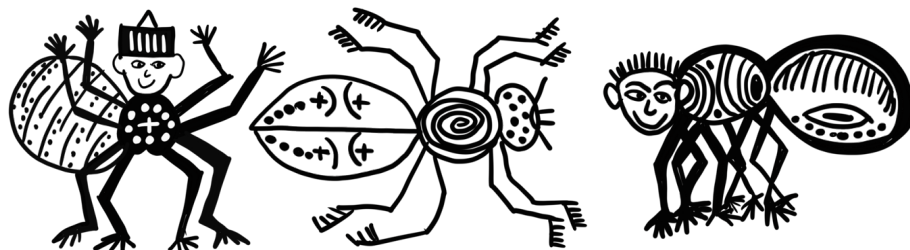
“Ha ha!” said the boy. “You can’t be as wise as you think you are. If you were wise, you would tie the pot to yourself before you started to climb up the tree.”

Anansi was angry at the boy’s words. He shook his fists at the little boy, and the pot fell out of his hands. The pot broke, and all wisdom fell out. A rain storm started and washed the wisdom in every direction, spreading it over all of the world.

At first Anansi was angry that all his work was for nothing, but then he thought to himself, “I had all the wisdom in the world, but still I needed a small child to tell me something important. Maybe it is better this way.”

From that day onwards, wisdom doesn’t lie in one place. It is spread in small quantities all over the world.

*Traditional pictures  
of Anansi:*



## Answer the questions

1. What was Anansi searching for?
2. What was he planning to do with it, when he found it?
3. Why was it difficult for Anansi to climb the tree?
4. Who interrupted him climbing the tree?
5. What happened when Anansi got angry?
6. How did the wisdom get spread around the world?
7. What lesson did Anansi learn from this?
8. What do you think is the message of this story?



## Looking at words

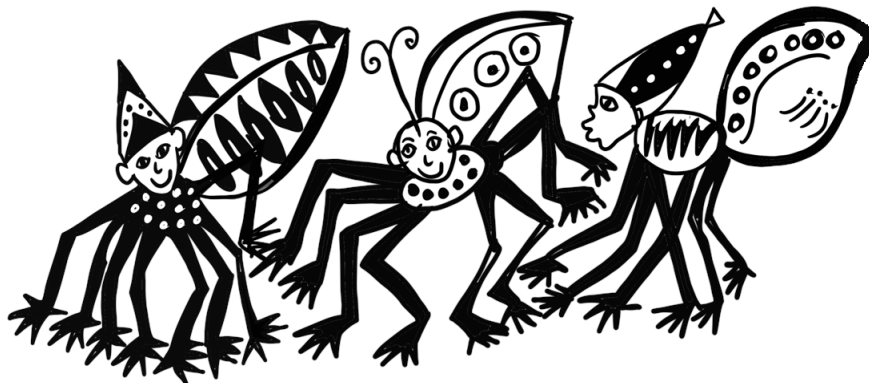
### Find a word in the story

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Something you use to seal a pot or a bottle. | c _ _ _     |
| 2. Another word for knowledge and intelligence  | w _ _ _ _ _ |
| 3. A kind of tree with sharp points             | t _ _ _ _   |
| 4. Thunder, lightning and rain                  | s _ _ _ _   |
| 5. To divide with other people.                 | s _ _ _ _   |
| 6. Another word for <b>amount</b> .             | q _ _ _ _ _ |

### Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

**search   seal   share   spread   own   climb**

1. You should \_\_\_\_\_ the bottle of oil to stop it from spilling.
2. You can \_\_\_\_\_ my food, if you like.
3. It's not easy to \_\_\_\_\_ this tree.
4. How many books do you \_\_\_\_\_?
5. I dropped some oil and it \_\_\_\_\_ over the floor.
6. The chickens \_\_\_\_\_ for food on the ground.



*Traditional pictures of Anansi*