



Basic Education

8A

Classbook

English

for
Me

2016

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SULTANATE OF OMAN



His Majesty Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman

Welcome!

Dear Students,

Welcome to Grade 8! You will notice some changes in the *English For Me* books since Grade 7. The Classbook has a contents map to tell you about the work you are going to do this semester. The Skills Book has a grammar reference, self-study pages and a phonetic word list to help you work more independently.

There are lots of activities to help you with speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as grammar, spelling and sound work. Sometimes you will work on your own and sometimes you will work with your friends.

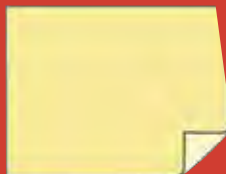
You are going to put together a portfolio of work, do projects and read longer stories. You will find that it is important to have an exercise book so that you can write drafts, make notes and keep your own vocabulary store. You will also find a dictionary very useful now.

In English, people aged 13–19 are called teenagers, so the IKC has become the International Teenagers' Club, or the ITC. This club will let you read about ITC members from around the world and use English in different ways.

Be careful not to write in your Classbook because it will be used again next year. Try to look after your Skills Book because the activities will be useful for reference in the future.

Have a great time learning English this year and try to use it as much as possible inside and outside the classroom.

Good luck and work hard!



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What's

Topic

Language focus

Vocabulary

1

More free time

Adverbs of degree, eg. *really, quite*
'too' + adjective, eg. *too hot, too windy*
'too' and 'very'
Sounds /eɪ/

Free time activities

2

Creature Features

Comparatives and superlatives
Conjunctions, eg. *because, but*
Clauses
'used to', eg. *I used to be a journalist.*
Sounds /ə/

Animals
Zoos
Conservation and the environment

3

Inventors and Inventions

Subjects and objects
The Passive, eg. *The air conditioner was invented by ...*
Countables and uncountables
Sequencers
Sounds /uː/

Materials
Adverbs
Adjectives

4

Great Cities

Present perfect and past simple, eg. *Have you ever ... ?*
I went last year.
Contrasting words, eg. *although, however*
Polite questions, eg. *Excuse me ... ?*
Abbreviations
Sounds /əʊ/ and /ɔɪ/

Cities
Places
Travel
Directions

Club Corner

Contrasting words, eg. *although, however*
Present perfect and past simple, eg. *Have you ever ... ?*
I went last year.
The Passive, eg. *The air conditioner was invented by ...*
Countables and uncountables
'used to', eg. *I used to be a journalist.*

Animals
Conservation and the environment



in 8A?

Main activities

Read and understand a story
Write an e-mail
Listen to an interview
Do a survey
Do a role play
Complete a questionnaire

Project and portfolio work

Order words from the unit into adjective, noun, adverbs, regular verbs, irregular verbs
Write a description
Find words with /eɪ/ sounds

Learning Journal

Skimming and scanning
Collecting information
Questionnaire
Reflection
Learning Diary

Read and understand letters and e-mails
Read and understand a longer story
Do a role play
Listen to interviews
Listen and write notes
Label a map

Draw and label a zoo
Write a comparison using 'used to'
Write about animals using comparatives and superlatives
Plan and take part in a debate

Thinking about paragraphs
Thinking about your progress
Thinking about the unit
Learning Diary

Read and understand texts on inventions and inventors
Write a story
Make a book
Do an interview

Design a competition poster
Design and make an invention

How do you learn your spellings?
Learning Diary

Read about different cities
Read timetable
Use the 24-hour clock
Compare cities
Write a dialogue
Write a diary

Write a newspaper report
Write a description about where you live
Write sentences using contrasting words
Do a survey and write about the results
List abbreviations
Design a city web page

Different ways of writing
Learning Diary

Write a story
Write a letter
Complete an application form
Design and conduct a survey
Put on a play

Design a class magazine
Put on a play
Design book covers

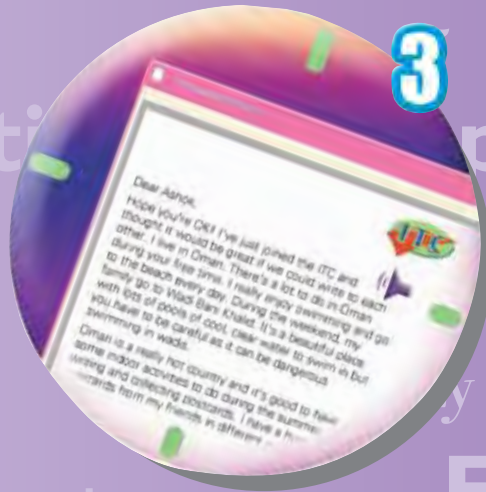
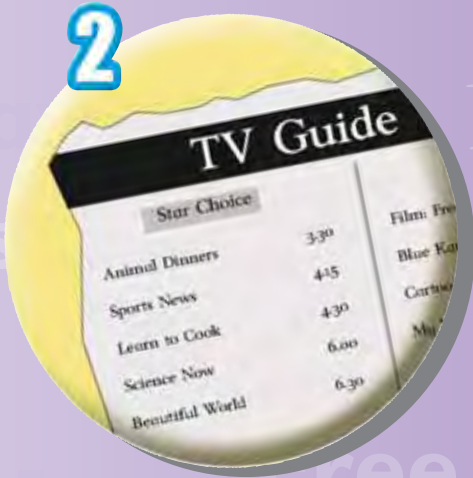
Review the semester
Complete Learning Journal



English
for
Me

Unit 1

MORE Free Time



UPGRADE NOW!!

1 What's wrong with this e-mail?



1 dear IKC member,

You have been a member of the 2 international kids' club – the IKC – for the last three 3 year.

4 we hope that you have enjoyed being a member of the IKC and have learned a lot about other members from around the 5 wrld.

However, our records show that you are now in Grade 8, so we would like to invite you to join our new club for older members – The 6

International Teenagers' Club, or ITC 7 To join the ITC, you will need to upgrade your membership by filling in 8 th attached file. We

hope you will have as much fun in the ITC and learn even more 9 english 10

Good luck!

The ITC

GOOD LUCK!

After each number there is a mistake. Write each number and the correct answer in your exercise book.



2 Read the questions.

Read the questions and sort the free time activities. Write your answers in activity 2 on page 3 of your Skills Book.

Which are indoor activities?

Which are outdoor activities?

Which are dangerous activities?



Welcome to the



fun page!



Which are quiet activities?

Which are arts and crafts activities?

What do you like doing in your free time? Why?

Free time e-mails from the



1 Find the answers.

What's the topic of the e-mails?

What is Najma's new book about?

Who is Beth's best friend?
Which countries does Ahmed mention?

Dear Maha,

Hi, I'm Beth. How are you? I've just upgraded to the ITC and want to tell you about the things I like doing. There are lots of different things I like doing in my free time. I enjoy sewing and am busy making a new dress for my little sister.

My best friend Sally has just introduced me to a new pastime. It's called chess. It's a board game which you play indoors with a friend. It's a difficult game to play and you have to think really hard to win. I really enjoy it! Sally and I are going to join a chess club, so we can play with other friends.

I also enjoy painting and taking photos. Some of my pictures are displayed at school and I recently won first prize for one of my photos. My teacher says I should think of becoming an artist when I grow up.

Write soon! Best wishes,

Beth



Dear Ashok,

I've just joined the ITC and thought it would be great if we could write to each other. I live in Oman. There's a lot to do in Oman during your free time. I really enjoy swimming and go to the beach every day. During the weekend, my family go to Wadi Bani Khalid. It's a beautiful place with lots of pools of cool, clear water to swim in but you have to be careful as it can be dangerous swimming in wadis.

Oman is a really hot country and it's good to have some indoor activities to do during the summer. I like writing and collecting postcards. I have a hundred postcards from my friends in different countries like Kuwait, Kenya, Korea and Canada. Maybe you can send me a postcard too!

I've just started playing chess – it's a great board game! I've already played in some competitions at school and think if I keep on practising I'll win one day. You should try it, it really makes you think!

I'm good at music and like playing the keyboard. I've just joined the music club at school and we're practising our National Anthem for National Day.

Best wishes,

Ahmed



Dear Alex,

It's the weekend here in Bangladesh. I've just come to the Internet café to send e-mails to my friends in the ITC. I hope you're OK and having a great weekend in Germany. What do you do in your free time?

I like using the computer but it's expensive at the Internet café, so on most days I like playing cricket with my friends. It's a wonderful outdoor game with two teams of players. You use a cricket bat to hit a ball and you have to run as fast as you can to win. My school team is the best in our region. Playing cricket gives me lots of exercise and keeps me fit.

I also enjoy watching satellite TV. The most popular programmes on TV here are Indian films and cricket matches. I have to be careful not to watch too much TV because it can make you lazy. Some of my friends forget to do their homework because they watch too much TV.

Sometimes, watching TV can be boring but playing a game like chess is really interesting. It really makes you think. I've won lots of games and my father says that I could become a great player but I'll have to work hard to improve my game.

Please write to me soon. Best wishes,

Abdul



Dear Maryam,

Hello, I'm from Jeddah. I think it's great that you've joined the ITC. It's a great club. You learn lots of new things, there's a lot to do and you can make new friends from around the world. When I first joined the ITC, I wasn't very good at using computers and writing e-mails. Now I use the computer every day for studying and in my free time.

I enjoy playing games on the computer like draughts, solitaire and chess. Sometimes I play games with my friends on the Internet and sometimes I play on my own with the computer. I sometimes win against my friends but I always lose against the computer!

I also really enjoy reading and have just bought a new book all about origami. It's a fantastic book that tells you how to make paper models. Origami is a quiet activity and a great way of making presents to give to family and friends.

Please write soon. I really want to hear what you do in your free time.

Najma



2 Read the story.

BUSY BASIM and LAZY LATIFA



One day, Basim and his sister Latifa returned from school. Latifa said, 'I'm too tired to do anything!' and sat down in front of the television to watch her favourite programme, *Cook with Khalid*. While she was watching the television, the doorbell rang and Basim answered it. It was his friends asking him to play football. Basim went to play football in the park with his friends. After an hour, Basim came home and made an origami model out of paper for his parents as a present but Latifa carried on watching the television. Then, Basim washed the car but Latifa carried on watching television. After washing the car, Basim rang Ahmed and asked him to come and play chess but Latifa carried on watching television. Latifa was so bored that she fell asleep in front of the television. After playing chess, Basim started cleaning his room. When Latifa woke up, Basim was sorting his collection of postcards. In the evening, after dinner, Basim and Latifa's parents asked, 'Have you done your homework?' 'Oh no!' said Basim and Latifa. 'We've forgotten to do it!' 'Basim, you've been too busy with your hobbies and friends,' said Basim's mother. 'Latifa, you've been very lazy watching TV and sleeping,' said Latifa's father. 'We think you should do your homework,' said their parents. 'Yes!' said Basim and Latifa and went to their rooms to do their homework.



learning strategy reading

To skim means to read quickly and get information for general understanding. Look at pictures, diagrams and headings to help you.

To scan is to read for specific information. Find key words or phrases. Then read the sentence around them carefully.

1 The Positive–Negative Chant.

Positive or negative?
Positive or negative?
Positive or negative?

- I jogged for an hour. It's positive!
- I slept all day. It's negative!
- I read my book. It's positive!
- I played all day. It's negative!
- I cleaned my room. It's positive!
- I fished all day. It's negative!
- I helped my mum. It's positive!
- I shopped all day. It's negative!
- I washed the floor. It's positive!
- I forgot my homework. It's negative!

Do you agree or disagree with the chant?



2 Guess the adjectives.

Look at the faces and match them to the phrases.

- 1 It's all right.
- 2 It's frightening.
- 3 It's awful.
- 4 It's quite interesting.
- 5 It's excellent.
- 6 It's really boring.



3 Club talk.

Read about what these ITC members think about free time activities. Then listen and match what you hear with the texts.

I think collecting things can be a bit too expensive. I prefer playing board games, especially chess and carom. That's why I joined the Games Club at school. It's really good because you can make new friends. Next year, I think I'll join the Music Club. So I can learn to play the keyboard. It's very difficult but I want to try!



1

The outdoor life is too exciting for me. I prefer quiet, indoor activities such as reading and writing. It's very interesting collecting things like badges and telephone cards. Some say that it's too boring for them but you never know – the badges may become valuable one day!



3

Watching TV all day is too boring. I like doing other things instead. I enjoy the excitement of outdoor activities like horse riding, cycling or skateboarding. My family think they're all very dangerous but I'm very careful!



2

I don't think it's good to be too busy or too lazy. Balancing your work time and free time is important. That's why I make sure I do all my homework before spending my time with friends or doing a hobby. Watching TV can be very interesting.



4

C
L
T
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A
B
L
K

4

The Very and Too Chant

The day is very cold, let's go jogging!
The sea is very calm, let's go fishing!
The sun is very warm, let's go swimming!
The horse is very tame, let's go riding!
The tree is very safe, let's go climbing!

It's too hot to jog, don't go jogging!
It's too stormy to fish, don't go fishing!
It's too cold to swim, don't go swimming!
It's too wild to ride, don't go riding!
It's too dangerous to climb, don't go climbing!



1 Name that tune!

Listen and identify the songs.

A sailor went to sea **2A**

The days of the week song **2B**

The dark, dark rhyme **2B**

The zoo song **3B**

The tree in the wood **3B**

The dinosaur song **4A**

Do you ... ? song **5A**

Can you ... ? song **5A**

Spike's song **5B**

The food rhyme (I eat pizza) **6B**



2 Which Intelligence?

Match the letters to the Intelligences in your Skills Book.

Dear Aunt Aysha,

I am looking for a free time activity to do in my village. I am very interested in keeping fit and healthy and I like keeping active and busy. I have a good sense of balance and I'm good at catching balls and things. I hope that you can suggest some interesting free time activities for me.

Best wishes,
Ahmed

1

Dear Aunt Aysha,

I am writing to you to ask for your help finding a new free time activity which I can do with my friends. I like working with people and I often help people in my town. I have good organisational skills and I work very well in a team. I hope you can suggest some interesting activities to do with my friends.

From,
Sara

2

Dear Aunt Aysha,

I am going to visit my uncle in Sharqiya next month and I want an activity to do in my free time. I like books with illustrations and I find that pictures help me remember things. I am very good at reading maps and tables. I hope you can help me find something to do!

Best wishes,
Yahya

3

Dear Aunt Aysha,

I am thinking about starting a new hobby for the school holidays but I can't decide what to do. I've got lots of friends but I really like doing things by myself. I'm very careful and my teacher says I'm very good at planning and organising my work.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you,
Noor

4

3 What's the star rating?

Dangerous Deep Diving

I live next to the sea and I thought this book would give me lots of information about underwater animals and plants. When I read it, I found it was full of tables, maps and information about equipment for diving. It was useless for me! It was really, really boring and I never want to go diving in my life!

Maryam, ITC membership no: 4393

1

Making Models at Home

If you like making things then this is the book for you! It has more than 15 different things that you can make at home and all you need is cardboard boxes, scissors, glue and paint. I made a folder, a desk organiser and a puppet and they were all brilliant! The instructions were really clear and easy to follow and the illustrations were so colourful that they made you really want to make the model.

Ann, ITC membership no: 4583

3

ITC Tested!

My Life with Scorpions

I like animals and sometimes I collect insects so I really wanted to read this book. It is an autobiography by The Scorpion Man who is an amazing person. There were some great photographs of scorpions in the book. I found the writing quite difficult to understand because it had long sentences and lots of new vocabulary and sometimes it got quite boring so I missed out whole paragraphs.

Mohammed, ITC membership no: 8106

2

Internet Guide for Kids

This is a non-fiction book all about using the Internet. It was very interesting and I learned lots of really useful information. The book is packed full of very colourful pictures and the writing is simple and easy to understand.

Stefan, ITC membership no: 9810

4

What have you read?

Send us your REVIEW!

- ★★★★★ Fantastic
- ★★★★ Good
- ★★★ All right
- ★★ Quite bad
- ★ Awful

4 Read the facts.

In 2002, Mix McGraw flew 219 kites at the same time! He held on for eight minutes of his free time!

1

Do you think he flew away?

Do you like doing jigsaws in your free time? The largest jigsaw in the world was made by the Ravensburger company and contains 18,000 pieces. Have you got enough free time to do that jigsaw?

2

Emilio Arenas from Uruguay collects pencils in his free time. He's got 6,885 different pencils - the biggest collection in the world! How many pencils have you got?

3

Free time facts

Michael MacPherson, from South Africa, played the drums for an amazing 50 hours and 30 minutes non-stop in his free time! Do you think his hands got sore?

5

Some people like making paper clip chains in their free time. In Canada, 60 people spent 24 hours of their free time making a paper clip chain. It was 32 km long!

4

Myles Anderson pushed an orange with his nose for 1.6 km. It took him 1 hour and 14 minutes of his free time!

6

WDY ... ?
Find out more free time facts and put them in your portfolio.

1 What's on?

Look at the TV Guide and decide which programmes you want to watch.

TV Guide

Tuesday

Star Choice

Animal Dinners	3:30
Sports News	4:15
Learn to Cook	4:30
Science Now	6:00
Beautiful World	6:30
News	7:00
Film: The Red Sunset	7:45

Super Channel

Film: Free Fun Run	3:30
Blue Kangaroo	5:45
Cartoon Club	6:00
My Hair	6:30
Elephant World	7:00
Business Life	8:00
Film: Midnight Madness	9:00

2 Talk about what's on.

What time
is the film?



It's at
12.45.

Cook with
Khalid.

3 Reflect.



Basim and Ahmed are talking about the unit. What do you think they will talk about? Listen to their conversation.

Creature Features



What organisation is this student writing about?



What other animals can you find on the page with this picture?



What's this student saying?

Oryx, lion, scorpion. Which animal is missing?



Which page can you find these elephants on?

What's the name of this bird? Name a zoo where you can see it.



Who wrote the report on page 12?

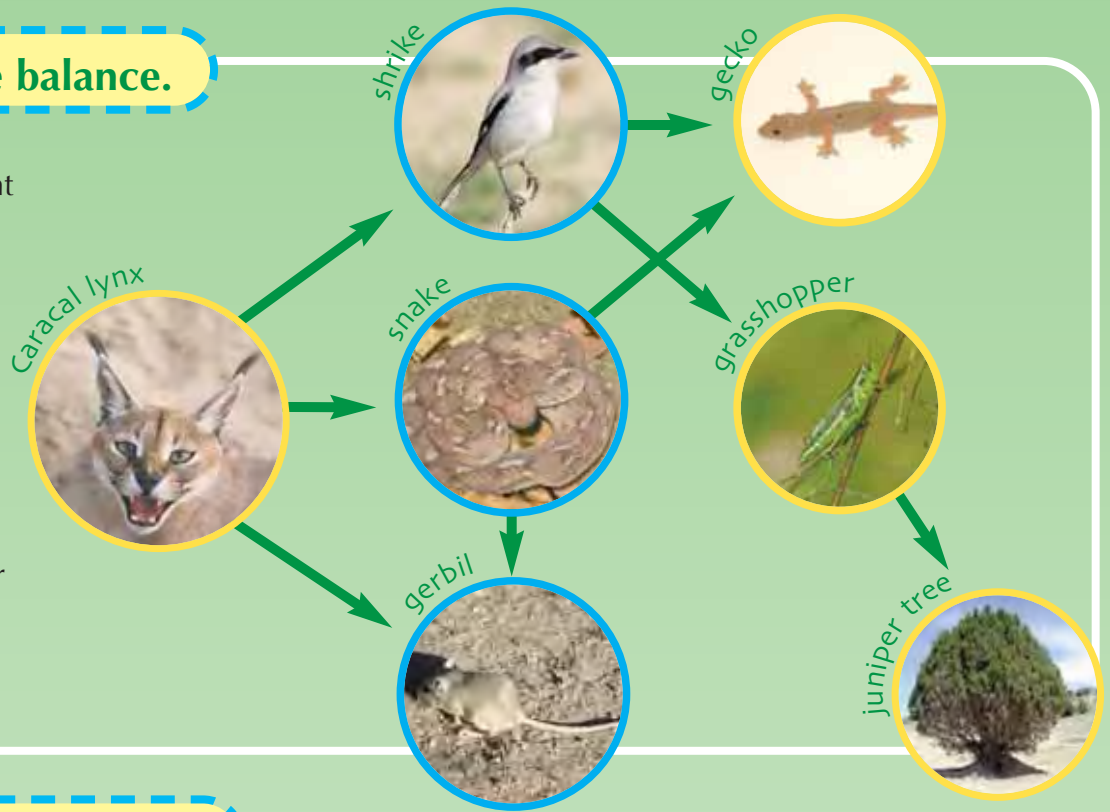


What do you have to do on the page with this symbol on it?

1 A delicate balance.

Everything in the environment is connected. Sometimes, the balance gets upset!

Look at the food web and complete the sentences on page 13 of your Skills Book.



2 Read Raiya's report.

Raiya has been finding out about the balance of nature. Read the report she wrote for the ITC newsletter.

1. Do you know that the environment exists in a delicate balance? It is very easy to upset the balance and cause terrible results. Here is my report about how one man upset the balance of nature in Australia.
2. In 1859, Thomas Austin took 24 wild rabbits from England to Australia and released them on his land. Most sportsmen thought it was a very good idea because they liked shooting the rabbits in their free time.
3. **The rabbit population grew and grew.** After 6 years, Austin had killed 20,000 but he still had 10,000 left. There were so many rabbits that one man shot 1,200 in 3 hours! The rabbits escaped into the wild and the wild population grew and grew.
4. By 1884, the rabbits had reached every corner of Australia and were destroying the natural environment. They ate the grass and plants and even killed large trees. They competed with the sheep for grass and they destroyed crops and farms.
5. The government decided to stop the rabbits destroying the environment. In 1907, they finished building a 2,000-mile-long fence to stop them entering the farmland in the South West. In 1950, a disease called myxomatosis was introduced and millions of rabbits died. By 1997, they became resistant to myxomatosis and the population increased to 300 million. Now, the rabbit population is being controlled with a new disease and native plants and animals are slowly recovering. Some people are concerned because the new disease may harm native species such as cows and the short-tailed bat.
6. This report has described how one man and 24 rabbits upset the balance of nature and permanently changed the environment of Australia. I think that we should all be very careful not to upset the delicate balance of nature.

Raiya

learning strategy reading

What is the topic sentence of each paragraph?

Remember, a topic sentence tells us the main idea of the paragraph. All other sentences add detail and develop the main idea.

3 The ITC Zoo Watch.

Read the following text about zoos. Answer the questions in your group and then write them in your exercise books.

Do you know how important zoos are? It is true that zoos are places where humans go to see a variety of animals and be entertained. However, I believe that a modern zoo does more than that now. It is involved in education, conservation and research.

Zoos play an important role in the conservation of species under threat from human activity. They have saved many animals from extinction because of their breeding programmes. The Arabian oryx was bred successfully in captivity and has been reintroduced into Saudi Arabia and Oman. Many zoos in Europe worked together to help save the Przewalski horse, which was the ancestor of all domestic horses and became extinct in Mongolia and China. These horses have now been introduced back into the wild. As a final example, by the 1980s only 28 of the California condors - the biggest American bird - were left in the wild because of hunting and use of pesticides by humans. In the last few years, 60 of these birds have been born at Los Angeles zoos and have been freed into protected areas.

I think that most modern zoos believe their main aim is to educate the public as well as providing facilities so visitors can enjoy themselves. Education in zoos is not just to teach us about animals but also to teach us about the natural world and how we affect it. Zoos offer guided tours, workshops and other activities to help people find out more about animals and their environment.

Finally, scientists spend a lot of time looking at animals to find out more about them and how we can help them. This is called research. This research is only possible while the animals are kept in a safe environment such as a zoo.

Between 2,000 and 6,000 animal species will become extinct very soon if we don't help them. So if we visit zoos, we will be able to help them save many species of animals.

Zoos give animals with no chance a last chance!

4 Who is it?

Listen to the tape and identify the animals.



1 Which three animals are mentioned in the text?

2 How many species will become extinct without help from humans?

3 Write down four things that modern zoos do.

4 Write down a sentence from the text that is a fact.

5 Write down a sentence that shows what the writer thinks about zoos.

6 Why is education in zoos important?

7 Who can decide if animals survive?

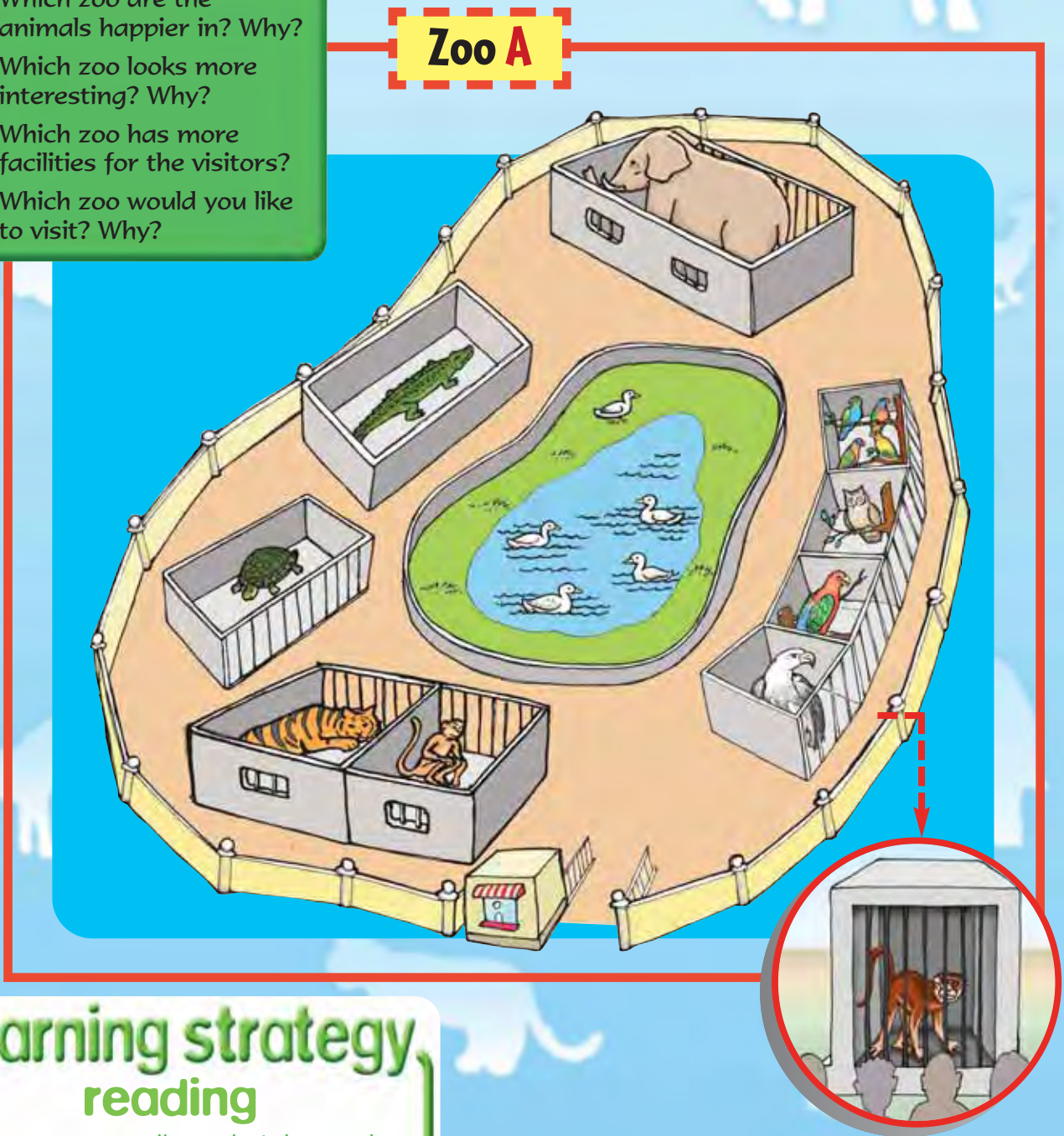
1 Look and think.

Think about these questions while you look at pictures of Zoo A and Zoo B.

- 1 Which zoo are the animals happier in? Why?
- 2 Which zoo looks more interesting? Why?
- 3 Which zoo has more facilities for the visitors?
- 4 Which zoo would you like to visit? Why?

Two Zoos to

Zoo A



learning strategy reading

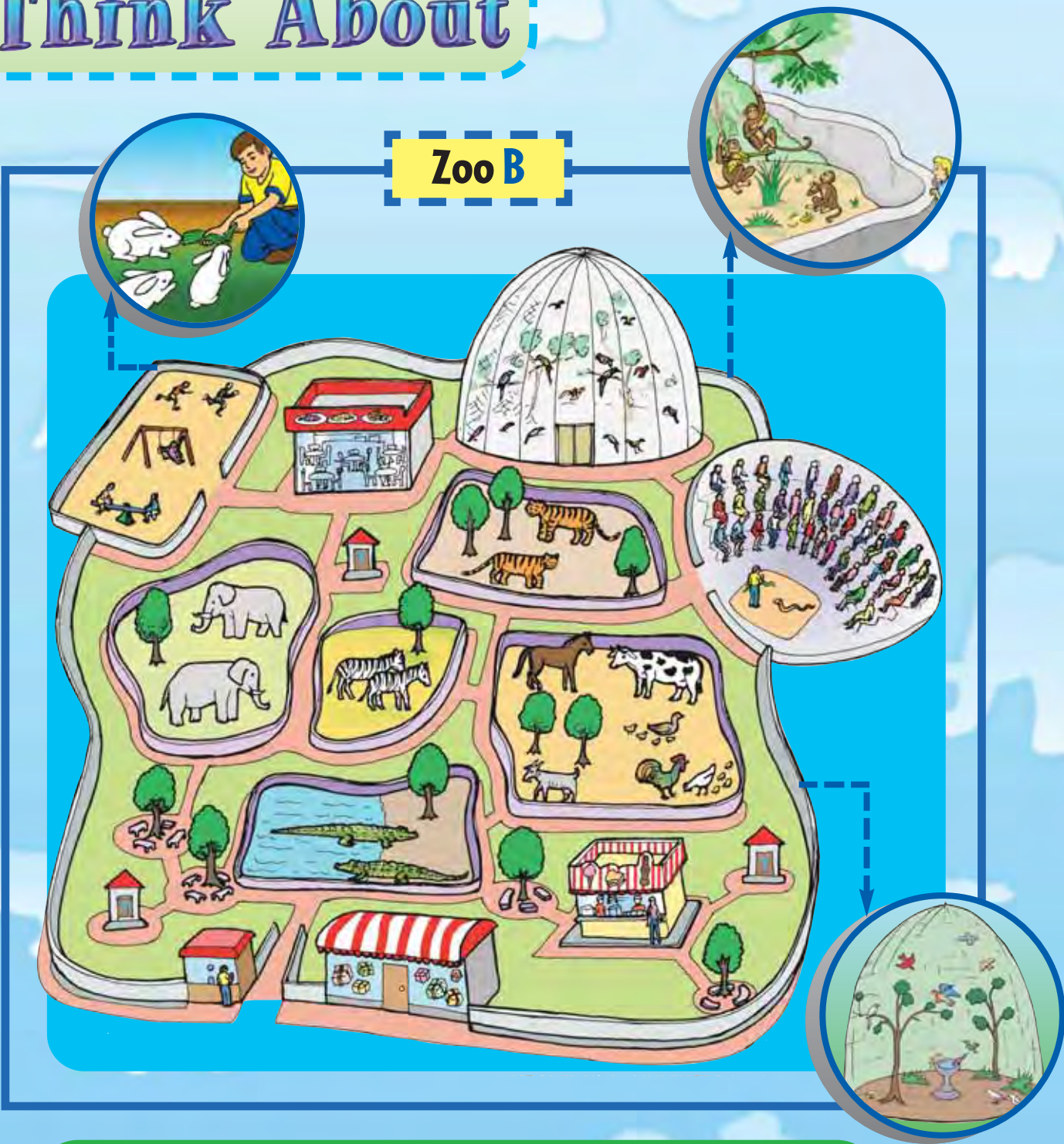
When you are reading, what do you do when you don't know a word? Which of these things do you do?

- guess?
- read it again?
- keep reading?
- look at the letters in the word?
- ask a friend?
- use the word store or dictionary page?
- write the word down?
- decide if the word is a noun, verb or adjective?

1. The tigers are in a small cage but they look healthy.
2. The monkeys have lots of trees to climb but you can't always see them.
3. The tickets are really expensive but you can spend all day there.

Think About

Zoo B



Children can play and climb trees in the playground.

You can eat breakfast, lunch or dinner at the restaurant.

The birds can fly around the enormous aviary.

The animals live in big enclosures with trees and lots of space.

Children can touch and feed farm animals in the children's zoo.

You can watch shows and displays in the amphitheatre.

The café sells ice-creams and sandwiches all day.

You can buy toys, t-shirts and postcards at the gift shop.

You can buy your tickets at the ticket office next to the entrance.

1 What do people think about zoos?

Read the opinions of some ITC members and decide what they think. Write your answers in your exercise book.

1 I'm not sure. I like good zoos but I don't like bad zoos.

A
People who like zoos.

2 The elephants looked really bored because they were in a small concrete box.

3 It's because of zoos that a lot of endangered animals can now live in the wild.

4 I think zoos are important for entertainment and research but wildlife sanctuaries and animal reserves are better ways to conserve animals.

5 I'm against zoos because animals should be free to live in the wild.

B
People who don't like zoos.


6 Zoos are cruel because they are just small, smelly parks with a few tin boxes for animals.

7 If we want to keep animals in the wild, we need zoos where zoologists can observe them closely and learn about them.

8 I think that zoos play an important part in animal conservation around the world.

C
People who have a balanced view about zoos.

9 It's true that some zoos are too small and the animals are not looked after very well but most zoos are changing now.



I think zoos are very important because they protect endangered species. I visited the Arabian Wildlife Centre in Sharjah and it was really good because you can see all of the animals living in Arabia. The centre breeds endangered animals and releases them back into the wild. It was quite expensive to visit but I was happy to pay because they use the money for this very important work. I think zoos are important because they help to conserve endangered species.



I am not very interested in visiting zoos to see animals but I do like zoos that have big playgrounds and plenty of places to get snacks. I think some zoos are too big and boring. Big zoos are too tiring to walk around. They should have little trains or bicycles for visitors. I went to a zoo once and it had an amazing show and I learned quite a lot about food webs and how things are connected in the wild. I think zoos should have lots of different activities so there is always something for people to do.



2 Club talk.

Read these opinions about zoos and get some ideas for your own writing.

I hate zoos and I think they are cruel. I went to a zoo where the lion was in a tiny cage and it was very unhappy. It just walked backwards and forwards all day. It made me feel really sad watching it. It wasn't natural. No animals should be kept in a cage. Some sanctuaries and wildlife parks are all right because the animals can walk around free and even hunt each other. If an animal is kept in a natural environment, it will be happy. I think putting animals in zoos for entertainment is wrong.



I think that zoos are very important because people can go and look at animals they don't usually see. I saw a Siberian tiger at a zoo and it was fantastic. I thought it was the most beautiful creature in the world! I value animals more now because I can see them in zoos. The zookeeper gave a very useful talk about why tigers are endangered and I really learned a lot. I think zoos are important because they are educational.

CLUB TALK

3 What does he ask?

The words in these sentences have got mixed up. Write them correctly on page 17 of your Skills Book.

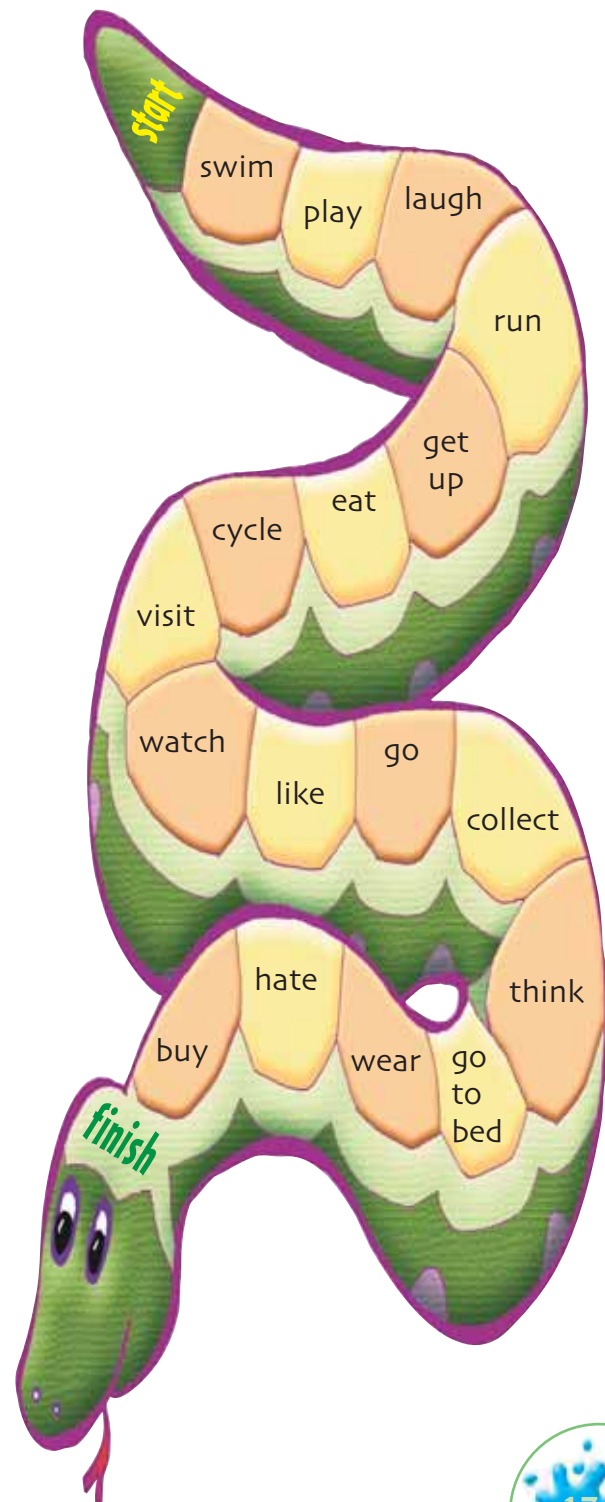
1. Why did decide you to be zookeeper a?
2. long How you zookeeper a have been?
3. seen What changes have you?
4. What you like do most job about your?

4 Talk about what you used to do.

Work in pairs. One person points to a verb and the other person must use the verb in a sentence with 'used to' and 'but'. Write down the best sentences in your exercise book.



I used to collect stamps but now I collect coins.



Animal Olympics

Tail length

red kangaroo	105 cm
spider monkey	90 cm
Indian elephant	150 cm
snow leopard	113 cm

Height

red kangaroo	180 cm
giraffe	600 cm
African elephant	300 cm

Body length

leatherback turtle	170 cm
Javan rhino	300 cm
African elephant	700 cm
polar bear	300 cm

Weight

elephant	5,500 kg
gorilla	195 kg
blue whale	130,000 kg
Siberian tiger	320 kg
polar bear	800kg

Speed

cheetah	115 km per hour
race horse	69 km per hour
ostrich	40 km per hour
sloth	2 km per hour
tortoise	3 km per hour
Pronghorn antelope	90 km per hour

Life span

elephant	70–75 years
hippo	40–40 years
long-tailed shrew	12–18 months
giraffe	15–20 years

Remaining in the wild

mountain gorilla	400
golden lion tamarin	200
Chinese river dolphin	400
Siberian tiger	400
Javan rhino	150

1 Look and decide.



Help the judge to award the prizes. Look at the information and decide which animals get the medals. Then write sentences to explain which animals get bronze, silver and gold medals.

Use 'because' to give reasons and use comparatives and superlatives in your writing. For example:

The polar bear gets a bronze medal because it's lighter than an elephant and a blue whale.



Which animal gets the bronze medal for tail length?

Which animal gets the gold medal for being the most endangered?

The giraffe gets a gold medal because it's the tallest.

The Indian elephant gets a gold medal because it's got the longest tail.

Help the judge to award the prizes.

2 Sharjah Zoo.

Look at this web page showing information about Sharjah Zoo. Read it and decide if these statements below are true or false.

Sharjah Zoo, also known as the Arabian Wildlife Centre, houses over 100 species. It opened in September 1999 and is the only zoo in Arabia which exhibits all of the animals naturally living in the Arabian Peninsula. It is a good place for visitors to learn about the animal and plant species which are endangered in Arabia.

Make sure you watch the video just inside the main entrance before you go in to the display areas. Then, the tour takes you through the reptile, fish and insect house, where poisonous snakes, chameleons, monitor lizards, scorpions and camel spiders are exhibited.

Next, visit the bird aviary. It is set in a wadi and desert environment and is home to several songbirds, flamingoes and the Houbara bustard. Make sure you look out for the rock hyrax warming itself in the sun. These tail-less brown animals, the size of a rabbit, have three toes on each foot and are the closest living relative to the elephant!

Inside the aviary, there is a cave with a tank containing blind cave fish from Oman. These fish are born with eyes but they do not develop because of their dark habitat. Next to the aviary, the smaller cats such as the Caracal lynx, wildcat and sand cat are housed.

Finally, the tour takes you into the nocturnal house where night has been turned into day. A large variety of mammals are here including three species of fox, porcupines, hedgehogs and twelve species of rodent. Information is provided throughout the centre on display panels and on taped recordings.

The centre is open to visitors at the following times:

Weekdays and public holidays: 9am to 7pm.

Thursday: 11am to 7pm.

Friday: 2pm to 7pm only.

Ticket counters close at 5.30pm.

Closed on Mondays.



Houbara bustard



rock hyrax



hedgehog



scorpion

- 1 ▶ There are two zoos, Sharjah Zoo and the Arabian Wildlife Centre.
- 2 ▶ At the end of the tour you can see a video.
- 3 ▶ There are elephants at Sharjah Zoo.
- 4 ▶ The cave fish are inside the aviary.
- 5 ▶ The nocturnal house is open at night.
- 6 ▶ I can buy a ticket at 10 am on Sunday.
- 7 ▶ I can buy a ticket at 6pm on Thursday.

3 Plan your argument.

In your group, plan your argument in your exercise book. Use the words below to help you.



1 Making a difference.

CLUB TALK



I am a member of Greenpeace. This is an international organisation which campaigns to protect the environment. It has volunteers who work on a boat called Rainbow Warrior to save the ocean environment and animals. I filled in the application form on the web site and paid a subscription fee. I receive a magazine every month and I can also buy t-shirts and gifts. It's a charity, so all of the money goes to the organisation – nobody is getting rich from my money!



I am interested in whales and dolphins and I'm a volunteer for Whale Coast Oman. They collect information on whales and dolphins, rescue them when they are caught in fishing nets and develop educational materials. I make a report on their web site when I see dolphins or whales. You can buy t-shirts, posters and wheel covers from them and the money is used to pay for research they do. I feel that I am doing something positive to help conserve whales and dolphins in our seas.



I joined the World Wildlife Fund. I filled in an application form on the web – it was easy! I didn't have to pay anything. The WWF is an international organisation which protects the world's wildlife and environment. It started in 1961 and it has worked on projects in 157 different countries. I am really interested in climate change and over-fishing and the WWF has got lots of information on their website and they send me fact sheets and news about important conservation issues.



I joined Lifewatch. This is an organisation run by London Zoo and if you're a member, you get into the zoo for half price. I help the zoo look after the animals by adopting an animal. I have adopted a penguin and every month I pay some money and it helps the zoo feed it and look after it. I have my name written outside the penguin pool and I feel very proud to help them conserve animals.



I joined the RSPB, which stands for The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It's the largest conservation charity in Europe with over 1 million members. The RSPB protects wild birds and the environment. It buys land which it keeps as nature reserves and it works with governments, farmers and industry to protect bird habitats. I belong to Wildlife Explorers which is for members who are under 18 years old. I paid a membership fee to join and in return I get a magazine every 2 months and free entry into bird reserves in the UK. I really feel I'm helping to protect birds.

WDY ... ?

Why don't you go on-line and find out more about these organisations?

www.whalecoastoman.com

www.worldwildlife.org

www.greenpeace.com

www.londonzoo.co.uk

www.rspb.org

Clank

The black cat ran down the road.

Write it again with an adjective.



The Wrong

When Latavia was little, she liked other girls her age liked collecting. Latavia liked collecting plastic, cloth balloons, elastic bands and springs really worried, because it wasn't usual for junk and scrap.

I think we should take her to the doctor. Maybe we should take away the junk and her sister.

and her parents with...

Pop

Whirr

Inventors and Inventions



The Passive

The cans were collected for the family and home. The cans were washed in the sun. The cans were flattened. The cans were recycled.

from ideas collected...

Bang

In 1904, Thomas Sullivan invented the tea bag.

Clink

Young Inventors competition



How inventive are you?

Can you design and make an invention?

Here are some of the designs from previous competition winners to help you.

1 Do you like sailing but don't have a boat? With this invention you can have fun in the water and keep safe. It's cheap and easy to build with materials from around your home. It's light and only weighs 200g. Tall, short, fat or thin, it fits all shapes and sizes. It can all be stored in a plastic box. You can take it anywhere you want to sail. Now everyone can enjoy sailing!



1 Listen and match.

Listen to the previous competition winners describing the inventions they designed. Match what you hear with the name of the invention and call out your answer.



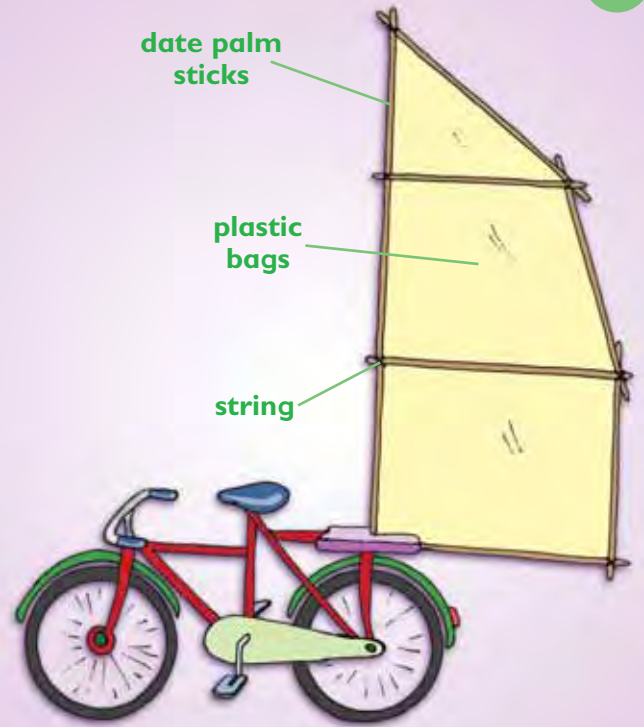
2 Are you always on the move? Do you like moving fast but think skateboards are boring? Now you can travel in new ways and new directions! With this invention you can move around on your back, on your stomach and on your knees and elbows. It's 1kg of rolling fun for everyone. You can't crash, because when you fall you keep on rolling along. One size fits all and it's quick and easy to build.

3 Have you got a hot head? Do you need to keep cool on those hot summer days? This invention will keep you cool, calm and relaxed when others are feeling hot and tired. You can use it inside and outside so now you can think more clearly wherever you are. It's easy to make and you can take it anywhere because it only weighs 200g.

4 Are your legs tired from riding your bike? Then this is the answer for you! Get this invention and you'll never have tired legs again. An 800g super-sail that fits on any bike and will whizz you along as fast as the wind. After you make this sail, you'll have the fastest bike in town!

Wind bike

C



Thisway-thatway roller

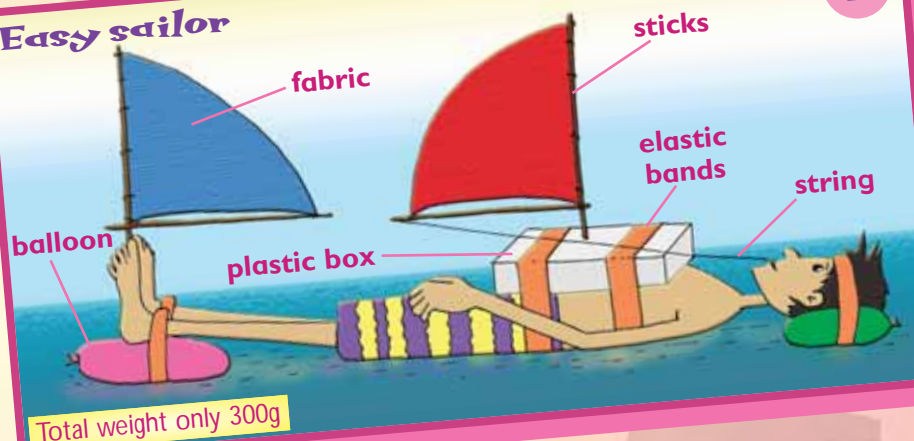
D



5 Are you bored with brushing your hair every day? Can't get anyone to brush it for you? Are you too busy and think that brushing your hair is a waste of time? Why not let this robotic hair-brushing machine do the work while you get on with more important jobs!

Easy sailor

E

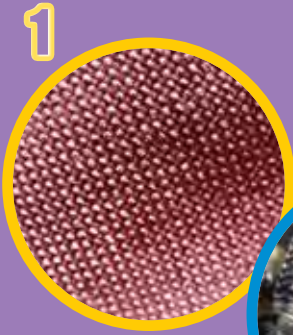


Total weight only 300g

1 What is it?

Match the words with the photos of different materials and write them in your exercise books. Work with your friends.

wood fabric balloon
wire elastic bands
cardboard screws



3 Find the sequencers.


An ITC member from Vietnam has sent in a letter telling other ITC members how to recycle materials to make things. Read Vinh Dan's letter and write the sequencers in activity 2 on page 24 of your Skills Book.

Computer Window

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Window Help

Dear ITC,

I live in Vietnam and I am writing to tell you about my hobby. I collect old aluminium drink cans and make them into models.



First, I collect the used and empty cans. I get them from restaurants, friends and family and take them home. Then, I wash them and leave them in the garden to dry in the sun. The next step is to look around for ideas. Hanoi is a very busy city and I get lots of ideas from the transport on the roads. There are colourful buses, cars, motorbikes, bikes and cyclos. After I've got an idea, I think about the shapes I will need to make my model and then I draw a plan. The design can be very difficult and usually I make several drawings before I start work on the model itself. Next, I go and choose three or four cans. Then, I use a strong pair of scissors to cut them open and then I make them flat. After that, I copy my plan on to the cans and cut out the shapes. Finally, I sell the models to the Ministry of Crafts in Hanoi, who distribute them to shops and tourist hotels. I have enclosed a photo of one of the cyclos I've made to give you an idea.

Best wishes,
Vinh Dan

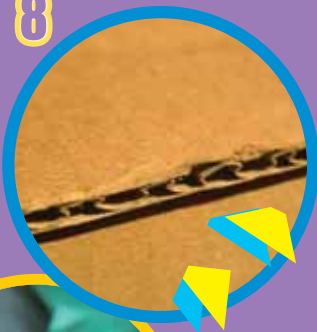


learning strategy writing

We use sequencers in our writing to help readers understand the order of events.

This is useful when writing about processes, such as making paper.

8



7



2

Guess the invention.

Ask your friend questions to guess the name of the invention they are thinking of.

I'm thinking of an invention.

Is it brown?

Is it made of wood?

Is it bigger than an orange?

Is it in the kitchen?



4

Make a can engine or a balloon rocket.

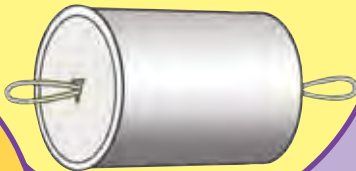
You are going to make things out of different materials. In

your group, decide whether to make a can engine or a balloon rocket. Collect the materials you need and follow the instructions below.

YOU WILL NEED:
an empty can a kebab stick
an elastic band a piece of candle

1

First, make a hole in the bottom of the can and thread the elastic band through the can.



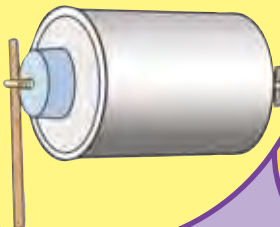
2

Next, put a small piece of the stick through the loop at one end.



Then, thread the other loop through the piece of candle and hold it tight with the rest of the stick.

3



Finally, wind up the longer piece of stick and watch it roll!

4

YOU WILL NEED:
some sellotape some string
a long balloon a straw

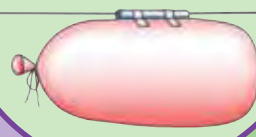
1

First, blow up the balloon and tie a knot in the end.



2

Next, thread the string through the straw and tie the end to a door handle.

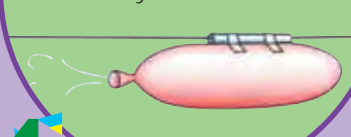


Then, stick the straw to the balloon with the sellotape.



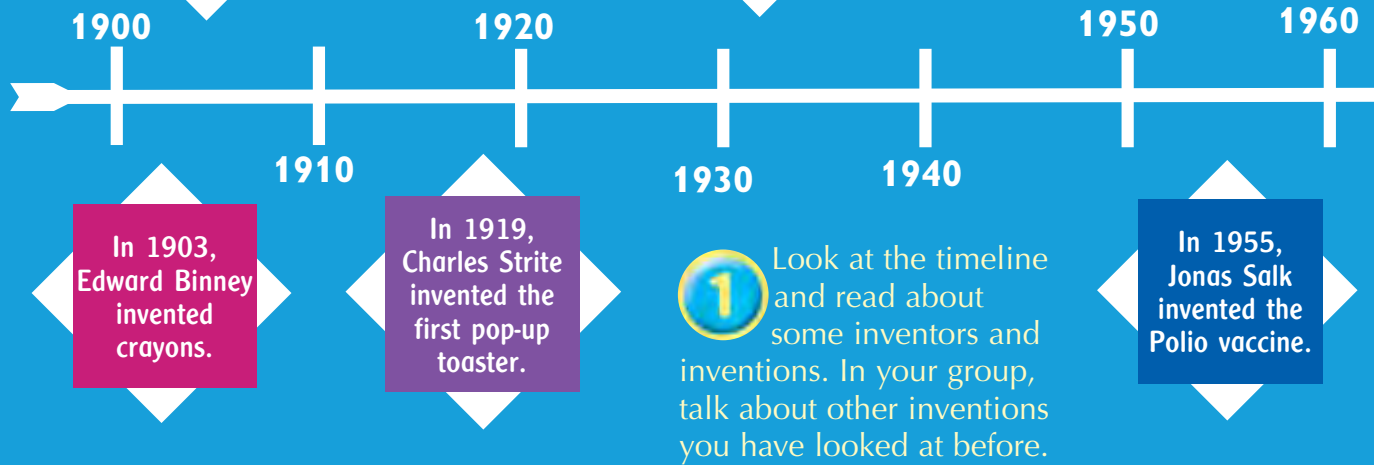
3

Finally, hold the string tight, cut the knot off the end of the balloon and watch it fly!



4

20th century inventions



2 Great Arab inventions and inventors.

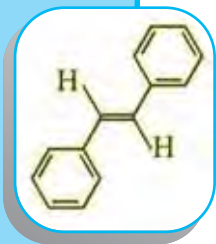
Read the following report. Find four passive sentences and write them in activity 1 on page 26 of your Skills Book. When you have finished, answer the questions in activity 2 on page 26 of your Skills Book.

This report is about Arab inventions and inventors in history. The Internet was used to get information. This report starts by looking at inventions of the past and then goes on to look at inventions of the present.

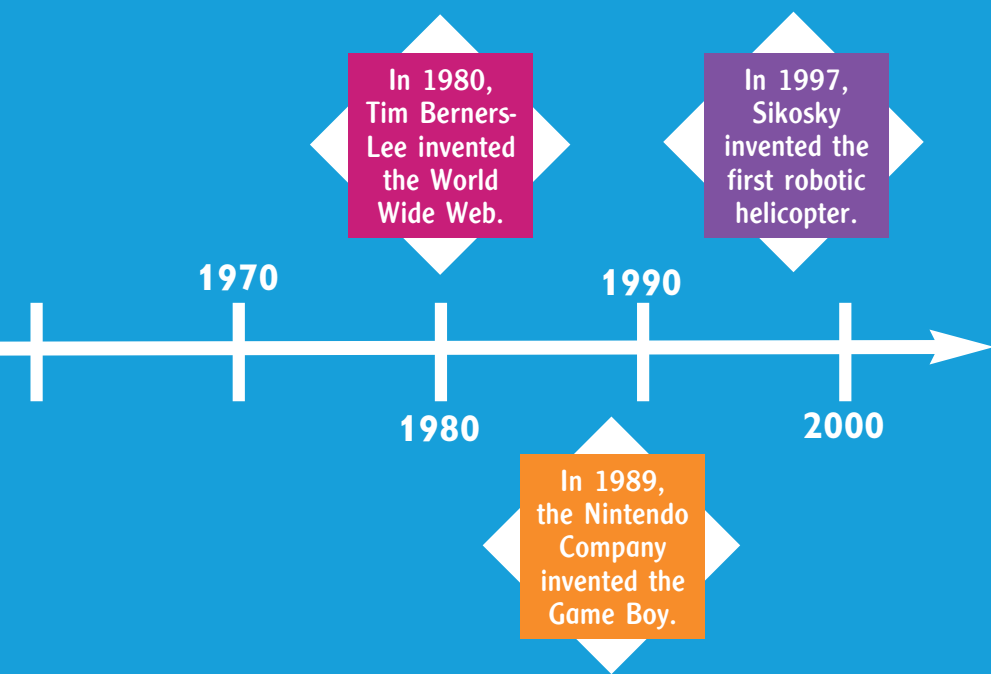
Many centuries ago, Arab inventors changed the world with their amazing inventions. The globe was invented by Al Idrisi in 1100 and the process of using stones to make glass was discovered by Ibn Firnas. The world of Science and ocean travel was completely changed by the invention of the compass. This was invented by Arabs to help Muslims find the Qibla for prayers.

It is true to say that we usually think of Arab inventors of the past but there are many great Arab inventors who are alive now and helping to change our world. For example, the world's fastest camera was invented by Professor Ahmed Zewail from Egypt. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1999 for his invention. The camera uses lasers to take pictures of chemical reactions. Another important invention is the "Test-Fast-Tera" machine. It was invented by an Egyptian woman called Dr. Ferial Tera in 1986. This machine tests the effect of the sun on the colours of different materials.

Arab inventions have helped to make the world a better place. With such a great history and a wonderful present, the future looks bright for Arab inventions in the 21st Century.



Now find out information about other Arab inventors and put it in your portfolio.



learning strategy writing

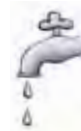
Onomatopoeia are words that tell you about the sound something makes.

For example, hiss for a snake.

They are a useful way of making your writing more interesting.

3 Look at the following pictures and match them with the onomatopoeia. Then find the sounds in the story of the Wrong Right Inventor.

roar tweet drip



4 An inventor's story.

Read the story. Think about the questions from the Story Sorting Machine cut-out page while you read the text.

The Wrong Right Inventor

1 When Intissar was little, she liked collecting things. While most other girls her age liked collecting badges, shells or teddy bears, Intissar liked collecting plastic, cloth, wood, metal, sticks, balloons, elastic bands and springs. This made some of her family really worried because it wasn't usual for girls of Intissar's age to collect junk and scrap.

'I think we should take her to the doctor,' said her brother.

'Maybe we should take away the junk. There's no space left in her room,' said her sister.

'No,' said her parents with worried expressions on their faces, 'This is her hobby and we shouldn't upset her.'

'Why don't you get her to make something with all those things?' said Intissar's grandmother.

'Yes, she can be an inventor,' said Intissar's grandfather.

So that is what they did!

2 One day, her brother went to Intissar and asked her to make something that would make his bicycle move faster. Intissar used some of the junk to make a motor and carefully attached it to the pedals so her brother wouldn't have to pedal anymore. At first, this was fine and Intissar's brother was really happy, but then one day the motor stopped working properly. Sometimes, the bicycle would move fast, then sometimes it would move slowly and then sometimes it wouldn't move at all.

'Your invention's no good,' said Intissar's brother. 'It's all wrong!'





3 Intissar was sad, but she didn't give up. So when her sister asked her to make something to store her jewellery in, Intissar used a piece of wood, some metal springs and a few bits and pieces from an old tape recorder to make a musical jewellery box. Intissar's sister was really happy, until the day the lid of the box got stuck and all her jewellery was trapped inside.

'Your invention's no good,' said Intissar's sister, 'It's all wrong!'

4 Intissar was sad, but she didn't give up. Then her parents asked her to make something to help clean the floor, so she invented a machine out of an old bag and some leftover pipes to suck up all the rubbish from the floor. Once again this worked fine for the first few days, but once again the machine went wrong. Instead of sucking up the rubbish, it started to blow the rubbish all over the room.

Intissar began to cry. 'My inventions are no good. They're all wrong!' she said with tears in her eyes. 'Don't worry, Intissar,' said her parents. 'We're sure you'll get better.'

5 A few days later, Intissar's brother was playing with his friends in the street. They were having races on their bicycles, trying to see who was the fastest in their street. It was soon going to be Intissar's brother's turn and he had been working hard with Intissar to make sure that the motor would work so he could win the race. Then they were off and Intissar's brother took the lead. Zoom went the bicycle, getting further and further ahead of the other bicycles in the race. Intissar's brother was really happy because he was going to win. He turned round to wave at the other children, when suddenly a goat appeared in front of his bicycle.

'Watch out!' they all shouted at him.

Intissar's brother turned round and shouted, 'Eek! Oh no!' and tried to turn the bicycle so he wouldn't crash into the goat, but it was too late. Then suddenly, the motor went CRUNCH, MUNCH and KURPLUNK!!! The engine stopped, the bicycle stopped and luckily the goat was saved.

Everyone shouted, 'Hooray!' and went running up to Intissar's brother cheering because he had not crashed into the goat. The goat went, 'BAA!' and ran away.

But Intissar was worried that her brother would be unhappy because the motor had stopped working and he had lost the race. So Intissar walked slowly up to her brother. When she arrived, she found him surrounded by children. He was smiling and said to Intissar, 'Your invention isn't wrong. It's right!'



1 The Super Sentence Maker.



6 The next day, Intissar's family were watching the news on TV when the news reader announced that a small pet monkey had recently escaped from a private zoo and any sightings should be reported to the police. Suddenly, there was a loud CRASH, then a BANG and finally a CRUNCH noise coming from Intissar's sister's bedroom. Everyone rushed into the bedroom and found the chair broken, the lamp in pieces on the floor and her clothes lying in a mess by the bed. Everyone was shocked. They looked up at the dressing table and saw two bright eyes and hairy hands.

'A monkey!' they all shouted.

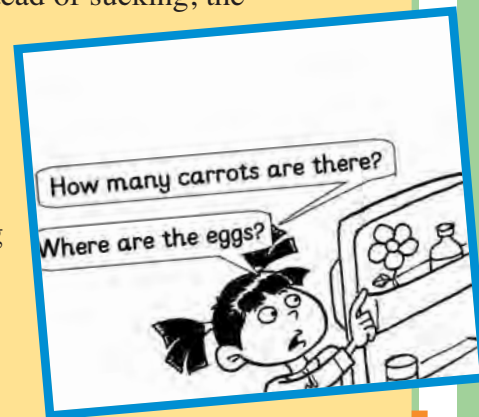
7 The monkey had climbed in through the window and was trying to open the musical jewellery box Intissar had made for her sister. Of course, the monkey couldn't open the box, because the box was stuck. The monkey was trying to hit the box against the table and had managed to knock over all the things in the bedroom.

'Quickly, it's the escaped monkey, let's try to catch it,' shouted Intissar's father. Intissar's sister quickly grabbed the bed sheet to throw over the monkey while Intissar's brother grabbed the cleaner Intissar had invented for her parents. Again instead of sucking, the machine started to blow and made a HISSING noise. The escaped monkey thought the machine was a snake and ran away. Intissar's father phoned the police to let them know that they had seen the escaped monkey. Meanwhile the rest of the family helped clear up the mess in the bedroom.

'You know Intissar, your invention stopped the monkey from taking my jewellery. Your invention's not wrong. It's all right!' said Intissar's sister with a smile on her face.

'And your cleaning machine makes a great monkey scarer. Your invention's not wrong. It's all right!' added Intissar's mother.

8 Intissar never stopped collecting things and she never stopped making inventions. Sometimes they worked, sometimes they didn't and sometimes they did things they weren't meant to do. But whatever happened, Intissar never gave up.



2 Read a poem.

Read *The Passive poem* and find the passive clauses.

The black cat ran quickly down the road chasing the little brown mouse.

Write it again with another clause.

The Passive poem

The cans were collected from family and home,
The cans were washed and dried in the sun,
The cans were flattened and cut to plan,
From ideas collected throughout the land,
The cans were polished when finally finished,
To give as presents with best wishes.

GREAT CITIES

a



Name three nouns, verbs and adjectives you associate with cities.

b



Which photo does not belong in a city? Why?

c



d



What are the positive and negative things about cities?

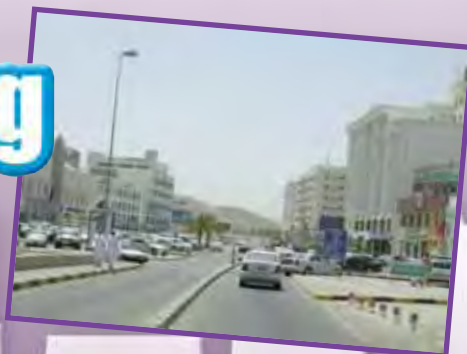
e



f



g



What do you think this unit is about?

1 Talib the Tired Traveller.

Every year, there is a World City Challenge. People can enter the challenge and raise money for the charity of their choice. Last year, Talib entered the challenge. Read the poem he wrote after the challenge and then draw Talib's route in blue on the World City Challenge map on the cut-out page at the back of your Skills Book.

When I started in Muscat,
I was really excited.

When I went to Hong Kong,
My ticket was wrong.

When I was in Beijing,
I lost my ring.

When I got to Marrakesh,
My bags were a mess.

When I got to Alice Springs,
I lost all my things.

When I reached Istanbul,
The hotels were full.

When I was in Khartoum,
I lost the key to my room.

When I got to Amsterdam,
I caught the wrong tram.

When I arrived in Mumbai,
The plane couldn't fly.

When I reached Warsaw,
My feet were red and sore.

When I got to Bangkok,
I got a big shock.

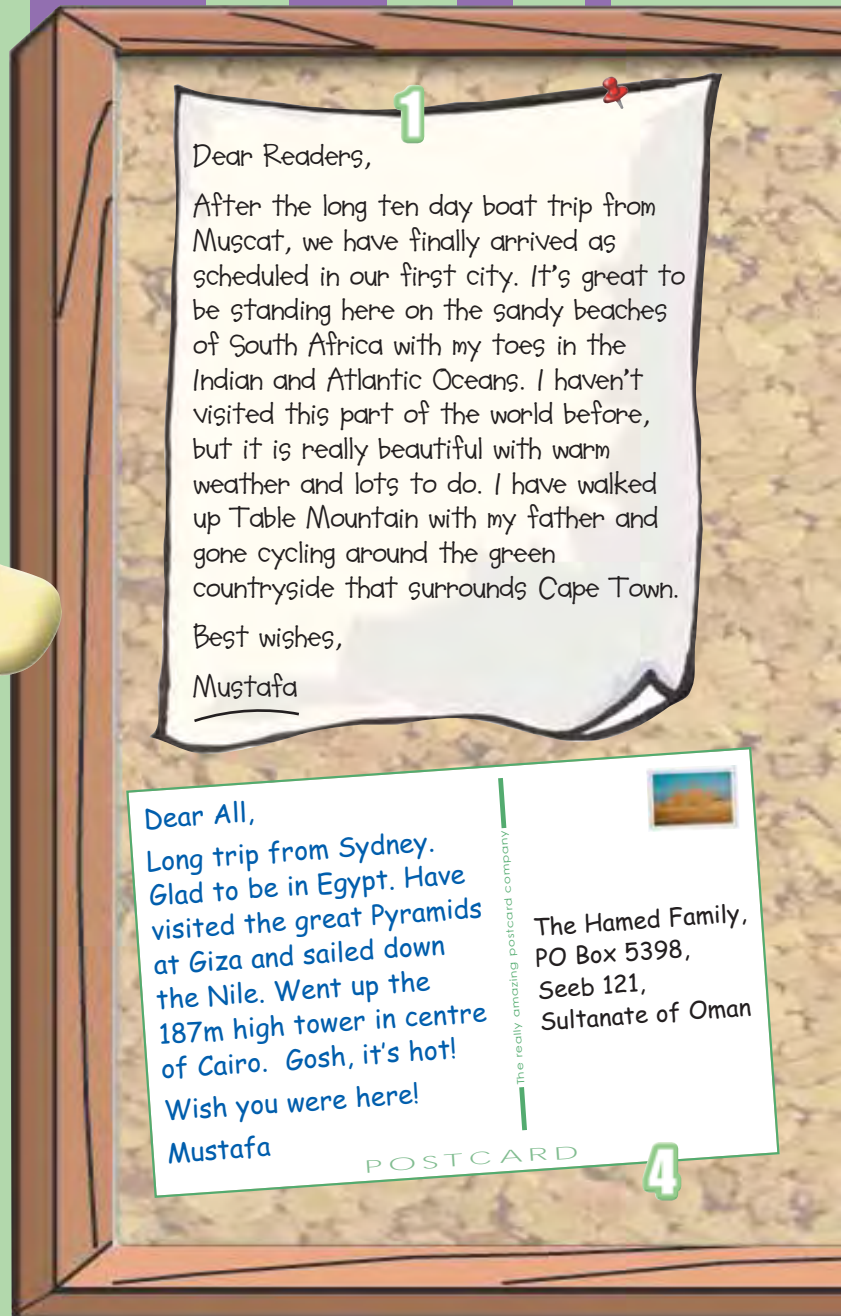
When I got to Rome,
I decided to go home.

When I got home to Muscat,
I decided to relax.

Which lines of
Talib's poem
don't rhyme?

Have you ever been
to or read about the
cities in the poem?

2 Mustafa's challenge.



Dear Readers,

After the long ten day boat trip from Muscat, we have finally arrived as scheduled in our first city. It's great to be standing here on the sandy beaches of South Africa with my toes in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. I haven't visited this part of the world before, but it is really beautiful with warm weather and lots to do. I have walked up Table Mountain with my father and gone cycling around the green countryside that surrounds Cape Town.

Best wishes,

Mustafa

Dear All,

Long trip from Sydney. Glad to be in Egypt. Have visited the great Pyramids at Giza and sailed down the Nile. Went up the 187m high tower in centre of Cairo. Gosh, it's hot!

Wish you were here!

Mustafa

The Hamed Family,
PO Box 5398,
Seeb 121,
Sultanate of Oman

POSTCARD

CLUB TALK

1 It's quiet and peaceful where I live. There is a beautiful oasis to walk in with tall palm trees and a cool falaj. I know everyone who lives here and we always visit each other's houses. There are about ten houses, a few shops and a small mosque. The best thing is the weekly souk where people come to sell cows, goats and camels.



Mustafa's family collected the letters, cards, postcards, notes, newspaper articles and e-mails from Mustafa's Round the World journey. Read them and plot Mustafa's route in red on the Around the World City Challenge map at the back of your Skills Book.

Dear Ibrahim,

Happy Birthday!

Hope you had a good time.

All is well this end ... Have flown from Amsterdam to Florida. Have visited Disney World. Saw a man wrestle an alligator yesterday at Gatorland. Hope to go water skiing tomorrow.

From,
Mustafa

Remember to visit ...

The Netherlands

✓ The Royal Palace

~~Apt Museums~~

✓ Go on a boat.

To: ITC members
From: Mustafa
Subject: Guess where I am!



Hi everyone!

It's ten days since we left Cape Town but finally we've reached the Land Down Under. Can you guess where I am? Yes, Australia! We had lots of problems getting here but we are now enjoying this great city. It's warm and sunny. We have visited the Sydney Opera House where you can go to listen to music. It's located on The Rocks where the first people who built Sydney lived. From the harbour, we caught a ferry to Taronga Park Zoo. There are some great restaurants to eat in, museums to visit and walks to go on. Have you visited Sydney?

Best wishes,
Mustafa!



WELCOME TO MUSTAFA!



Many residents of The Lion City were out in force yesterday to give a warm welcome to Mustafa who arrived from the USA yesterday. This is his first visit to this small South East nation. While in Singapore,

Mustafa hopes to relax a little by visiting China Town and going shopping. He will be signing his autograph on Sentosa Island tomorrow from 9am to 1pm.

3 Club talk.

Read these texts and decide which Club Talk member is from a village, town or city. Write your answers in your exercise book. Then listen to them talking and match the texts with what you hear.

2 I like it here, because there's a small park near my school where I go and play with my best friends. Sometimes we go to the park for picnics with my family. Opposite the park are the shops and the post office. I like going shopping with my mother, especially to the souk where you can buy anything you want. There's also a large mosque where my father and brothers go to pray every day.



3 It's really busy here and it can be quite noisy at times with all the traffic. However, there are lots of shops and shopping centres to visit and a large park with a funfair. Sometimes we go there at the weekend with my family. Sometimes, some of my friends from school come to visit me in our flat, or we go out to watch a film at the cinema.



1 Read and answer.

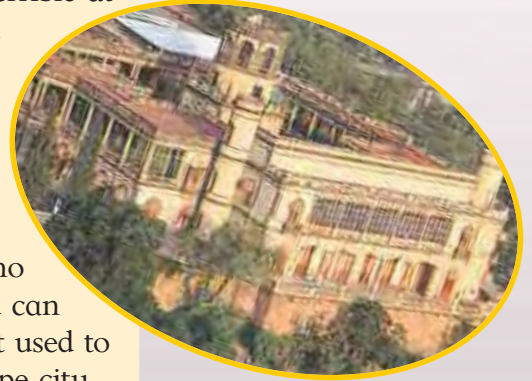
EXTREME

Some ITC members have been writing about where they live for their projects. Read what they have written and answer the questions below.

I live in Mexico City. It's the capital of Mexico, which is located in Central America. Mexico City has a population of 20 million people and is built on the ruins of a much older city called Tenochtitlan. As you can imagine with all these people, it can be busy and noisy and there is a lot of pollution and dirt. The traffic can be terrible at times and causes smog, which is a cloud of smoke that can sometimes make it difficult to breathe. That's why Mexico City is known as the most polluted city in the world.

Although the pollution is bad, there are many good things about Mexico City. For example, there is a wonderful underground train – or subway – which can get you to many interesting places. I enjoy going to the Museo del Nino – or the Children's Museum – which has lots of things you can play with. Then there is the castle on Grasshopper Hill that used to be the home of Emperor Maximilian. You can always escape city life by going to Chapultepec Park, which has a forest and beautiful gardens to walk and play in, although in the summer it's too hot. However, the cooler winters are very nice.

1



2

I am from Calgary, Canada. Although many large cities can be dirty, a recent survey found Calgary to be one of the cleanest cities in the world, with the lowest air pollution and the cleanest rubbish-free environment. Calgary is the second largest city in Canada but only has a population of around 800,000 people. It has an area of 721km². Calgary is located on the banks of the Bow River, 1,048m above sea level and 250km north of the border between Canada and the USA. You can get a great view of the city from the Calgary Tower, which is 191m high. Calgary was founded in the 19th century. Although it is a young city, it was famous enough to hold The Olympic Winter Games in 1988. Every July, the city gets really busy with the biggest cowboy show in the world when people ride horses and cows and wear white cowboy hats, colourful shirts and jeans. With all the visitors, it's easy to make new friends in the warm summers. However, it's more difficult to meet people in the long, cold winter months!



1. Which is the largest city?

2. Which is the most northerly city?

3. Which is one of the cleanest cities?

CITIES



3

Tokyo is one of the greatest cities in the world. It is the world's largest city, with a population of 33 million people who live in an area of about 580km². Tokyo is called a metropolis because it is so big. It is made up of 23 smaller cities, 5 towns and 8 villages. Travelling in many large cities can be difficult but it's quite easy to get around Tokyo on the subway, train or buses. Tokyo is located on the island of Honshu in Japan and has lots for the visitor to see and do. There is the Imperial Palace where the Emperor lives, Hama Rikyu Park, which is an old Japanese garden and the Tokyo tower which is 333m tall. There are also 600 shops in Ginza and Electric City, although all that shopping can be tiring. You may want to take a rest in one of the many restaurants instead!

I live in Reykjavik, which is the capital city of Iceland and the most northerly capital city in the world. It has a population of 178,000 people. Reykjavik is a cold place to live, with winter temperatures of -1°C and summer temperatures of around 11°C, so if you come and visit remember to bring warm clothes to wear. The weather is cold, although you can keep warm by visiting one of the many famous swimming pools, or Hot Pots. Here you can enjoy the natural hot water that comes up from the centre of the earth with temperatures of 44°C. A Hot Pot bath can make you lazy. However, an active alternative is to go for a walk or a horse ride. Also, we have many festivals like Bun Day and Bursting Day when everyone eats and drinks as much as they can.

4



4. Which is the coldest city?
5. Which is one of the dirtiest cities?

Do you think these cities are great? If so, why?

HAVE YOU EVER

1 Here is a web page that Hamed looked at for his project on a great city. Read and answer the questions at the bottom of the page. Then, tell your friend about what you have read. Finally, think about the project you will do in this unit.

1 Introduction

For millions of Muslims all over the world who pray five times a day, the greatest and most important city in the world is Makkah. Makkah lies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Makkah is the centre of the Islamic world because it is the city where the Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was born and the city in which the Ka'ba is located. The word Ka'ba means 'cube-shaped'. It is 13m tall, has a flat roof and is made of stone and clay. The roof is held up by three pillars. It was established by Adam (PBUH) and was re-built by the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) and his son Ismael (PBUH). It is called Bayt Allah which means 'The House of God'. It is the first place on earth to be built for the worship of the one true God, Allah. The Ka'ba is now surrounded by The Grand Mosque.

2 The history of Makkah

A long time ago, the Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him) was ordered by Allah to take his wife Hajar and their baby son Ismael (PBUH) into the Bakkah Valley in the desert to live. The Bakkah Valley is now located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, in the time of the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) and his son Ismael (PBUH), not many people lived in this part of the world, which was only a land of desert and mountains. Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) left Hajar and baby Ismael (PBUH) in this lonely place. Soon the baby became thirsty. Hajar became worried and ran around looking for water. Nearby were the hills of Safa and Marwah. Hajar ran seven times between the hills looking for water, praying for Allah to help her. As she prayed, she saw a spring of water coming out of the ground. She couldn't believe the miracle of water coming out of the desert and was soon able to feed the baby. This spring became known as Zamzam. When Ismael (PBUH) grew up, Allah commanded the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) and Ismael (PBUH) to re-build the Ka'ba. Ismael (PBUH) lived by the Ka'ba and worshipped Allah for all of his life. However, when Ismael (PBUH) died, the people who lived near the Ka'ba forgot about Allah and filled the Ka'ba with idols and started to worship many different gods. Even so, people from different lands began to hear about Zamzam and started to settle near it and soon more travellers and traders arrived. Before people knew it, a small settlement called Makkah had started to grow and flourish in the desert.

Have you read about Makkah before?

Which paragraph tells us about thousands of birds?

What is the Hijrah?

BEEN TO MAKKAH?



3 The story of Abraha and the elephants

Over the years, more and more people came to visit the Ka'ba. Abraha, the King of Yemen, built a big building and called people to perform pilgrimage there. But people didn't listen to him and instead they continued to go to Makkah. He decided to attack the great city of Makkah and destroy the Ka'ba with an army of men and elephants. As they got near to Makkah, they surrounded it. However, at that moment, Allah sent a miracle. Thousands of small birds came flying into the sky over the soldiers and elephants. The birds started to throw firestones on Abraha's army and the elephants and frightened them so that they wouldn't attack Makkah. The army was destroyed. The people of Makkah celebrated this miracle and named it the Year of the Elephant.

4 The Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and Makkah

The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was born in the city of Makkah. He enjoyed going for long walks in the desert in order to help him to think about the Creator of the world. At the age of 40, he was in a cave on Mount Hira near Makkah when the Angel Jibril came and told him that there was only one God, Allah, and that people should only worship Allah. The Angel Jibril also told Mohammad (PBUH) that he was to be the messenger of Allah and that he was to spread his message. When he started to tell people this, only some people believed what Mohammad (PBUH) had to say and became believers, or Muslims. However, many people, especially those living in Makkah, didn't believe and carried on worshipping different gods. They wanted to kill Mohammed (PBUH). With the help of Allah, Mohammad (PBUH) found safety in the city of Yathrib, which was re-named 'Madinah'.

Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) flight from the people of Makkah is called the Hijrah and is the start of the Islamic calendar. As time went by, Islam became more and more popular and Allah told Mohammad (PBUH) to return to Makkah. However, this time with the help of Allah, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was able to capture the city of Makkah and destroy all the idols. From that day onwards, Makkah grew to be the centre of the Islamic world and became the greatest city for Muslims around the world. Millions of Muslims go on the pilgrimage, or Hajj, to Makkah every year.



Name the characters in paragraph 2.

Why is Makkah a great city?

The Muscat Municipality Tour Guide



Facts and Figures

- ▶ Muscat has over 200km of coastline.
- ▶ It has a population of 631,031 (2003 census).
- ▶ It is hot and humid in the summer with June temperatures of 31–48°C.
- ▶ It is pleasantly cool in the winter with January temperatures of 20–25°C.
- ▶ The unit of currency is the Omani Rial (RO) which is 1000 baisas.
- ▶ Seeb Airport is 32km west of Muscat and was established in 1972.



Out and about in Muscat

- ▶ Visit one of the many parks in Muscat. Qurm Natural Park has a wildflower garden covering 30,000m² and a lake that is 50,000m². Many birds can be seen in the park.
- ▶ Al Riyam Park is one of the oldest parks, with lots of scented trees and flowers and a children's play area.
- ▶ Visit a museum: The Muscat Gate Museum, The Children's Museum, The National Museum, The Natural History Museum, The Armed Forces Museum.
- ▶ Go ice-skating in Al Khuwair.
- ▶ Visit the Planetarium in Qurm.
- ▶ See a film at one of the many cinemas.
- ▶ Visit the beautiful beaches.
- ▶ Go shopping at one of the many international shopping centres.

History

- ▶ Muscat is one of the oldest inhabited regions of the Arabian peninsula.
- ▶ In 1981, archaeologists found evidence of homes which were over 9,600 years old.
- ▶ In 1490, Muscat was already a very famous port.
- ▶ In 1787, Muscat became the capital city of Oman.
- ▶ Al Jalali and Al Mirani forts were built by the Portuguese in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- ▶ Al Alam Palace was built in the 20th century as the Royal Palace in Muscat.
- ▶ The Al Bustan Palace was built for a conference in the 1970s and became a luxury hotel in 1985.

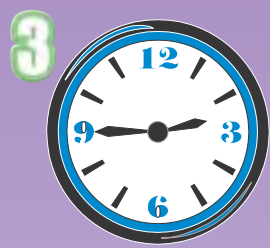


2 Match the times.

Match the digital times to the clock faces.



a 04:00



b 10:30



d 02:45

c 07:15



24 hour clock

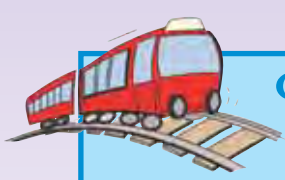
05:00 17:00

3 Timetables.

Look at the following timetables and answer the questions in activity 2 on page 38 of your Skills Book.



BUS STOP				
Number	10	3A	27	8
Supermarket	08.30	09.00	10.30	14.00
Train Station	08.45	09.15	---	14.15
Zoo	09.15	---	11.15	---
Town centre	09.30	09.45	11.30	14.45
Airport	10.00	10.15	---	15.15



Central London Train Station

LONDON to BRIGHTON				
Depart	07.30	10.30	14.30	16.30
Arrive	09.30	12.30	16.30	18.30

LONDON to MANCHESTER				
Depart	06.15	10.15	13.15	16.15
Arrive	09.30	13.30	16.30	19.30

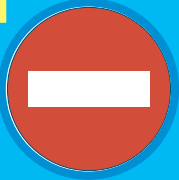
Mexico City Airport

DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
TO		FROM	
Paris	11.30 15.45	Paris	09.30 17.00
Dubai	09.15 16.00	Dubai	10.00 14.30
Reykjavik	02.30 10.00	Reykjavik	04.15 16.00

1 Match the signs.

Match the signs with the descriptions on activity 1 on page 40 of your Skills Book.

a



b



c



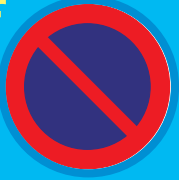
d



e



f



g



h



2 City life language.

Look at the photographs and discuss what is happening and what people are saying.

1

In the street



2

At a coffee shop



3

At the bus stop



4

In a shop



3 Famous landmarks.

Some great cities have amazing buildings. Work in your group and match the landmarks below to a city.

a. Dubai, UAE

b. Islamabad, Pakistan

c. Agra, India

d. Toronto, Canada

e. Paris, France

f. San Francisco, USA

1



2



3



4



5



6





for Grade 8!

CLUB CORNER



Read all about it!



1. Relax and read a fable about how a city full of rubbish can make children disappear!



2. Have you read a book in the LRC recently? Read comments from ITC members about the books they have read!



3. Read an e-mail about how you can help save endangered species by recycling rubbish!



4. Is your mind feeling sleepy? Wake up your brain with our puzzles.



5. Write to the Club Corner Notice Board with your ideas and comments.



6. Have you been somewhere interesting lately? We've got a list of all of the best events happening near you.



7. Read our special interview feature and meet a prize-winning inventor!



8. Try our Book Quiz and find out how much you remember in your Classbook.

**Free to all Grade
8 ITC members!**

Inside

Stories
Brain busters
Letters
E-mails
Book reviews
Events programme
Quizzes
Interviews
Advertisements

Letter from the Editor

Dear ITC members,

Hi everyone! Welcome to **Club Corner**, the first issue of a brand new magazine designed for ITC members. I think you'll really enjoy reading everything inside!

In this special first issue there are puzzles, book reviews, quizzes, letters and articles written by ITC members. You can make your own class magazine and you can choose different activities to do.

I really hope you'll enjoy reading this magazine. We want to make each issue better and better so please send in your ideas about what you want to see in your magazine. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes and happy reading!

The Editor

www.edcc.com

Now and Then

Azzan from Oman sent in this fantastic article all about the city of Muscat. Read it and then send us your article about your city now and then!

PO Box 3005,
PC 321,
Seeb,
Oman



Now and Then,
Club Corner,
ITC

Dear ITC members,

I am writing to tell you how my city has changed. I live in Muscat, which is the capital city of Oman. Last year, I did a project at school and my grandmother told me about life in Muscat when she used to be a girl. It was really interesting and I decided to find out more information about how my city has changed.

All cities change and Muscat has not always been the capital of Oman. Qalhat, in the region of Sharqiya South, was the first Omani capital city. In the 2nd century, Qalhat used to be a busy city port but now it is in ruins. Nizwa used to be the capital city of Oman in the 17th century and it is a great city today. Some cities become smaller and other cities get bigger and bigger.

Muscat has changed in many different ways over recent years. The population of Muscat, health care, education, industry and tourism have all changed. In 1970, there used to be one doctor to 28,000 people but now there is one doctor to 1,000 people. The population of Muscat and Oman has changed because health care has improved. Muscat used to have quite a small population but now it is 631,031. The number of schools has increased because the population has increased. There used to be 2 schools in Muscat in 1970 but now there are 140 schools and several universities in Muscat. Although Muscat has always been a famous and important port, it has grown in size over recent years. Industry has also grown. In 1970, there used to be 10 industries in Muscat but now there are more than 400 industries and many more throughout the country. Tourism has increased as well. There used to be one international hotel in Muscat but now there are about 26!

All cities change and Muscat has seen many changes since the 1970s. It has grown from being a small but important port to a great international city. I have enclosed two photos of Muscat for readers to look at. I hope that other ITC members will find out more information about their own town or city and send it to Club Corner.

Yours sincerely,

Azzan Ali



Conservation Corner

Jane has sent us an e-mail about an amazing invention which can save an endangered species.

Dear Conservation Corner,

I'm a volunteer for the National Bird-feeding Society. This is an organisation that protects and conserves birds and habitats in Britain. I'm writing to tell you about a brilliant invention that'll help bring birds to your garden.

The population of some bird species has decreased in recent years because their habitats are being destroyed. Pesticides which get into the food chain are also poisoning birds. We are encouraging people to make bird feeders for their gardens to help birds survive. Bird feeders are easy to make out of recycled materials.

This is how you make a bird feeder. First, a small empty milk carton is washed and dried. Next, a small rectangle is cut from the front of the carton and the top is stapled closed. After that, the carton is painted with grey, green or brown paint. A hole is made in the top of the carton and a piece of string is threaded through the hole. Finally, some bird food is put inside the carton and it is hung in a tree.

It's a really simple idea and it helps conserve birds! I hope readers will get busy and make a bird feeder for their garden!

Best wishes,

Jane



Join Conservation Corner!

Why not join our Conservation Corner? For just 3 Rials, you'll get your own Conservation Corner Newsletter every month for a year. We'll also keep you informed of conservation projects in your area and you will have opportunities to buy t-shirts, gifts and toys that help protect endangered species.

Interested? Complete the application form on page 44 of your Skills Book.

Join now and get a fantastic free gift!

We managed to get an early preview of Talib's new book 'Scary City Stories' which is going to be in your bookshops next month. Here's a taste of the hottest new book to be released this year – just for ITC members! Read it and then complete independent task 1 on page 44 of your Skills Book.

Scary City Story!

It was the hottest day ever! The streets were busier than Rome and noisier than Cairo. The traffic was sending clouds of thick smoke into the air and it was difficult to breathe. I decided to catch a bus to my hotel, so I put out my hand and the oldest, slowest bus in the city stopped next to me. I pushed and squeezed myself through the doors and bought a ticket. After the longest hour of my life, the bus stopped and I fought my way off the bus. When I looked up, I saw the most disgusting building I have ever seen. It was the hotel! Standing at the entrance was an enormous man. He was taller than a tree, more frightening than a lion and wider than a rhino. He was the most frightening man I had ever seen!

Have You Ever?

1. Have you ever swum with sharks?

I've swum with sharks and I've seen jellyfish and turtles! Last year, I was on holiday in Australia and I went diving on the Barrier Reef. The diving instructors were very careful and it was completely safe but I've never been so scared as when I came head to head with a huge hammerhead shark!

Talal from Oman

3. Have you ever been to Egypt?

I've been to Egypt and I've seen the Sphinx. It was amazing and much bigger than I imagined! I've also eaten Egyptian food and I've been to the pyramids. I've sailed down the Nile and I've seen crocodiles.

Fred from the Netherlands

5. Have you ever grown tomatoes?

I've grown my own tomatoes, beans and peppers! I've grown so many that I've given vegetables to my friends and family. I started growing my own vegetables last year and I was amazed at my success. I've saved money and I've helped my friends!

Ben from Scotland

We asked some ITC members to write in with some of their amazing experiences. However, we didn't realise how adventurous you are out there! Here are some of the letters we received.

2. Have you ever seen a Caracal lynx?

I've seen a Caracal lynx! My family and I were visiting Oman and we were walking up a wadi when we heard a splash in a pool behind us. I turned around and saw a Caracal running through the water.

Erica from Brazil

4. Have you ever ridden an elephant?

I've ridden an elephant and I've chased a black rhino. When I visited Nepal, my family took me on an elephant safari. While we were riding through the jungle, our elephant surprised a black rhino and started to chase it. I've also ridden an elephant and I've nearly fallen off an elephant!

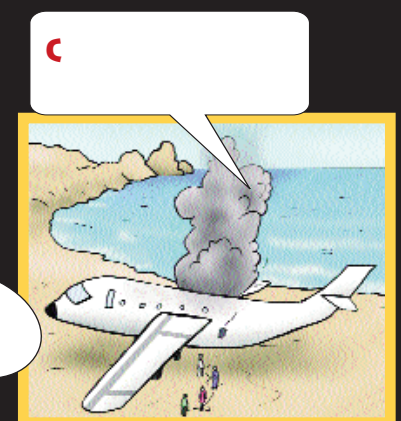
Wong from China

6. Have you ever won a competition?

I've won three competitions! I always enter competitions because I like the challenge. If you don't enter, you can't win! I've won a pencil case, a computer game and a dictionary.

Martha from Wales

Flight CA-123 to Cairo





BRAIN BUSTERS

Try and solve these puzzles sent in by ITC members!

Find the city

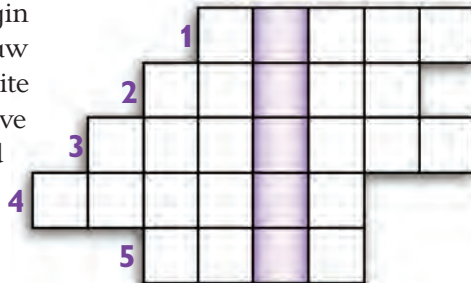
Solve the puzzle and find one of the cities Mustafa visited in Unit 4.

- My first is in Office on Sunday Street,
- My second is in crossroads where two roads meet,
- My third is in police station which all cities have,
- My fourth is in bread from the bakery shop,
- My fifth is in Queen's Hotel on the map,
- My sixth is in Thursday when I hope to get back,
- My seventh's my first, it's a letter you've seen,
- Find a city in Florida where Mustafa has been.

Find the past participle

Write the past participles and find the missing past participle in the shaded squares.

1. begin
2. draw
3. write
4. drive
5. did



Sound maze

Follow the same sound from word to word with your finger and find your destination.

(/ei/) → say → cake → toy → soil → school
 (/ɔɪ/) → boy → noise → race → blue → bank
 (/ə/) → tower → true → zoo → play → hospital
 (/u:/) → new → colour → the → teacher → police station

What's on?

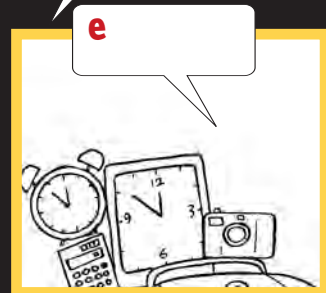
You don't have to sit in front of the boring TV any more! Club Corner has got details of all the hot spots and exciting events in town! So get busy, ring your friends, turn off the TV and get

Wild Cats African Band
 at the Sunny Hotel
 Wednesday, 13th Jan
 One night only! 21.00 until midnight

Animals in Danger
 Wellville Hall
 Starts 16th February
 Ends 1st March
 17.30 until 22.00 weekdays.
 17.30 until 20.00 Thursdays.

Dinosaur Tracks
 Central Museum
 Starts Sunday, 25th January
 Ends Friday, 14th February
 Open 09.00 until 20.00 daily.

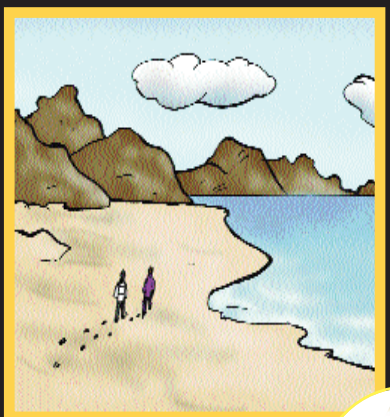
d



g



h



The Mystery of the Missing People of Newtown was sent into the Club Corner magazine by an ITC member. Read the story and answer the focus questions.

Put
on a
play

The Mystery of the Missing People of Newtown

In the 14th century, on The Isle of Wight off the coast of Southern England, there was a busy, successful seaport called Newtown. It was a very rich and wealthy port where big ships from many parts of the world used to come and bring different goods. Newtown was so rich that many of the streets were called Gold or Silver Street.

As Newtown became richer, the French became jealous and decided to attack Newtown. In 1377, the French arrived in Newtown and found the once busy port nearly empty with only a few old men defending the port. All the young men, women and children of Newtown had disappeared! What had happened to the young people of Newtown?

The mystery of the missing people of Newtown is explained by some on a plague of rats that took over the port. As the number of ships increased, the number of rats increased. The rats soon took over the town and were found eating food and spreading disease.

The people of Newtown decided to do something about the problem and brought in cats to chase the rats. However, there were too many rats for the cats to do anything. Some rats were so strong and clever that they even chased the cats! The problem became worse and the Mayor of Newtown decided to give a reward of £50 to anyone who would get rid of the rats.



Focus questions

Soon a strange looking man with sharp blue eyes, dressed in red and black, arrived in Newtown. He went to see the Mayor and offered to get rid of the rats for £50. The Mayor agreed. The stranger used a small musical instrument called a pipe and started to play a wonderful magical tune. As he played, the rats stopped eating and started to follow the man. The stranger walked down to the ocean and got into a boat and rowed out to sea. The rats, hundreds and thousands of them, followed the man to the ocean and drowned in the water. Soon all the rats had gone. The people of Newtown celebrated.

When the stranger returned he asked the Mayor for his money. The Mayor refused and said that £50 was too much money. He then gave the stranger only £20. The stranger was not happy with this. Once again, he picked up his pipe and started to play the strangest tune anyone had ever heard. The sound was more magical than before. This time no rats came running after the stranger with the pipe. This time the young men, women and children came. They followed the stranger to the nearby forest and disappeared forever.

Ever since that day, Newtown – which used to be a busy port with wealthy people – is a quiet little town. The mystery of the missing people remains unanswered. Some people think that the piper made them disappear. Whatever the reason, it is true to say that when the French attacked Newtown there were no young people left to defend the port.

Where is Newtown?

1

Why were the French surprised when they attacked Newtown?

2

What was the problem in Newtown?

3

Did the cats get rid of the rats?

4

What did the stranger look like?

5

Who broke their promise?

6

What do you think happened to the young men, women and children?

7

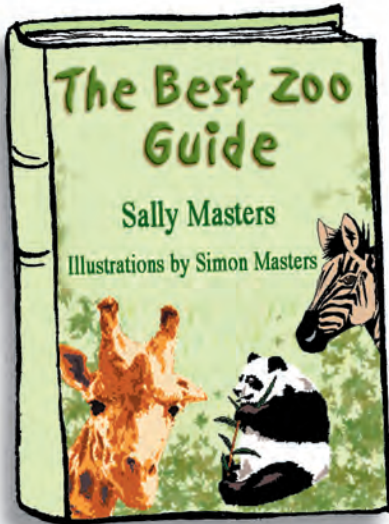
BOOK



CLUB

Here are some book reviews that ITC members have sent to the Club Corner magazine. However, the reviews were not printed next to the correct book cover. Quickly read the reviews and match the book covers with the reviews. Write your answers in your exercise book.

a



1 This is the first book written by this brother and sister team and what an excellent one it is. If you have finished your homework, or are feeling bored and don't know what to do in your free time, then this is the book for you! This book has a great collection of ideas for making the most of your free time - this book has it all. From indoor activities such as playing board games or making models to more active outdoor activities such as jogging, skateboarding or fishing. The easy-to-read style of the book with its clear contents and index pages makes it simple for the reader to find the information you want. I would highly recommend this book.

Review sent in by Ann



2 I really like animals and think that zoos do some great work in trying to save endangered animals as well as providing entertainment for people. I was really looking forward to reading this book and finding out about which zoos to visit in my holidays. However, I was quite disappointed with this book by Sally Masters. I found the writing quite hard to understand because of the long sentences and the vocabulary was really difficult. Although the illustrations are very good, I found many of them to be too small to look at. I find it hard to recommend this book to readers. There are much better books than this one for readers to spend their money on.

Thanks for your review Mohammed.



b



Focus questions

The following questions are about the book reviews. Read and answer the questions in your exercise books. Work with others in your group.

1

Which book was written by Mustafa Ali?

2

Who is the illustrator of The Best Zoo Guide?

3

Which book was reviewed by Mohammed?



REVIEW

STAR RATINGS



Fantastic



Good



All right



Quite bad



Awful

C



3

This pocket-size book is a useful addition to the many travel guides already for sale in bookshops. It was written by Mustafa Ali, who recently returned from visiting cities round the world raising money for Ocean Life. In this neat little book, we find out about Mustafa's journey and the adventures he had on the way. The stories he tells are quite interesting and the photographs are good. However, some of the city facts can be quite boring and are only useful if you want to visit the cities Mustafa went to. This was Mustafa's first attempt at writing and it is a good attempt.



What a great review by Maryam.

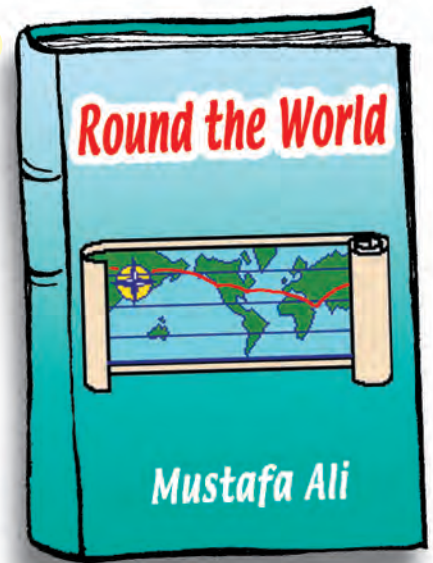
4

Wow, what a fantastic little book this is. Full of facts, figures and great descriptions of some of the greatest Arab inventors in history. The clear illustrations are really good and would be useful in any school project. This is a non-fiction book written by Intissar Juma. She writes some clear and very interesting information which is useful to anyone who wants to find out more about Arab inventors. Some of the inventions include the telescope, the pendulum and the watch. You'll find out many more useful facts when you read this great book. I would recommend this book to anyone working on a school project.

Thanks to Stefan for his review.



d



Which book has the highest and lowest star rating? What do these mean?

4

5

Have you read any books like these before?

6

Which books have you read from the LRC?

Book Quiz !

Work in groups to match the questions with the answers. Write your answers in your exercise book. Use your Classbook to help you. You have 10 minutes to do the work!

1. Write three of the outdoor free time activities on pages 2 and 3.
2. What are the reading strategies mentioned on page 5?
3. Which free time activities does Ahmed mention in his e-mail to Ashok?
4. What are the first three lines of the Positive–Negative Chant?
5. Which animal is Raiya's report about on page 12?
6. Write the different places mentioned in the sentences in the blue box on page 15 of the Classbook.
7. In the Animal Olympics, which is the heaviest and which is the lightest animal?
8. What time does Sharjah Zoo open on Fridays?
9. What onomatopoeia words are written on the cover page of Unit 3?
10. Which invention helps you to float on water?
11. Which invention needs a balloon to make it?
12. Who invented the first robotic helicopter?
13. Write the cities Talib visited in alphabetical order.
14. Which is the largest city in the world?
15. What time does the number 8 bus leave for the town centre?

Answer key

- a. playground, restaurant, aviary, enclosures, children's zoo, amphitheatre, café, gift shop, ticket office, entrance
- b. Amsterdam, Bangkok, Beijing, Bombay, Brisbane, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Khartoum, Marrakesh, Muscat, Rome, Warsaw
- c. Tokyo
- d. skimming and scanning
- e. Positive or negative? Positive or negative? Positive or negative?
- f. swimming, collecting post cards, playing chess and playing the keyboard
- g. 2pm to 7pm
- h. 14.45 or 2.45 pm
- i. heaviest is the whale, lightest is the gorilla
- j. Clink, Whirr, Bang, Pop, Clank
- k. Sikosky
- l. fishing, skate boarding, jogging, skiing, camping
- m. rabbits
- n. the easy sailor
- o. the balloon rocket



1 The Quick Quiz.

In your group, quickly answer the following questions in your exercise books.

- 1 Think of a word beginning with **b** from the unit.
- 2 What onomatopoeia words could describe the sound a tap makes?
- 3 Name three adjectives from the unit.
- 4 Name three nouns from the unit.
- 5 Name three verbs from the unit.
- 6 Name one adverb from the unit.
- 7 What can you make out of drink cans?
- 8 What materials do you need to make a balloon rocket?
- 9 What did Charles Strite invent?
- 10 Name five inventions from the unit.
- 11 What are the steps for making a can engine?
- 12 When was the World Wide Web invented?
- 13 What materials do you need to make a can engine?
- 14 What are the steps for making a balloon rocket?
- 15 Who invented the tea bag?
- 16 What are the steps for making a super sentence?
- 17 Write this sentence in the passive:
Intissar built a machine for her mother.
- 18 Write a sentence using 'a piece of'.
- 19 Write three ways of spelling the /u:/ sound.

2 Club talk.

Read what members of the ITC think about the unit you have been working on. Write your own views on the unit in your exercise book.

CLUB TALK

I thought this was a great unit. I really enjoyed making the can engine and the balloon rocket but found reading the instructions a bit difficult. I got my friend to help me with the reading and also looked carefully at pictures and the first letters of words to help me. I think I'll keep practising my reading by reading the story books we made in class.



I enjoy stories, so it was wonderful to read some of the stories from earlier grades. I had nearly forgotten them but the 'Guess the story' activity really helped me to remember. Then we tried to write our own stories. I found this quite difficult, because I can't always think of the words I need or the ideas to help me. I think that using the story sorting machine and the super sentence maker helped me a lot in writing my story book. I think I'll use them again.



This was a difficult unit for me but I really enjoyed it. I know I have to work hard in my reading and writing but I will keep trying like Intissar does with her inventions. I thought all the inventions were great and now I know how to re-use some of the drink cans my brother has been collecting. I was really happy when I won the best ideas prize in the International Inventors Competition. I think everyone should keep trying, however hard it may be.

