

The Old Sea-Dog

- 8 When a ship was short of the necessary crew, a party was sent ashore to 'Shanghai' men. They made men insensible by drink, or other methods, and when the victims recovered they found themselves far out at sea. The 'Press Gang' was a party of sailors from a warship, who forced men to enlist in the navy.
- 9 'Davy Jones' Locker' was said to be the final resting-place of all sailors who were drowned at sea. The name 'Jack Tar' is derived from the old habit of a sailor tarring his trousers to make them waterproof. The sailor's collar goes back to the days when seafaring men had greasy and tarry pigtails. The collar soon became dirty, but it was easily taken off and cleaned.
- 10 Doubloons, pieces of eight, cross-money, moidores, and guineas are often mentioned in pirate stories. A doubloon was a Spanish gold coin worth about £1.40. A piece of eight was a Spanish silver coin worth about 25p, and it is interesting to note that the sign for a dollar (\$) was obtained from the figure 8 used on this coin. Pieces of metal, cross-marked by the priests to show that they were genuine pieces of gold, were called cross-money.



Comprehension skills

- 1 a) From which longer novel is this extract taken?
b) Who wrote the novel?
- 2 Which word best describes the setting of the story?
a) a city b) a village c) a port
- 3 Where does most of the story take place?
a) on a ship b) in an inn c) in a cove
- 4 Why do you think the old seaman choose the least busy of all the inns to stay at? Find a sentence from the story to back up your point of view.
- 5 The old seaman is described with 'his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulders of his soiled blue coat', and later the narrator says he 'seemed like a mate or a skipper'. What is different about these two statements? Which is fact and which is opinion? Give reasons.
- 6 What did the old seaman do every day? Why do you think he did this?
- 7 What did the old seaman ask the narrator to do for him? Why do you think he did this?
- 8 a) What was the narrator so terrified of?
b) At what particular time was he so terrified? Why might this be?

Critical Thinking

- 9 Journeys at sea could be very long and dangerous. What challenges might sailors on a long journey face?
- 10 The Atocha was a Spanish ship said to be full of treasure. It sank off the coast of the USA in 1622. Go to the library and use books or the internet to do some research on famous ships. Choose one ship and present some facts about it in a short talk to your class.

If you enjoyed the story of the Old Sea-Dog, borrow a copy of *Treasure Island* from the library and read more about Jim Hawkins' adventures.

Study skills

- 1 Give four different words for a pirate.
- 2 Name and describe the pirate flag.
- 3 Who were the Vikings?
- 4 Where did the Barbary Pirates operate?
- 5 What was the most famous hunting ground of the pirates?
- 6 With what weapons were pirates usually equipped?
- 7 Name three tortures inflicted by pirates on their prisoners.
- 8 What was the Press Gang?
- 9 What is meant by 'Davy Jones' Locker'?
- 10 Name four coins often mentioned in pirate stories.
- 11 a) Where did the dollar sign originate?
b) How many countries do you know that use the dollar sign for their currency?

Language development

- 1 Use a dictionary to look up the meanings of these words from the story.
 - a) barrow
 - b) berth
 - c) chorus
 - d) custom
 - e) handy
 - f) livid
 - g) personage
 - h) pursue
 - i) sabre
 - j) seafaring
- 2 Here are some more words from the story. Give the opposite of each word.
 - a) heavy
 - b) tall
 - c) strong
 - d) old
 - e) fierce
 - f) silent
- 3 Here are some extracts from the story. Replace the underlined word or words with a synonym.
 - a) With black, broken nails and the sabre-cut across one cheek.
 - b) My father told him no – very little company.
 - c) He was a very silent man by custom.
 - d) Every day when he came back from his stroll.
 - e) When the wind shook the four corners of the house.
 - f) I was so terrified by the idea of a sea-faring man with one leg.
- 4 Pirate ships were old-fashioned, wooden sailing ships with huge masts. How are the ships we see today different from pirate ships? Compare the differences like this, one fact has been given for you:

<u>Pirate ships</u>	<u>Modern ships</u>
Built from wood	Made of metal
- 5 Every sailor, pirates of old, and even sailors of today, use the words 'port' and 'starboard' every day. What do these words mean and why is it important for sailors to know them? Look them up in a dictionary if you do not know them.
- 6 There are many old tales of pirates, some have even been made into famous films. Imagine that you are writing a brand-new pirate adventure story. Write a paragraph to describe what your main character looks and sounds like. Make sure to give them a pirate name!

Comprehension skills

- 1 What country is the setting of this story?
- 2 At what time of day are the main events of the story set?
 - a) morning
 - b) afternoon
 - c) night
- 3 What has caused the water level of the gorge to rise?
- 4 What problem did the rising water level present?
- 5 What happened as a result of the rising water level?
- 6 The old woman realised there was a huge problem. What was it?
- 7 What solution did the old woman come up with?
- 8 Describe the difficulties the woman and her daughter had in carrying out their plan.
- 9 Was the plan successful?
- 10 What disaster did the woman and her daughter manage to avoid?

Critical Thinking

- 11 Imagine that you are either the old woman or her daughter. Retell the story of how you stopped the train on that fateful night.
- 12 The story tells us that the passengers on the train 'were deeply moved' by the bravery of the woman and her daughter. Why were they deeply moved?

Different sorts of bridges



Stone arched



Common trussed



Cantilever



Lattice bridge



Deck bridge



Suspension

Arab figures. Many inventions and developments in science, medicine, architecture, music and other spheres originated in Arabia.

- 8 Religion plays a very large part in the life of the Arab. Followers of Islam (Muslims) worship God (Allah) and regard Muhammad as His Prophet. Each day at prayer times the muezzins (criers) stand on the minarets of the mosques and call the Muslims to prayer. They kneel down facing Mecca (the holy city of their religion) and recite parts of their holy book.
- 9 The holy book of Muslims is called the Koran, and it means both law and religion to Muslims. Muhammad described visions in which Allah communicated to him, and his utterances were recorded in the Koran. In AD 622 Arabs who worshipped age-old tribal gods, made many attempts upon the Prophet's life and he was forced to flee from Mecca to Medina. This flight is known as the Hegira, and it marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar. Thus the Muslim date is 622 years less than the date on the Christian calendar. Friday is held as the Sabbath day.
- 10 Around the world there are many Muslims and each follower tries to make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in their lives.

Comprehension skills

- 1 What was the profession of Ali Sakal?
- 2 Which city is the setting of the story?
- 3 Find the phrase in the story which describes how Ali's personality changed as he became famous.
- 4 How does Ali Sakal trick the woodcutter?
- 5 What was the woodcutter's reaction?
- 6 The woodcutter goes to see many people to complain about Ali. Put these people in the order in which he visited them: the Caliph, a higher judge, the mufti.
- 7 How does the scribe help the woodcutter? What can the scribe do that the woodcutter cannot do?
- 8 When he visits the Caliph, the woodcutter bows down before him. Why do you think he does this?
- 9 How does the woodcutter trick Ali Sakal?
- 10 What is Ali Sakal's reaction?

Critical Thinking

- 11 When he shaved the donkey, Ali was 'jeered and mocked by the taunts of bystanders'. Do you think he deserved this punishment for his deeds? Explain why or why not.

Study skills

- 1 In what countries are Arabs generally to be found?
- 2 a) Name their great prophet.
b) Where was he born?
- 3 a) What is the name given to the holy book of the Arabs?
b) When are the Muslims called to prayer?
c) Which day is held as the sabbath day?
- 4 What does each follower of Islam try to do at least once in a lifetime?
- 5 Describe typical Arab dress.
- 6 a) What is the name given to a group of Arab tents?
b) How do the desert Arabs carry their drinking water?
- 7 a) What is a mark of sincere friendship with Arabs?
b) Describe how they would eat a meal.
- 8 a) Name a famous Arab trading centre of olden times.
b) Why was this town so important?
- 9 Describe various methods of transport seen in Arabia.
- 10 a) In what branches of learning were the Arabs very interested?
b) What mathematical system is attributed to the Arabs?

Language development

- 1 At the time of the story, wood was the most popular form of fuel. Today we use fuel to light and heat our homes, to drive vehicles and to run factories. What types of fuel do we use for these things? List as many different types of fuels as you can.
- 2 Some fuels are called fossil fuels. What are the three fossil fuels? If you are not sure, look in a dictionary or reference books.
- 3 Ali Sakal is a barber. He cuts hair. What is the name of the profession of the following?
 - a) Someone who sells meat.
 - b) Someone who makes bread.
 - c) Someone who brings your food in a restaurant.
 - d) Someone who looks after people's teeth.
 - e) Someone who paints pictures.
 - f) Someone who mops and sweeps.
- 4 Here are some sentences from the story. Put the correct punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.
 - a) Who ever heard of such a bargain
 - b) The woodcutter went to a higher judge
 - c) And forthwith he drove them out of his shop
 - d) Bring Ali Sakal and his razors to me this instant
 - e) Why do you refuse to shave this man's companion?
 - f) To the donkey immediately, or you know the consequences.
- 5 Here are some adjectives from the story. Find the noun each one describes. Be careful, some appear more than once.
 - a) poor _ _ _ _ _
 - b) great _ _ _ _ _
 - c) many _ _ _ _ _
 - d) poor _ _ _ _ _
 - e) poor _ _ _ _ _
- 6 Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of these words from the story.
 - a) consequences
 - b) considerable
 - c) disheartened
 - d) insult
 - e) overbearing
 - f) pondered
 - g) punctuality
 - h) reign
 - i) reverence
 - j) scarce

Grandmother Spider Steals the Fire

lls

- 1 In your own words, describe what a powwow is.
- 2 What was the problem with the dark?
- 3 What solution might solve the problem with the dark?
- 4 Explain why Opossum, Buzzard and Crow all fail in their task.
- 5 a) What was different about Grandmother Spider?
b) Why do you think she succeeded where others had failed?
- 6 Explain some of the ways in which Grandmother Spider helped the human people.

Critical Thinking

- 7 Fire can be dangerous; campfires should only be lit out in a safe place where they are permitted, and you should always have a fire bucket to hand. How else can you stay safe when you are around a controlled fire? What other precautions should you take?
- 8 When people sit around campfires, they often tell stories or sing songs. Have you ever sat around a campfire? Do you know any campfire songs?

Study skills

- 1 What is the name given to the special territories in which the Native Americans live?
- 2 Name five famous Native American tribes.
- 3 What are the following called? a) a Native American woman, b) a Native American baby.
- 4 Name three types of Native American dwellings.
- 5 What was wampum?
- 6 Name some of the things which the Native Americans taught us to use.
- 7 a) Who was the 'medicine man'?
- b) Describe a Native American festival or dance.
- 8 a) What was the purpose of the totem pole?
b) What was the 'happy hunting ground'?
- 9 What cruel forms of torture did the Native Americans inflict on their victims?
- 10 Name two famous hunters who took part in many expeditions against Native Americans on the warpath.

Language development

- 1 Some tribes adopted a creature as their tribal emblem. Of what countries are the following creatures the national emblems?
a) Kangaroo b) Beaver
c) Springbok d) Dragon e) Eagle
- 2 The Native Americans had different kinds of homes such as the tepee, wigwam, long house, and pueblo. Who live in the following?
a) Igloo b) Kraal c) Dowar
d) Tent e) Caravan f) Manse
g) Monastery h) Convent
- 3 Create a poster telling children what to do in the event of a fire at their home.

The Story of Pelorus Jack

- 1 Find the year Jack was first seen and the year Jack died. Work out approximately how long Jack was alive for.
- 2 Based on details from the story, write a description of the physical appearance of Jack.
- 3 How did most sailors and seamen feel about Jack? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- 4 Why was it strange that Jack would guide steamers but not sailing ships?
- 5 When Jack had been shot, the culprit was 'sent to Coventry'. What does this mean?
- 6 What did the Government do in order to protect Jack?

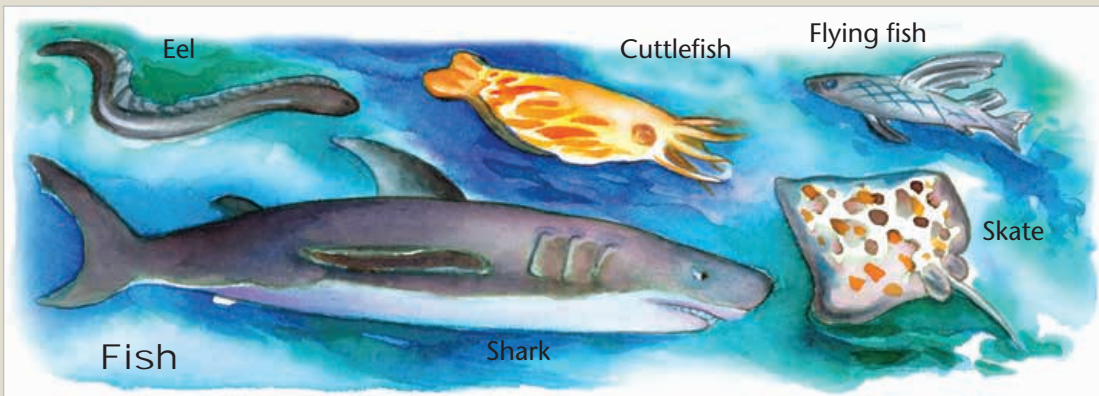
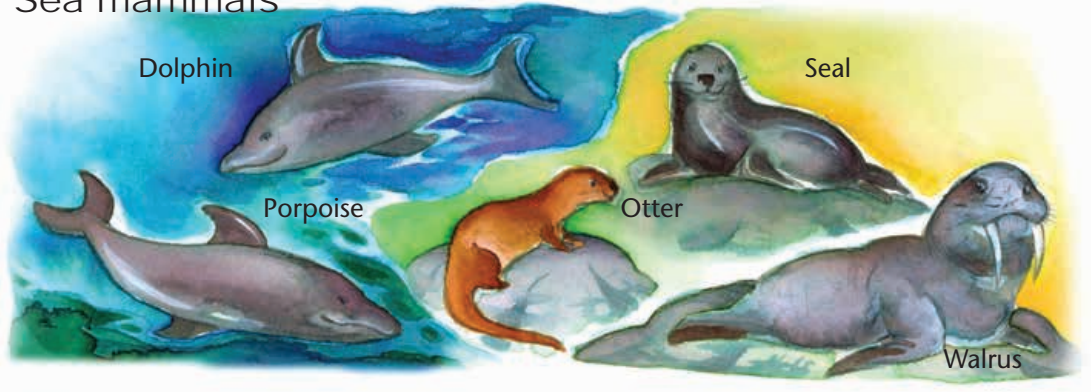
- 7 Why did the government need to do this?

Critical Thinking

- 8 Dolphins are sea mammals. Look at the pictures. Choose one of the sea mammals or fish and do some research about it in books or on the internet. Use your findings to write a short passage imagining that you are that animal. Describe who you are, what you look like, where you live and what you like to do each day.

Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.

Sea mammals



The Legend of the Willow Pattern

Comprehension skills

- 1 Chinese tea-sets became very *fashionable*. What does this mean?
- 2 Describe four features of the design of the Willow Pattern.
- 3 The design uses imagery to depict the legend behind it. What does the image of the two turtle doves represent?
- 4 What job did Chang do for the Mandarin?
- 5 Do you think Chang enjoyed his work? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- 6 For what reason did Li-Chi's father keep her prisoner?
- 7 How do you think Li-Chi felt? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- 8 Chang's mother says, 'faint heart never won fair lady'. What is she trying to say to him by using this proverb?

Critical Thinking

- 9 The Mandarin was angry that his daughter loved Chang because he was '*a low-born gardener*'. What do you think is the more important quality; the status and wealth of a person, or their personality and character? Express your own opinion and try to give reasons for it.
- 10 The merchants who brought back the tea-sets were Dutch. Find out more about the Dutch and answer these questions:
 - a) Where are Dutch people from?
 - b) By what other name is the country also known?
 - c) What three colours are on the flag of this country?
 - d) Name at least three other countries with flags of the same colours.

Study skills

- 1
 - a) What good lesson has been widely taught in China?
 - b) Into what has this developed?
 - c) What did early writers call China?
- 2
 - a) What is the chief food in the country?
 - b) What do they use in place of knives and forks?
 - c) Describe a special Chinese dish.
- 3 Describe two customs or habits that appear to be the opposite of those in the Caribbean.
- 4 What causes dreadful famine and disease each year?
- 5 Name a very popular pastime.
- 6 What cruel custom has now been banned?
- 7 Describe a peculiar form of fishing to be seen in China.
- 8 Describe the Great Wall of China.
- 9 Name two important Chinese inventions or discoveries.

Language development

- 1 Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of the following words from the story.
a) abundant b) capable c) casket
d) diligent e) palatial f) peculiar
g) prominent h) quaint i) relics
j) solitary
- 2 Here are some extracts from the story. Replace the underlined word with a synonym.
a) These picture dishes were so much admired and sought after.
b) The hardware shops contained wonderful imitations.
c) The palatial home of a wealthy lord or Mandarin.
d) Beside it is a small island which contains a house.
e) It was situated in the middle of a lovely garden.
- 3 Here are some words from the story. Give the opposite of each word.
a) admired b) wonderful c) wealthy
d) small e) lovely
- 4 China is a country in Asia. Use an atlas to locate Asia and name at least five other countries in Asia.
- 5 The Yangtze River is a river in China. Look at China in an atlas and name three other rivers in China.
- 6 A dragon is a mythical creature and one of the famous symbols of China. What other types of mythical creatures can you name?
- 7 Each Chinese year is named after an animal; this is called the Chinese zodiac. There are 12 animals all together. Use reference books or the internet to find out and list the 12 zodiac creatures.
- 8 Chinese food is a very popular cuisine. Have you ever tried Chinese food? If so, describe what you ate and what it was like. Use adjectives to describe the look, smell, taste and texture of the food. If you have never eaten Chinese food, you can describe another food of your choice.



- 10 The giant of the sea-bird race is the albatross, which is about the size of a full-grown turkey and has a wing span as high as a door. This bird lives mostly at sea and only comes ashore at nesting times. The albatross feeds on shellfish, cuttlefish, and carrion. Sailors say that to harm or kill this bird brings bad luck.



Study skills

- 1 a) What name is given to a flesh-eating bird?
b) How can such birds be easily recognised?
- 2 What bird is said to be the 'king of birds', and what name is given to its nest?
- 3 What bird is considered the swiftest in the British Isles? Describe the once-popular sport in which it was used.
- 4 Name three members of the hawk family.
- 5 What bird is the symbol of wisdom? When does it hunt for food? Why?
- 6 Who are the villains among birds? Name two members of this tribe.
- 7 What is the difference between a vulture and an eagle? How are vultures looked upon in some eastern countries?
- 8 Which bird of prey is found in most parts of the world?
- 9 What is peculiar about the secretary bird of Africa? Why is it protected by law?
- 10 What is the largest sea-bird? What do superstitious sailors say about it?

Comprehension skills

- 1 Which type of bird is Wonder?
a) pigeon b) dove c) chicken
- 2 Why do you think Jerry chose to name Wonder after a plane?
- 3 Using details from the story, sketch a picture of Wonder and colour it in the correct colours.
- 4 How do you think Jerry was feeling after Wonder had been lost for two days? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- 5 How does Jerry's mother feel about the boys using catapults? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- 6 Why did Jerry feel uneasy and couldn't answer his mother? What, exactly, had he done?
- 7 Why do you think Jerry had done this?
- 8 Jerry spent a lot of time carefully crafting his catapult, but at the end of the story he breaks it in two. Why did Jerry do this? What had changed? Do you think he had learned a lesson while Wonder was missing?

Critical Thinking

- 9 Do you or your family keep any animals at home? How about your neighbours or relatives? What type of animals? How do they need to be looked after? If you do not have any animal at home, use details from the story to help you to write about keeping pigeons.
- 10 Imagine that you are Wonder. What did you get up to in the time you were missing? Where did you go? Write your own short story about the adventures of Wonder. Don't forget to use paragraphs to organise your writing.

Language development

- 1 These are words for birds of prey, but the letters are jumbled. Unscramble the letters to find the birds.
a) slekert b) lonfac c) rodnoc
d) bolsarats e) druzbaz
- 2 The colours of the rainbow can be remembered by using the mnemonic 'Richard of York gave battle in vain'.
a) For what does each letter stand for?
R _ O _ Y _ G _
B _ I _ V _
b) The compass directions are north, south, east and west. Make up your own mnemonic to remember the compass directions in the correct order.
- 3 a) What is your favourite colour? Describe how your favourite colour makes you feel.
b) Name some items that are your favourite colour.
c) What is your least favourite colour? Explain why you dislike it.
- 4 Birds of prey have very good eyesight. Humans use special instruments to help us to see more clearly and at greater distances. What do we use these instruments for? Look in a dictionary for any words you do not know.
a) spectacles b) binoculars
c) telescope d) magnifying glass
- 5 Birds live in nests. Here are some more words for animal homes. What animal lives in them? Look in a dictionary for any words you do not know.
a) warren b) web c) kennel
d) sett e) sty

A Boaster Beaten

- 8 A most unusual happening takes place each year in this polar region. For a period of about three months in summer, the sun does not set, and for the same length of time in winter, it does not rise.
- 9 The protective colour of all creatures in the frozen north is white. Amidst snow and ice, a white covering helps the smaller animals to escape the notice of their enemies, while it also enables the larger animals to approach their prey without being detected.
- 10 From early childhood, the Inuit children imitate the occupations and pastimes of the grown-ups. A dog-whip is the little boy's first plaything, and training puppy-dogs to draw sledges is a very popular pastime with the young folk. To prevent children from straying too far from home, the parents relate to them many frightful stories of the fierce, vicious polar bear, and the boys and girls look upon this animal as a kind of 'Bogeyman'.

Comprehension skills

- 1 Which word best describes Katerparsuk when he was a child?
 - a) stupid
 - b) brave
 - c) lonely
 - 2 Which word best describes Katerparsuk when he was an adult?
 - a) stupid
 - b) brave
 - c) lonely
 - 3 What problem did Katerparsuk have as a child when he wished to learn to hunt?
 - 4 How did Katerparsuk overcome the problem?
 - 5 In your own words, describe how Katerparsuk made his kayak.
 - 6 What type of person was Tutiak? Select two options.
 - a) a bully
 - b) a hero
 - c) a coward
 - d) a clown
 - 7 Why did the elders have to look at Katerparsuk's kayak before he could paddle it?
 - 8 What caused the 'bitter rivalry' between Katerparsuk and Tutiak?
 - 9 Why was a harpoon a useful weapon whether a hunt was successful or not?
 - 10 For what reasons do you think Tutiak decides to make up a story instead of telling the truth? Find lines from the story to back up your point of view.
- ### Critical Thinking
- 11 Tutiak makes up stories and makes himself out to be braver than he was. Why is it not a good idea to make up such stories about yourself? What lesson can you learn from Tutiak?
 - 12 Imagine that you are Katerparsuk and you are now an old man. Retell a short version of the story of how you beat the booster for your young grandchildren.

Study skills

- 1 Where do the Inuit live?
- 2 What do these hardy people eat?
- 3 Describe what the Inuit typically wear.
- 4 Describe an animal hunt.
- 5 How do they generally fish?
- 6 Describe two types of Inuit dwellings.
- 7 Who first discovered Greenland?
- 8 What unusual sight may be seen in the polar region?
- 9 a) What is the colour of all creatures in the frozen north?
b) How does this colour protect and help them?
- 10 a) Give any popular pastime of the young folk.
b) What creature is looked upon by boys and girls as a kind of 'Bogeyman'?

Language development

- 1 Here are some sentences from the story. All of the punctuation marks and capital letters have been left out. Write out each sentence correctly by including capital letters and punctuation marks.
 - a) it was katerparsuk's secret ambition to become the best and bravest hunter of the tribe
 - b) then when he least expected it good fortune smiled on him
 - c) katerparsuk waited until he knew his rival was out hunting seal and walrus
 - d) naturally everyone accepted the invitation as seal meat is the favourite food of the inuit
 - e) they were astonished but none so surprised and amazed as the story-teller himself
- 2 Use a dictionary to find out the meaning of the following words from the story:
 - a) carcass b) crude c) desolate
 - d) loiter e) observant f) seaworthy
 - g) snag h) spars i) specimen
 - j) unsuspecting
- 3 Snow is white, and many arctic animals have white coats for camouflage. What other items can you think of that are white? Sugar is one example, name as many others as you can.
- 4 Canada is in North America. It has many large lakes and bays. Find Canada in an atlas, and:
 - a) name three Canadian lakes,
 - b) name three Canadian bays.



- 10 The common phrase 'the seven seas' refers to the five oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic, with the Atlantic divided into North Atlantic and South Atlantic, and the Pacific divided into North Pacific and South Pacific. 'The high seas' refers to all parts of the sea not under the control of neighbouring countries. To sail 'before the mast' means to work aboard a ship as an ordinary member of the crew. The reason for this expression was that the forecastle or 'fo'c'sle', which was the crew's quarters, was situated at the bow and therefore in front of the mast.



Comprehension skills

- 1 For what reason does a 'Crossing the Line' ritual take place?
- 2 What is 'the line'?
- 3 What type of seamen would dress up and play the leading roles in the ritual?
- 4 Who was Neptune and why were sailors who had crossed the line called 'sons of Neptune'?
- 5 In order to make the costumes and set for the ceremony, the sailors had to improvise with what they could find on the ship. Describe in detail some of the ways that they improvised to make costumes and the set. Try to describe at least five different things.
- 6 At the end of the story, other similar awards for crossing the Arctic Circle are

described, but it says that 'for obvious reasons', there are no such ceremonies for these awards. What do you think these 'obvious reasons' are? Why isn't it possible to have rituals like the one for 'Crossing the line' for these awards?

Critical Thinking

- 7 Imagine that you are the young stoker; the first applicant to go before Neptune in the story. Describe how you felt before, during and after the ritual. Use details from the story to help you.
- 8 The sailors receive a certificate for 'Crossing the Line'. Have you ever received a certificate or award? What was it for? How did you feel when you received it?

Study skills

- 1 a) Where is a ship (1) built, (2) engined and furnished, (3) cleaned and repaired?
b) What is a ship's first journey called?
- 2 a) What is the meaning of (1) bow, (2) stern?
b) Which side of a ship is (1) port, (2) starboard, and what colour of light is shown on each side at night?
- 3 a) Why do ships have Roman numerals painted on their bows?
b) Where would you look for a ship's name?
- 4 What is the Plimsoll Line and why is it so called?
- 5 What terms do sailors use for:
a) a wireless operator
b) a carpenter
c) a man whose surname is Clark
d) a Welshman
e) a cook-house
f) a stairway
g) a bed
h) a rope?
- 6 a) What name is given to a ship's diary?
b) What are spells of duty called?
c) When are the "dog-watches"?
- 7 Sailors are said to be very superstitious. Give two supposed indications of a) ill-omen, b) future good fortune.
- 8 a) What is the sign of mourning on board ship?
b) What is the international wireless signal of a ship in distress?
c) How are ships usually lost or damaged?
- 9 Give the reason for a) the three white stripes on a sailor's blue collar, b) the black silk kerchief.
- 10 What is meant by a) the seven seas, b) the high seas?

Language development

- 1 In the story, colours are frequently used to describe items. Scan the story again to find examples of items described by the following colours. The maximum number of examples you can find is given next to each colour.
Red (3) White (4) Grey (1)
Black (1) Scarlet (1)
- 2 A captain is in charge of a ship. Who is in charge of the following?
a) a class of students b) a school
c) an orchestra d) an office e) a shop
- 3 Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of the following words from the story.
a) baritone b) bulletin c) burly
d) dignity e) gaudily f) gusto
g) imposing h) solemn i) trident
j) various
- 4 Homophones are words that sound the same but can have different meanings or spellings, or both. Here are some homophones from the story and their meanings. For each one, give an alternative meaning and, where necessary, an alternative spelling.
a) gait (the way in which a person walks)
b) stern (firm or strict)
c) pail (a bucket)
d) gilt (golden in colour)
e) articles (individual objects or items)
f) dripping (fats and juices from cooked meat)
g) address (a speech)
- 5 A ship sends out the message SOS when in distress. Use reference books or the internet to find out how to send the message SOS in Morse Code. For an extra challenge write a short message in Morse Code and ask your friend to decode it. Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.
- 6 Look at a world map in an atlas. Find the equator. The equator passes through 13 countries. Can you name them all?

Comprehension skills

- 1 Which country is the setting of the story?
- 2 What message are the people on the march trying to convey?
- 3 The march ends at the town hall and there is 'clapping and whistleblowing' from the people gathered there.
 - a) What type of mood would you say this represents? Explain why.
 - b) Find other lines from the story which demonstrate the mood of the gathering.
- 4 Mariam says that the march is 'an example of youth power'. What does she mean by this?
- 5 Alem refused to speak out loud at first. Why did he do this? How do you think he was feeling?

Critical Thinking

- 6 Alem says, 'We must raise a new generation of peacemakers'. Thinking about the world in which we live today, do you agree with Alem's comment? Explain why, or why not.

Study skills

- 1 What was another name for Ethiopia?
- 2 What is meant by the writer when he says that Ethiopia has always been an independent country?
- 3 What was the name of the ruler of Ethiopia in the early twentieth century?
- 4 When did he stop ruling Ethiopia?
- 5 What caused the Eritrean–Ethiopian war?
- 6 What is unusual about the climate in Ethiopia?
- 7 Name the months of the dry season in Ethiopia.
- 8 What language do the teachers use to teach children in the primary schools?
- 9 What food would you not serve Ethiopians?
- 10 What Olympic sports are Ethiopian athletes well known for excelling at?

Language development

- 1 Here are some words used in the story. Give the opposite of each word.

a) cold	b) front	c) good
d) inside	e) large	f) loud
g) love	h) many	i) special
j) well-mannered		
- 2 Compare the most popular Ethiopian dish to a popular Jamaican dish. How are they similar, and how are they different?
- 3 Like Ethiopia, Jamaica is also famous for producing world class athletes. Choose one Ethiopian athlete and one Jamaican athlete. Do some research about them in books or on the internet. Use word processing software to write an article comparing the achievements of the two athletes. Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.
- 4 Ethiopia and Jamaica are both governed by politicians and a Prime Minister.
 - a) Who is the Prime Minister of Jamaica?
 - b) What happens at Gordon House, 81 Duke Street, Kingston?
- 5 Ethiopia is landlocked. This means it does not have a border with the sea. Jamaica is an island, which means it is surrounded entirely by sea. Use an atlas to find:
 - a) five more countries that are landlocked,
 - b) five more countries that are islands.

Captain Morgan

Comprehension skills

- 1 Describe Henry's life between the years 1635 and 1665.
- 2 The buccaneers lived '*peacefully*' in Hispaniola until the 1680's. What changed in that decade?
- 3 Henry Morgan gives the Governor some news. '*The Governor turned pale as Morgan spoke.*' Why did he turn pale?
- 4 What solution does Morgan offer the Governor?
- 5 Morgan was given a '*hero's welcome*' when he returned to Port Royal. What does this mean and why was he hailed a hero?
- 6 For what reasons did the buccaneers object to going to Porto Bello?
- 7 How does Morgan convince them to go with him to Porto Bello?
- 8 The journey into Panama was deadly for many buccaneers, but they didn't die in battle. How did they die?
- 9 Who eventually arrested Henry Morgan?
- 10 What happened to him after he was freed?

Critical Thinking

- 11 Imagine that you have just arrived in Port Royal and you want to join the buccaneers. You have arranged a meeting with Henry Morgan who will decide if you can join the buccaneers.
 - a) Write a short dialogue of the meeting. It will be useful for you to brainstorm your ideas and write a draft before writing a final version.
 - b) With a partner, act out your dialogue for the class.

Study skills

- 1 What is the purpose of a lighthouse?
- 2 Where are lighthouses to be found?
- 3 What is a lighthouse keeper's first duty?
- 4 How were ships warned of danger in olden times?
- 5 How are the 'lonely sentinels of the deep' relieved and provisioned?
- 6 What is meant by a 'fixed light'?
- 7 Explain how a flashing light operates.
- 8 What causes the light to shine a great distance?
- 9 How are ships warned when visibility is poor?
- 10
 - a) Which was the first known lighthouse?
 - b) What is known as 'The Lighthouse of the Mediterranean'?

Language development

- 1 Here are some sentences from the story. Underline the noun or nouns in each sentence.
 - a) In five years he rose to become their leader.
 - b) He knew Morgan was a buccaneer.
 - c) The Spaniards paid to save their city from destruction.
 - d) He was freed after his trial.
- 2 Give the plural for each of the following nouns from the story:
 - a) army
 - b) city
 - c) dress
 - d) leader
 - e) market
 - f) meat
 - g) nation
 - h) quantity
 - i) river
 - j) youth
- 3 Give the singular of each of the following nouns from the story:
 - a) activities
 - b) companions
 - c) marshes
 - d) men
 - e) opportunities
 - f) women
- 4 Here are some more nouns from the story: merchandise, trousers, loot, news
 - a) What do you notice about these nouns? Consider what you were asked to do in questions 2 and 3.
 - b) Use each noun in a sentence.
- 5 Here are some sentences from the story. All of the punctuation marks and capital letters has been left out. Write out each sentence correctly by including capital letters and punctuation marks.
 - a) the buccaneers were men from every nation but mainly french english and dutch
 - b) they usually worked in pairs each man having a partner with whom everything was shared
 - c) he asked to speak to the governor alone
 - d) the governor turned pale as morgan spoke
 - e) this was one of the strongest spanish defences in the caribbean

Nanny and the Redcoats

Comprehension skills

- 1 Why did the slave owners 'not feel safe' while Nanny and her people were free? Find lines from the story to back up what you think.
- 2 In order to defeat Nanny, the Redcoats first needed to find Nanny town. Describe some of the ways that Nanny kept the town hidden from view.
- 3 Nanny and her people were able to distract the soldiers and send them off track. Describe some of the ways in which they did this.
- 4 When the soldiers are unable to find Nanny Town, who did Brooks turn to for help?
- 5 What did they have that would help them to track the Maroons?
- 6 For what reasons did Nanny eventually tell her people to leave Nanny Town?

Critical Thinking

- 7 'Nanny was beautiful. Nanny was a warrior. Nanny was a witch.' What do you think Nanny was? Use examples from the story to back up your point of view.
- 8 The Maroons celebrated a victory by eating a feast. Food is often associated with celebrations. Think about a time you have been part of a celebration involving food. What was the celebration? What did you eat?

Study skills

- 1 What is the origin of the word 'Maroon'?
- 2 What are the names of the two Maroon communities in the Guianas?
- 3 What did the British do when they were unable to defeat the Maroons?
- 4
 - a) What is the abeng?
 - b) Explain what the abeng was used for.
- 5 Who were Cudjoe and Nanny?
- 6 What do the Maroons celebrate each year?
- 7 What were the two main Maroon communities in Jamaica called?
- 8 Maroon communities across the Caribbean were often located in high mountainous areas. What reasons can you think of for this?

Language development

- 1 Identify Accompong and Nanny Town on a map of Jamaica.
- 2 Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of the following words from the story. If a word has more than one meaning, give the meaning in the context of the story.
 - a) course
 - b) foremost
 - c) forts
 - d) gear
 - e) inhaled
 - f) provision
 - g) pursuit
 - h) trail
 - i) valiant
 - j) yelping
- 3 These nouns from the story are all plural. Give the singular form of each noun.
 - a) teeth
 - b) leaves
 - c) generals
 - d) children
 - e) vegetables
 - f) houses
- 4 Martin Luther King is a modern hero. He fought for the rights of African Americans. He led many marches for freedom from racial discrimination. Martin Luther King is honoured in many ways. One way is the celebration of his birthday in many countries. How do you think a hero should be honoured? List four ways in which we should do this.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."
- 5 Find out more about Martin Luther King's famous 'I have a dream' speech.
- 6 Why do you think that we should honour our heroes? Write a short speech to persuade your class to celebrate a hero of your choice.



The Discovery of the New World

they marvelled greatly at the strange plants, and birds, and, most of all, at the six dark-skinned natives who had come with him. The explorer soon became a national hero, and was fêted throughout the country.

Naturally the Spaniards fitted out many expeditions so that they could reap the benefit of these rich possessions as soon as possible. Columbus made several more voyages to the West, and discovered the islands of Dominica, Santa Cruz, Trinidad, and the mainland of South America. He established new colonies, and much of the great wealth of the natives was shipped to Spain, which soon became the richest country in the world.

Many adventurers of the worst type flocked to the new colonies, and the story of their get-rich-quick methods is a terrible tale of native oppression and slavery. Columbus protested, and consequently fell into bad grace, as the colonists were interested only in amassing as much wealth as they could. Even King Ferdinand forsook the gallant explorer, who died some years later in poverty and neglect.

And so America (named after a later explorer – Amerigo Vespucci) was discovered by Christopher Columbus. At that time, it was not known to be a great new continent, and not until after his death was it realised that he had added a New World to the Old.

Adapted

Comprehension skills

- 1 In which country was Columbus born?
a) Spain b) Portugal c) Italy
- 2 Which country did Columbus intend to travel to?
a) Portugal b) Japan c) Spain
- 3 The monarchs of which country paid for his voyage?
a) Spain b) Portugal c) Italy
- 4 From which country did his voyage begin?
a) Portugal b) Japan c) Spain
- 5 Where did the crews and captains gather before the voyage?
a) in a church b) in the palace
c) in an inn
- 6 What was not the name of one of the ships?
a) Pinta b) Menta c) Nina
- 7 What made the crew afraid when they reached the Canary Islands?
a) a storm b) a tidal wave
c) a volcano
- 8 In which month did they first reach land?
a) August b) October c) July
- 9 Which island did they first discover?
a) St Lucia b) Santa Cruz
c) San Salvador
- 10 Columbus died a very rich man. Is this true or false?
a) true b) false

Critical Thinking

- 11 At first, Columbus struggled to find support for his voyage. Why do you think people didn't support him? What were their concerns?
- 12 There is a proverb which says; "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." What do you think this means? Do you think this could be applied to Columbus' situation?

The Arawaks or Tainos – The First People of the Caribbean

on a board covered with small pebbles until it formed a paste. They would then put it into a wicker tube. One end of the wicker tube was hung from a branch. A weight was placed on the other end. This caused the wicker tube to contract and so the poisonous liquid was squeezed out. The Tainos had cleverly made a juice extractor. The remaining paste was left to dry. Using a stone mortar and pestle, they then pounded it into flour. The flour was formed into flat cakes and baked on a clay griddle until the cakes were hard and dry.

The Arawaks were a peaceful people. In fact, the word Taino is an Arawak word meaning peace. Columbus noted that they were very honest and stole nothing from the Spaniards. He also wrote that they were generous and sympathetic. For fun, they had many festivals. They also had religious festivals. During these festivals they had much singing and dancing. Women and men danced separately but sometimes they danced together to the music of drums, reed pipes and wooden gongs. They also played a ball game called batos, which seemed to have been a cross between volleyball and football. The aim was to get the ball over a line on the opponents' side using any part of the body except the hands. The ball should not touch the ground or go outside the ball court. If it did the team responsible would lose a point.

Our early ancestors seemed to have led a happy life.

Comprehension skills

Critical Thinking

- 1 Imagine that you are a historical tour guide and you are telling a group of tourists about the Arawak people. Write a script to read to the tourists. Describe in detail what the Arawak people looked like, what they wore, and what type of personality they had.
- 2 The Arawak people were very clever. Explain how they were able to eat cassava, even though it is poisonous.
- 3 The Arawak people enjoyed festivals with music and dancing. Music and dancing is a large part of Jamaican culture. Use books or the internet to find out about traditional dances of Jamaica. Make some notes about what you find out and share your findings with the class. Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.
- 4
 - a) Which fish did the Arawaks eat?
 - b) Which animals did the Arawaks eat?
 - c) Which crops did the Arawaks grow?

- 8 The Greeks were very fond of music, plays, and all kinds of physical exercises. The famous Games at Olympia took place every four years and consisted of running, jumping, wrestling, and chariot race competitions. The winner of each event was rewarded with an olive wreath, which was considered the highest honour in sport.
- 9 One old Greek method of telling the time was by measuring the shadow of a stick, which was stuck in the ground. Instead of asking guests to come for dinner at six o'clock (as we do nowadays), they would be invited to dine at ten feet of the shadow. One could never escape the chirping of crickets in Athens, and the people liked them so much that they had designs of this creature on their buckles and brooches.
- 10 At one time Athens was the centre of world learning. The great Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle tried to lead the people to a discovery of truth by their clever, clear thinking in conversation. Euclid wrote a book on geometry, which is the study of figures such as triangles, squares, and circles. Aesop, a Greek slave, was a famous storyteller, who made the animals talk and act so cleverly in his fables that they are widely read and popular to this day.

Comprehension skills

- 1 What caused the children to be so cruel to travellers?
- 2 Give some examples of ways in which the children were cruel.
- 3 Compare and contrast the attitude of Philemon and Baucis with that of the townsfolk. How do they differ in their attitude towards travellers?
- 4 Describe in detail what Philemon and Baucis' home was like. Use details from the story to help you but answer in your own words.
- 5 Who did the two 'travel-stained' strangers turn out to be? What was special about them?
- 6 After supper, when the travellers had gone to sleep, Philemon and Baucis 'discussed the wonderful events of the evening'. What do you think they said to each other? Write a short dialogue of their conversation.
- 7 At the top of the hill, they turned around and 'Philemon and Baucis trembled in awestruck silence'. Why were they awestruck and what made them tremble?
- 8 Describe how Philemon and Baucis lived their final years. Were they happy with how their life turned out?

Critical Thinking

- 9 Jupiter says that the townsfolk 'had none of the virtues which make this a happier and better world'. What virtues do you think are important to make the world in which we live today a better, happier place?

Study skills

- 1 What do the Greeks call their country?
- 2 Name three of the great city-states of ancient Greece.
- 3 What was the name given to the personal attendant of a boy at school?
- 4 Describe a form of Greek door-knocker.
- 5 Greek food consisted chiefly of _____.
- 6 Describe the garments worn by the ancient Greeks.
- 7 What is the most famous of all Greek buildings?
- 8 a) How often did the Olympic Games take place?
b) What award was considered the highest honour at these sports?
- 9 Give an old Greek method of telling the time.
- 10 Name two famous Greek philosophers.

Language development

- 1 Greece is part of the continent of Europe. Locate Greece in an atlas and name ten other countries that are also in Europe.
- 2 The capital city of Greece is Athens. For each country you have given in question 1, name the capital city.
- 3 'Milk and honey' are said to be foods of the gods. Milk usually comes from cows or goats and honey comes from bees. What other products can you think of that come from animals but are not a type of meat?
- 4 The town in the story is submerged below a large lake. Use reference books or the internet to find out the world's largest lakes, how big they are (square kilometers) and which countries they're in. Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project
- 5 Sandals were common footwear in Greece. List as many other types of footwear as you can.

- 10 Yams are portions of underground stems known as tubers. The upper portion of the yam plant is a climbing vine which dies after each growing season. The tuber stores up food and other materials to start growth for the following season. Only a part of the tuber is used for planting as the greater part is used for food. These parts are called 'sets' or 'heads', and are usually taken from that part of the tuber from which the vine springs. In some varieties whole yams are cut up in bits for planting.

Yam tubers are generally reaped whole at the time when the vines begin to turn yellow and die; 'heads' are cut off and allowed to cure in readiness for planting. The 'heads' are then allowed to sprout. The sprouting is best done in a cool, dark place, and the method is to spread them out under a shade and cover them with trash.

Yams require good soil and proper tillage. The land in which they are to be planted must be ploughed or forked and be worked into hills or into continuous banks of earth.

Comprehension skills

- 1 These are ten key events in the plot of the story. Put them in the correct order.
 - Jack falls into the well.
 - The farmer realises Jack is his landlord's son.
 - Jack escapes the bull by jumping over a hedge.
 - The maidservant faints in the kitchen.
 - The farmer finds Jack in a tree eating apples.
 - A bull attacks the guard dog.
 - The farmer leaves his dog to guard Jack.
 - Jacks lands on a beehive and is stung.
 - A farmhand and maidservant discover Jack in the well.
 - The men pull Jack from the well.
- 2 What problem has the farmer been having in the orchard?
- 3 Why do you think the Farmer kept a guard dog? How would a guard dog help him?

Critical Thinking

- 4 The story refers to the proverb; 'Look before you leap'. What do you think this means? How do you think this advice could be useful to you?
- 5 When Jack was stuck in the well 'his teeth began to chatter and his limbs to tremble. He felt numb all over'. This was because of hypothermia caused by being stuck in cold water. Choose either hypothermia or heat exhaustion. Do some research in books or on the internet about the causes and symptoms and how you can help someone who is suffering. Are there any ways to prevent the problem or reduce the risk? Design a poster to alert people to the causes and symptoms and to give advice on how to reduce the risk of suffering from with hypothermia or heat exhaustion.

Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.

Study skills

- 1 Why is the farmer's work very important?
- 2 Name five different types of farms in Britain.
- 3 Name the chief crops of the Caribbean.
- 4 Describe maize when it is ready for harvesting.
- 5 How does the banana farmer plant suckers?
- 6 a) Tell how sugar-cane is planted.
b) What do the canes need to make them grow well?
- 7 a) Where are the finest coconut groves usually found? Why?
b) Explain how new groves are started.
- 8 What conditions are needed for good citrus crops?
- 9 How do we know when yams are ready for reaping?
- 10 How are the yam 'heads' prepared before planting?
- 11 Do you have a favourite dish made from vegetables or fruits? What is it? Describe what the dish looks, smells and tastes like.

Language development

- 1 Apples grow on trees. Name:
 - a) three fruits which grow on trees
 - b) three fruits which grow on bushes.
- 2 Here are some sentences from the story. All of the punctuation marks and capital letters have been left out. Write out each sentence correctly by including capital letters and punctuation marks.
 - a) those apples are mine and I'll trouble you to come down as fast as you please
 - b) mark him ceasar said the farmer to the dog
 - c) he was slipping down the trunk when he heard a tremendous roar
 - d) thank you said jack
 - e) mercy on us whats the matter exclaimed the farmers wife again
 - f) down there below hold on now cried the farmer
- 3 Homophones are words that sound the same but can have different meanings or spellings, or both. Here are some homophones from the story and their meanings. For each one, give an alternative meaning and, if necessary, an alternative spelling.
 - a) fairest (the best looking (apple))
 - b) flight (to escape quickly)
 - c) trunk (the wide stem of a tree)
 - d) feet (a measure of distance)
 - e) faint (to collapse)
 - f) rose (past tense of rise)
 - g) well (a water source)
- 4 Use a dictionary to find out the meanings of these words from the story:
 - a) brickwork
 - b) dough
 - c) notion
 - d) prudent
 - e) sentry
 - f) topsy-turvy
 - g) warfare
 - h) windlass
- 5 Play a game with a partner or group of classmates. Choose a person to begin, they start by completing the sentence 'I went to market and I bought...' by adding the name of a fruit or vegetable. The next person repeats the sentence and the vegetable and adds a second item. Then the next person does the same and adds a third item. Fruits and vegetables should not be repeated. Keep going as long as you can!

There are also differences in the spelling of certain words: colour – color, honour – honor, socks – sox, through – thru, programme – program.

- 10 The national banner of the United States of America, commonly known as 'The Stars and stripes' or 'Old Glory', is a flag bearing 50 stars and 13 stripes. Each star represents a present-day state and each stripe stands for one of the original colonies. The national anthem is the 'Star-Spangled Banner', and the national emblems are the eagle and the buffalo. The national sport may be said to be baseball.



Study skills

- 1 Give a popular name for the United States of America.
- 2
 - a) Who were (1) the original natives, (2) the first white settlers?
 - b) What is 'Indian corn'?
- 3 Who led the victorious forces of the colonists against the British?
- 4
 - a) When was the American Declaration of Independence signed?
 - b) What is a republic?
- 5
 - a) What was a 'covered waggon'?
 - b) Who were the (1) frontier scouts, (2) plainsmen?
- 6 Give three American west-coast towns with Spanish names.
- 7
 - a) Which is the longest river in the United States?
 - b) Who were employed as slave labour on the cotton plantations?
 - c) Who was President when the American Civil War broke out?
- 8
 - a) What name is given to the huge, high buildings?
 - b) What is the national capital of the United States?
 - c) What famous monument stands at the entrance of New York harbour?
- 9
 - a) Name four American coins.
 - b) Give three common English words for which the Americans have (1) different names, (2) different spelling.
- 10 In the United States, what is the national
 - a) banner, b) emblem, c) sport?

Comprehension skills

- 1 This tale is an extract from a book. Who wrote the book? Give the author's pen-name and real name.
- 2 Which country is the setting for this story?
- 3 Why was Aunt Polly angry with Tom? What do you suppose he had been doing in the cupboard?
- 4 What punishment does Aunt Polly give Tom, and why does she believe this is a suitable punishment?
- 5 Tom wants to get out of his punishment. What is the first idea that he has? Why wouldn't this idea work?
- 6 In your own words, explain how Tom was able to get out of his punishment, and

how he obtained some new riches into the bargain!

Critical Thinking

- 7 Do you think that Tom acted fairly towards the other boys? In your opinion, was what he did wrong, or was he just very clever?
- 8 Helping to paint a fence is one example of something you can do to help around the house. What other jobs can you do to help at home? Is there a job that you really don't like to do? Or a job that you really enjoy doing? Describe how you help at home and say why you do or do not like the jobs you do.

Language development

- 1 Use a dictionary to find out the meanings of these words from the story:
 - a) alacrity
 - b) covet
 - c) decanter
 - d) fragrance
 - e) idle
 - f) insignificant
 - g) melancholy
 - h) melodious
 - i) peril
 - j) vigour
- 2 Give the plural of these nouns from the story:
 - a) tomato
 - b) heart
 - c) brush
 - d) knife
 - e) man
 - f) barrel
- 3 Give the opposite of these words from the story:
 - a) old
 - b) over
 - c) hard
 - d) bright
 - e) light
 - f) gentle
- 4 Tom is very pleased to take the apple from Ben. Did you know that there are hundreds of different types of apples? Some are sweet like red gala apples and some are sour like green Granny Smith apples. Go to the library and do some research in books or the internet. Create and complete a table to organise facts such as names, colour and taste of some different types of apples. Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.
- 5 The toys Tom played with were things like marbles and tin soldiers. What toys do children play with today? List a minimum of 10 up to a maximum of 20 different children's toys.
- 6 There are 50 states in the United States of America. How many can you name? Look at a map of the USA or in an atlas to help you.

with steam coils. Each tank can take 120 tons of crude asphalt. When a tank is loaded, a considerable pressure of hot, wet steam is released to blow through the contents. This process usually goes on for about eight hours before the gas and water are driven off. Then the now liquid asphalt is strained twice through perforated metal plates or cylinders, and it is ready for filling into fibre-board containers. When the containers have cooled they are transported by overhead cable to the pier to await shipment to overseas countries.

What Asphalt is Used for

The most important use of asphalt is undoubtedly for road-surfacing. The roads of practically every country in the world today are crowded with motor vehicles of all kinds, from mini-cars to heavy haulage trucks. Good roads are therefore essential for safety and comfort. They must be smooth but not slippery, hard-wearing, and capable of withstanding great pressure. Asphalt, mixed with stone chips, gives the required surface for modern roads. Where rock asphalt is used it has been found that the addition of a proportion of lake asphalt gives a longer life to the road, and prevents it becoming slippery.

Surprisingly, too, many roofs are now made of a cement mixture which contains asphalt. Such material is durable, thoroughly waterproof, and does not corrode. The famous Tate Gallery in London is only one of many buildings in England's capital city which has some lake asphalt in its roof. Indeed, there are few countries in the world in which one would not find some use being made of asphalt from the famous lake in Trinidad.

Study skills

- 1 What causes there to be asphalt in the lake? Briefly describe how it came to be there.
- 2 Was the first asphalt road laid in Port of Spain a success? Explain what happened.
- 3 Here are the subheadings from the text:
Digging out the asphalt
Refining
What asphalt is used for
Write one sentence to summarise the content under each subheading. Each sentence should begin 'This section is about...'.- 4 'The most important use of asphalt is undoubtedly for road-surfacing'. Why is this 'undoubtedly' the most important use? Why is it important that roads have good surfaces?
- 5 Choose either digging out the asphalt or refining asphalt. In your own words, write a description of the process.
- 6 Who was Sir Walter Raleigh and what is he most famous for? Go to the library and do some research in books or the internet. Use your research to write a profile of the life of Sir Walter Raleigh. You should include a picture of him.
Remember to stay safe online, make sure an adult is about and only visit websites related to your project.