

Clouds

I see clouds in the sky that move with the wind.

Sometimes I see faces looking at me.

Some look like fish swimming in a deep blue sea.

Some look like monsters that twist and play

But before they reach me, the wind blows them away!



Clouds - Choose the correct answers:

1. The clouds move in the sky because
A there is a storm
B the wind is blowing them along

2. Some clouds look like fish that
A are swimming in the sea
B are blue like the sea

3. Some clouds look like monsters that
A are fighting
B are moving and playing

4. I am not afraid of the monsters because
A I am big and strong
B the wind blows them away before they reach me

Improve comprehension skills

The Dog Prince



Click, click, croak, went the green frog.

"What is that noise?" asked Cindy.

"It is just a little green frog," said Cindy's father from behind his newspaper.

"Yes," said her mother, "it lives near the fish pond."

"May I go and see it?" asked Cindy.

"You won't see anything in the dark," said Cindy's father.

"Take Slippers with you," said Cindy's mother. Slippers was Cindy's dog. He had short legs and long ears.

Slippers followed Cindy out the patio door into the garden. It was a warm summer's evening. Slippers wagged his tail, ready for a game.

"No, Slippers," said Cindy. "This isn't a game. We are going to look for the green frog." Slippers put his nose to the ground and followed.

A golden moon was beginning to peep over the apple tree when Cindy reached the pond. The frog was quiet now. Cindy sat down on a garden seat. Slippers sat down too.

Suddenly the frog began again: Click, click, croak! Right near Cindy's feet. Why, there he was! And he was not so small after all!

Slippers began to sniff closer. "He is going to kiss the frog!" Cindy laughed to herself. In the stories she had read, if you kissed a frog, it could turn into a prince!

There was a sudden plop as the frog jumped into the pond. Slippers jumped back in surprise.

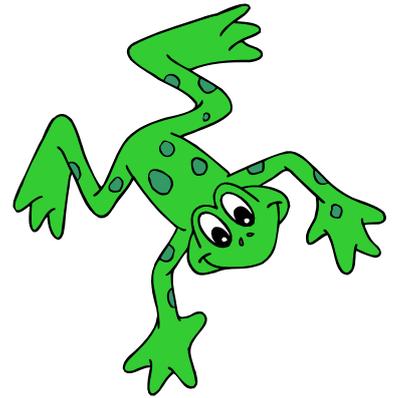
Then Cindy's eyes grew wider. What had happened to Slippers? On his head was a circle of glittering diamonds! How wonderful! Instead of the frog becoming a prince, Slippers had become a prince with a shining crown! "We won't tell anyone!" she decided as she hugged him. "It will be our secret!"

Later that evening, after Cindy had gone to bed and Slippers was snoring gently on the mat beside her bed, Cindy's mother and father were sitting on the patio. The frogs and crickets could still be heard.

"Quite a lot of fireflies out tonight, dear," remarked Cindy's father. "Whole clusters of them."

The Dog Prince - Choose the correct answers:

1. Cindy went to the fish pond
A to play a game with her dog
B to see if she could find a frog
2. It was not dark in the garden because
A the moon was shining
B it was a summer's evening
3. Slippers got a fright because
A the frog kissed him
B the frog jumped into the pool
4. Cindy thought Slippers must be a prince because
A she saw a crown on his head
B she believed in kissing frogs
5. What Cindy did not realize was
A that fairy stories are not true
B the fireflies had formed a crown on Slippers' head



**The exercises become
more difficult**

Mountains

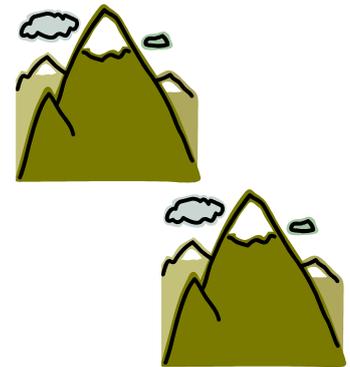
Mountains are big chunks of rock that have been pushed up out of the earth. Some mountains stand on their own. Most of them are connected in chains. Long chains of mountains are called mountain ranges.

Not all mountains are the same. Some are bare and rocky. Others are covered with forests, bushes and grass. Very high mountains often have snow on the top because the air up there is very cold and keeps the water frozen.

Mountains are probably millions of years old. Those that are pointed and wrinkled are not as old as the smooth, round mountains. The smooth mountains have been worn down over millions of years by wind and rain.

Mountains - Choose the correct answer:

1. One usually sees mountains that
A stand alone
B are part of a range
2. All mountains
A are covered by lots of rock
B are not the same
3. Very high mountains often have snow on top because
A they are in places where the weather is cold
B the air on top of a high mountain is very cold
4. The oldest mountains are
A smooth and round
B pointed and wrinkled
5. Mountains are affected by
A the action of wind and rain
B their age



**Increase the speed
of reading**

Bats

Bats are mammals that can fly. Their wings are made of skin and thin bone, something like a kite.

Bats live in groups and usually live in caves or hollow trees. Most bats sleep in the daytime and come out at night to find food. Most bats eat insects. Some eat only fruit. A few kinds eat meat, fish and even flower nectar.

A bat sends out signals which are high-pitched. These signals bounce off anything in their path. The bat finds its way by using echoes of sound to 'see' things in the dark.

Bats live in nearly every country of the world except in the very cold polar regions.

Ancestors of the modern bat looked very much the same as today's bats. A forty million-year-old fossil of a bat was found in Europe.



Select the level
which suits your learners

Bats - Choose the correct answers:

1. A bat has wings
 - A like those of a bird
 - B that resemble a kite
 - C that only work at night
 - D that are thin and skinny

2. Bats prefer to
 - A live in groups
 - B live alone in caves
 - C live in hollow trees
 - D live wherever they can be safe

3. Bats' food includes
 - A only insects
 - B only fruit
 - C only meat
 - D a variety of foods

4. Bats find their way by
 - A swooping and flying about
 - B listening to echoes of their signals that bounce off things
 - C flying about in groups
 - D flying only in daylight

5. We know what bats looked like a long time ago because
 - A they have probably not changed
 - B they are not seen much
 - C they are quite scary-looking creatures
 - D a fossil of a bat has been found



Clever Hercules

A story is told how the giant, whose name was Atlas, had been holding the earth on his shoulders for thousands of years. He soon became very tired.

One day, Hercules walked past. Atlas saw his chance. "My friend, Hercules," he said, "I would like to rest my shoulders for a little while. Won't you please hold the world on your shoulders so that I can stretch my muscles?"



Hercules had a kind heart and he agreed. "Thank you!" said Atlas. "I am rid of the world at last! Now you can carry the world!"

Hercules thought quickly. "I do not mind," said Hercules, "but I would like to put my leopard skin over my shoulders so that it can protect me from the sharp mountains. Just take the world back for a minute while I wrap my leopard skin around my shoulders."

Atlas, who was not very clever, agreed at once. He took the world onto his own shoulders again. Hercules gave a sigh of relief.

"Thank you, Atlas!" said Hercules. "And good day to you!" With that he left quickly.

Listening exercises

Clever Hercules - Choose the correct answers:

1. Atlas had held the world on his shoulders
 - A for a hundred years
 - B for five hundred years
 - C for thousands of years

2. Atlas asked Hercules to take the world on his shoulders because
 - A he wanted to stretch his muscles
 - B he was tired of holding the world
 - C he was feeling weak

3. Hercules agreed to take the world because
 - A he was strong
 - B he had a kind heart
 - C he wanted to see how heavy it was

4. Atlas was
 - A trying to trick Hercules
 - B angry with Hercules
 - C quite lazy

5. Hercules tricked Atlas
 - A by pretending he was not strong
 - B by asking for help
 - C by pretending to be friendly and willing to carry the world

