

Sssss

- 1 Pets are animals we keep at home. Dogs and cats can be pets. They are fluffy, friendly and fun. My pet is different!
- 2 My pet is small. It isn't fluffy or friendly! It has no ears. It has no legs.
- 3 It lives in a glass tank. Its eyes are small and beady. It has scales and eats mice. My pet's name is Fang.
- 4 Do you know what it is?
- 5 My pet is a snake! It is such a cool pet. I love my pet!



1. Which word in Paragraph 3 means **a place where a fish or snake is kept?**

- (a) cage
- (b) glass
- (c) tank

2. Which is the best answer? The pet snake:

- (a) has fur and is fun.
- (b) is playful and small.
- (c) has scales and two eyes.

3. The snake's eyes are:

- (a) beady.
- (b) round.
- (c) small and beady.

4. This text is mainly about:

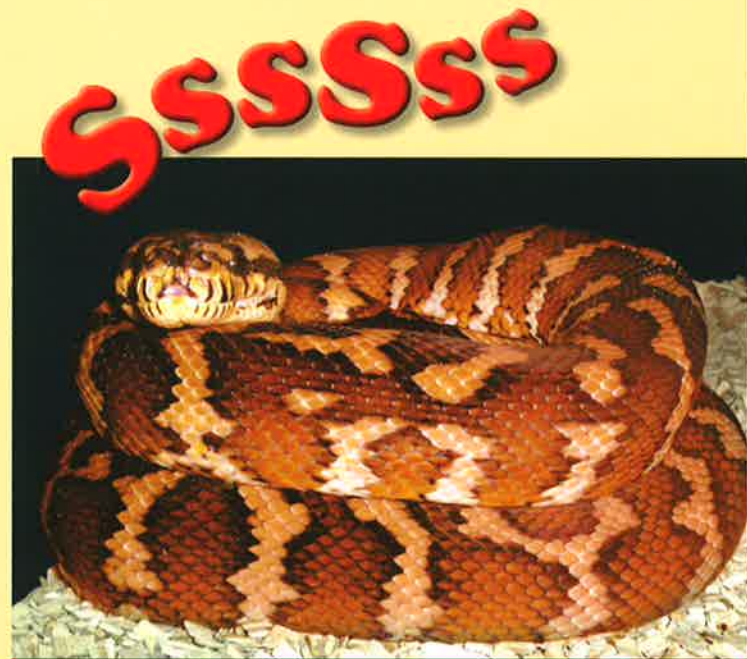
- (a) one person's pet.
- (b) pets.
- (c) snakes.

5. The writer thinks his or her pet is different because it:

- (a) is funny.
- (b) isn't fluffy or friendly.
- (c) is called Fang.

6. In Paragraph 5, **it** means:

- (a) the author.
- (b) the snake.
- (c) a mouse.



Something extra

- ★ Think about what sort of animals can be pets. Make a list of pets.
Write as many as you can!
- ★ Do you have a pet? If so, write what your pet looks like.

Knock! Knock!

1

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Dishes

Dishes who?

Dishes the police! Open up!



2

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Cargo

Cargo who?

Car go beep! beep!



3

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Boo

Boo who?

Oh, it's OK, don't cry!



4

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Lettuce

Lettuce who?

Lettuce in!



5

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Arch

Arch who?

Bless you!



1. Which word means **to tap on something with your knuckles**?

- (a) bang
- (b) knock
- (c) bless

2. In Paragraph 1, **Dishes the police!** means:

- (a) Police use plates!
- (b) This is the police!
- (c) Police do washing up!

3. What kind of text is this?

- (a) report
- (b) jokes
- (c) stories

4. What sound does the car make in Paragraph 2?

- (a) honk! honk!
- (b) beep! beep!
- (c) parp! parp!

5. The writer wrote these words to:

- (a) make people laugh.
- (b) tell a story.
- (c) give information.

6. Which paragraph is about sneezing?

- (a) Paragraph 3
- (b) Paragraph 4
- (c) Paragraph 5



Something extra

- ★ Write a joke you know or try to make up one of your own.
- ★ Write a funny story about someone interesting knocking on your door.

Happy birthday

- 1 Next Monday it's my birthday. It's the best day of the year! I'm sure I'll get some good presents. I'm going to have a party and a big cake with seven candles on top.
- 2 People do different things on birthdays. Some people don't have cakes or presents. But one thing lots of people do is sing 'Happy birthday to you'.
- 3 The 'Happy birthday' song is over 100 years old. Two sisters in the USA wrote it. Their names were Mildred and Patty Hill. At first, the song was called 'Good morning to all'. Later, the words changed to the words we know. Now people all around the world sing it!



1. What will go on top of the birthday cake?

- (a) presents
- (b) candles
- (c) paper

2. Paragraph 3 tells the reader about:

- (a) songs.
- (b) sister.
- (c) the 'Happy birthday' song.

3. Who wrote the 'Happy birthday to you' song?

- (a) Mildred Hill
- (b) Patty Hill
- (c) Mildred and Patty Hill

4. How old is the 'Happy birthday' song?

- (a) a few hundred years
- (b) less than 100 years
- (c) a bit more than 100 years

5. Which answer is a fact? Everyone has:

- (a) a birthday party.
- (b) a birthday cake.
- (c) a birthday.

6. In Paragraph 3, *it* means:

- (a) the letter.
- (b) the song.
- (c) the card.



Something extra

- ★ Write your own song using the 'Happy birthday' tune.
- ★ Write what you do on your birthday.
- ★ Look around the room. Can you see the word 'birthday'? Count how many times you can see it written

Nugget and Clucky

- 1 Do you like eggs? I do! I love them!
- 2 I love eggs so much my mum said we could get some hens. She said they can be good pets. They eat food scraps, and bugs in the garden. Best of all, they lay eggs we can eat!
- 3 First we had to buy a few things. We got some wood and wire to make a coop. We put a little box in the coop for the hens to lay their eggs. We got some chicken food and straw from the pet shop.
- 4 Then we got two hens! One is called Nugget and the other is called Clucky.
- 5 They lay eggs nearly every day. It's great having hens.
- 6 You should get some, too!



1. Which word in Paragraph 3 means **a cage made of wood and wire for chickens?**

- (a) home
- (b) coop
- (c) scraps

2. Hens can help in the garden by:

- (a) eating bugs.
- (b) eating scraps.
- (c) laying eggs.

3. Why does the writer want hens?

- (a) for dinner
- (b) for their eggs
- (c) for fun

4. What sort of scraps might the hens eat?

- (a) paper
- (b) food
- (c) wood

5. How does the writer feel about hens?
The writer:

- (a) likes to look at them.
- (b) likes their eggs.
- (c) wants to have some for dinner.

6. In Paragraph 2, **they** means:

- (a) hens.
- (b) Mum and Dad.
- (c) children.

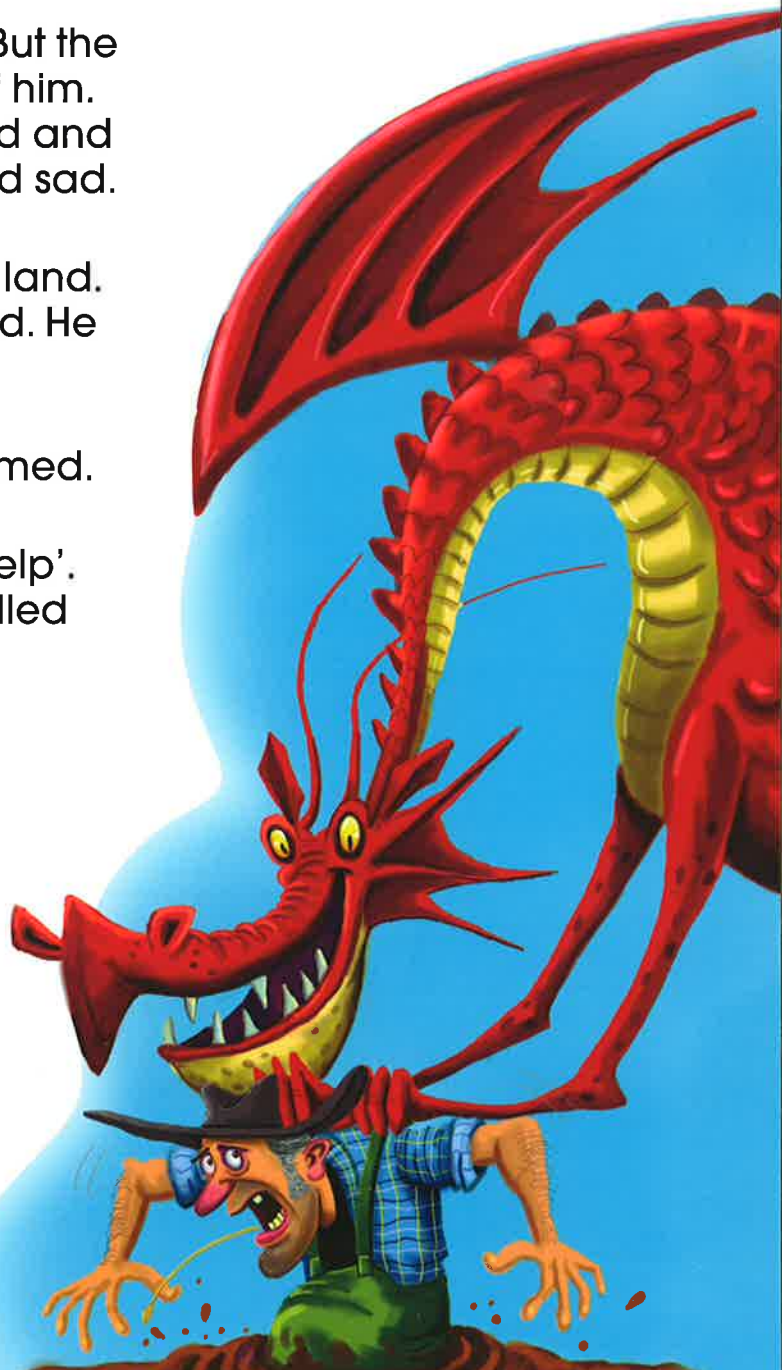


Something extra

- ★ Make a list of other animals that lay eggs. Can you think of five?
- ★ Chickens live in a coop.
What do these animals live in? dog - pig - goldfish - horse

Eeek! Dragon!

- 1 Once there was a dragon named Dave. He lived in a cave next to a small town.
- 2 Dave was a very friendly dragon. But the people of the town were scared of him. When they saw him, they screamed and ran away. Poor Dave felt lonely and sad.
- 3 One day, Dave was flying over the land. He saw a farmer stuck in some mud. He flew down to help.
- 4 'Eeek! A dragon!' the farmer screamed.
- 5 'It's okay,' said Dave, 'I'm here to help'. Dave took the man's arms and pulled him out of the gooey, sticky mud.
- 6 'Thanks!' said the farmer. 'I'll tell everyone that you are a friendly dragon.' And he did.
- 7 From then on the people liked Dave. He was the town hero! And he was never lonely or sad again.



1. Where did Dave live?

- (a) in a cave
- (b) on a farm
- (c) in the mud

2. What happened after Dave helped the farmer?

- (a) Dave was sad.
- (b) The farmer screamed.
- (c) Dave was a hero.

3. This text is a:

- (a) fairytale.
- (b) letter.
- (c) poem.

4. After Dave helped the farmer, what might the farmer say to him?

- (a) Eeek!
- (b) Go away!
- (c) Hello, Dave!

5. Why did Dave save the farmer?

- (a) He was strong.
- (b) He was friendly.
- (c) He was hungry.

6. In Paragraph 2, **him** means:

- (a) the farmer.
- (b) the people.
- (c) Dave.



Something extra

- ★ Write five things a dragon has on its body.
- ★ Write a different ending to the story, starting with 'One day, Dave saw a farmer stuck in some mud ...'



- 1 Once upon a time, in water far away, lived a friendly mud monster. His name was Merrick.
- 2 Merrick played in the water and on the rocks. Merrick made friends with the fish, birds and other animals. He watched the grass and plants near the water.
- 3 One day, Merrick stepped on bottles and plastic bags in the water. He hurt his feet.
- 4 Soon, the water got sick. The grass and plants got sick. The fish, birds and other animals got sick, too.
- 5 Merrick was scared, so he ran away. He ran and ran until he came to a hot, dry land. His skin started to dry out. He felt sick. He felt sad. He missed his water home.
- 6 'I'm going home', he cried. 'I'm going to clean up the water. I'm going to make the environment better for the fish, birds, plants and other animals', he said.
- 7 And he did!

1. Where did Merrick live?

- (a) in water
- (b) in a dry land
- (c) in the sky

2. Merrick's friends were:

- (a) the water and rocks.
- (b) fish, birds and other animals.
- (c) the hot, dry land.

3. When Merrick stepped on bottles and plastic bags, he:

- (a) cried.
- (b) fell over.
- (c) hurt his feet.

4. What made everything sick?

- (a) bottles and plastic bags in the water
- (b) hot days
- (c) the flu

5. The word **environment** in Paragraph 6 means:

- (a) the water.
- (b) play.
- (c) sick.

6. In Paragraph 2, **he** means

- (a) Merrick.
- (b) the hot, dry land.
- (c) the fish.



Something extra

- ★ Explain how to make a mud pie.
- ★ Draw a picture of a river with litter in it.

Legend of Muda, the pelican



- 1 A long time ago in the Dreaming, a group of Aboriginal Australian people sent a pelican to find out about a new land.
- 2 Muda, the pelican, set off with fish and water for his trip. He carried them in the pouch underneath his neck.
- 3 He flew for a long time. Then he felt sick, so he landed on a hill.
- 4 As he sat on the hill, he saw many beautiful colours in the stones on the ground. He started to peck at the ground.
- 5 Suddenly, a spark flew from the ground. It went into the dry grass nearby and started a fire. The fire ran across the land until it came to some people camping near a creek. They used the fire to cook their fish.
- 6 The fire was a special gift from Muda, the pelican.

1. What did Muda carry fish and water in?

- (a) *his pouch*
- (b) *his beak*
- (c) *a sack*

2. Muda felt sick because:

- (a) *he had a cold.*
- (b) *he flew for a long time.*
- (c) *he was thirsty.*

3. Which paragraph tells how Muda started a fire?

- (a) *Paragraph 1.*
- (b) *Paragraph 2*
- (c) *Paragraph 5*

4. Why would people want to find out about a new land?

- (a) *They wanted to have a holiday.*
- (b) *They wanted to live there.*
- (c) *They liked new things.*

5. Which word in Paragraph 2 means **a sack for holding small things**?

- (a) *net*
- (b) *pouch*
- (c) *beak*

6. The word **He** in Paragraph 2 is used instead of:

- (a) *Muda.*
- (b) *fish.*
- (c) *Aboriginal people.*

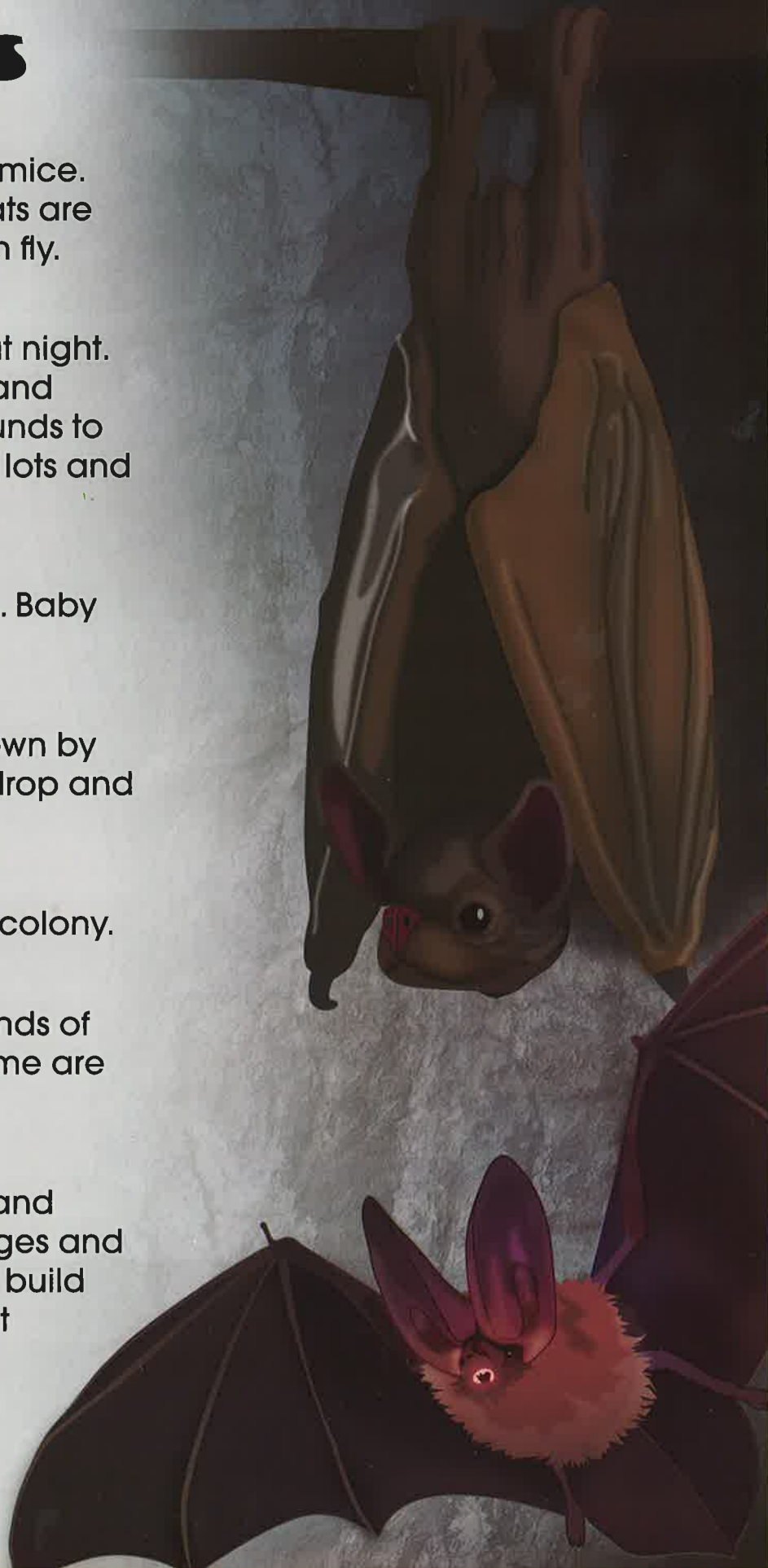


Something extra

- ★ Find a picture of a pelican to copy onto white paper.
- ★ Colour it in Aboriginal colours—black, orange, red, yellow and brown.

Batty bats

- 1** Bats are small animals like mice. 'Bat' means 'hand-wing'. Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- 2** Bats rest all day and hunt at night. They eat insects, birds, fish and small animals. They use sounds to find food. They need to eat lots and lots of insects.
- 3** They look after their babies. Baby bats are called pups.
- 4** Bats like to hang upside down by their feet. They can let go, drop and fly away quickly.
- 5** A group of bats is called a colony.
- 6** There are many different kinds of bats. Some are big and some are small.
- 7** Bats live in trees, buildings and caves. They live under bridges and in old mines. Some people build homes for bats to live in. But sometimes other animals and insects move in first!



1. Bats live in:

- (a) shoes.
- (b) nests.
- (c) trees.

2. Baby bats are called:

- (a) insects.
- (b) pups.
- (c) kittens.

3. Paragraph 3 tells:

- (a) when bats sleep.
- (b) how to hit a ball with a bat.
- (c) about baby bats.

4. The word **mines** in Paragraph 7 means:

- (a) places where gold and coal are found.
- (b) belonging to me.
- (c) little.

5. The writer thinks bats are:

- (a) funny.
- (b) messy.
- (c) interesting.

6. The word **They** in Paragraph 2 means:

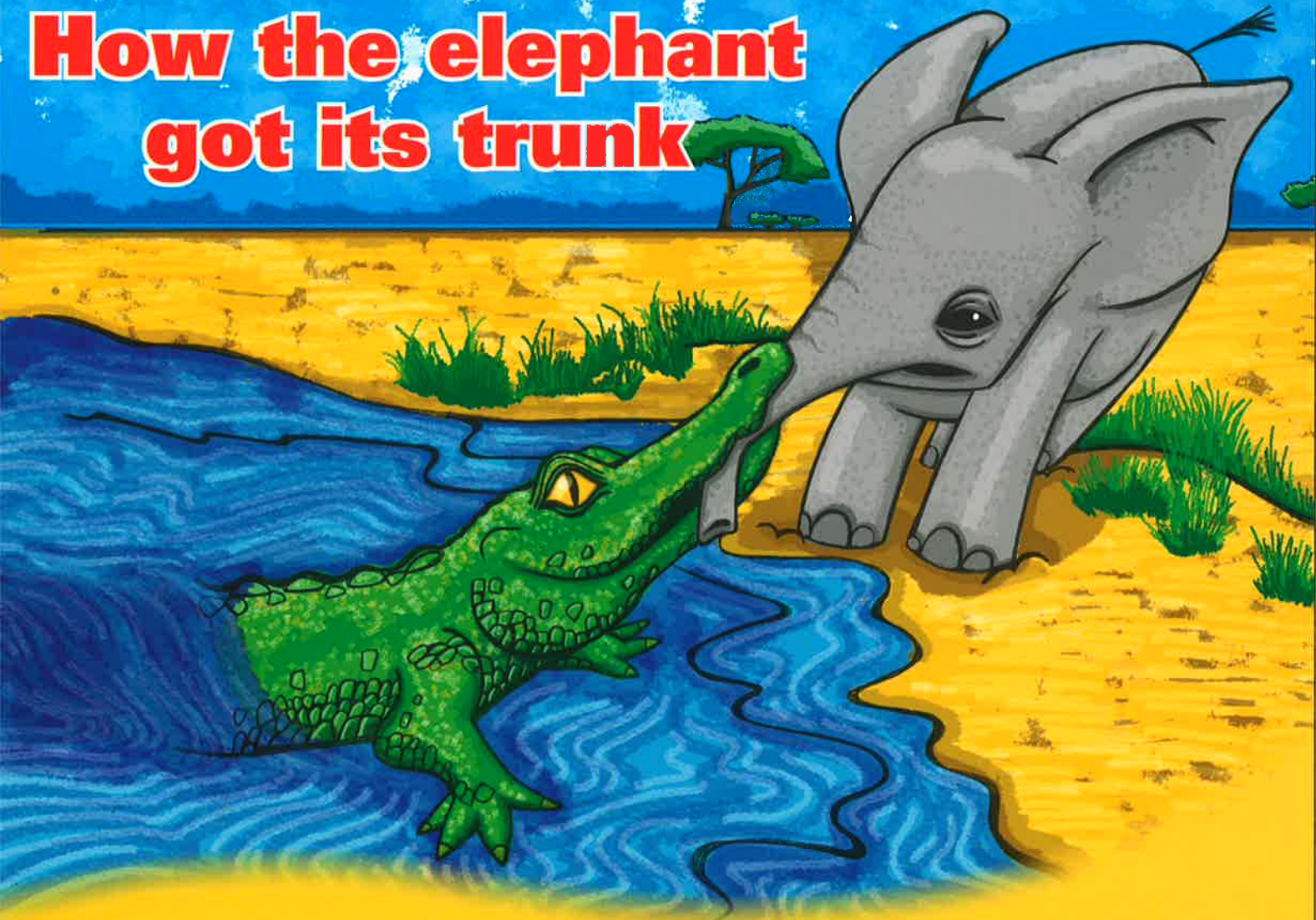
- (a) trees.
- (b) caves.
- (c) bats.



Something extra

- ★ Write words for groups of: cows, fish, sheep, ducks, bees, pups, snakes, birds.
- ★ Draw a group picture of your favourite animal.

How the elephant got its trunk



- 1** Once upon a time there was a little elephant. One day, she wanted to know what the crocodile ate for dinner. She asked all the other elephants. But they didn't know.
- 2** So she went to the river to ask the crocodile. The crocodile said to come closer and he would tell her. The little elephant did. She walked to the edge of the river.
- 3** Suddenly, the crocodile bit the little elephant's nose. The little elephant pulled and pulled to get free. Her nose got longer and longer.
- 4** At last the little elephant got away. But now she had a long trunk instead of a nose. At first she didn't like it. But then she found she could squirt water all over her back! And she could use it to wave to all her friends!

1. What does the word **suddenly** in Paragraph 3 mean?

- (a) very slowly
- (b) all at once
- (c) sadly

2. The little elephant wanted to know what:

- (a) was for dinner.
- (b) the crocodile ate for dinner.
- (c) the time was.

3. What happened first to the little elephant?

- (a) She got away.
- (b) Her nose got longer.
- (c) Her nose was bitten.

4. Why do you think the crocodile wanted her closer?

- (a) so he could eat her
- (b) so he could stretch her nose
- (c) so he could squirt water on her back

5. Was the little elephant happy her nose turned into a trunk?

- (a) don't know
- (b) yes
- (c) no

6. In Paragraph 4, **it** means:

- (a) the little elephant.
- (b) her trunk.
- (c) a crocodile.



Something extra

- ★ Find pictures in magazines or draw your own to show animals with different types of noses.
- ★ List other things the little elephant could do with her long trunk.



The mystery of the missing objects

- 1 'Give back my new blue ribbon, Justin! I know you took it!' I yelled at my brother.
- 2 'Don't be silly!' he said. 'Why would I take your ribbon? But if you took my blue marker, I want that back!'
- 3 'Mum,' I yelled, 'Justin took my new blue ribbon and won't give it back!'
- 4 'Stop yelling, Beth!' Mum said. 'But if you took the blue pegs from the clothes line, I'd like them back, please!'
- 5 'I didn't take your blue pegs, but Justin took my ribbon!' I replied.
- 6 'Dad, a thief has taken all our things!' I bellowed. 'The thief has taken my blue ribbon, Justin's blue marker and Mum's blue pegs.'
- 7 'Come outside', said Dad. He pointed to the grass in the bush nearby. 'There's your thief.' The male bird in the nest had blue things all around him. A female bird nearby watched him.

1. Who lost things?

- (a) Justin, Mum and Beth
- (b) Dad
- (c) Justin and Mum

2. All the missing objects were:

- (a) green.
- (b) red.
- (c) blue.

3. Three words which mean the same as said are:

- (a) took and taken.
- (b) yelled, replied and bellowed.
- (c) ribbon, marker and pegs.

4. The male bird collected blue objects to:

- (a) eat them.
- (b) make the nest pretty for the female bird.
- (c) make the nest warm.

5. Which paragraph tells who took the objects?

- (a) Paragraph 1
- (b) Paragraph 3
- (c) Paragraph 7

6. The word *He* in Paragraph 7 means:

- (a) Dad.
- (b) the male bird.
- (c) the female bird.



Something extra

- ★ List all the blue objects in the room.
- ★ Find pictures of different nests in books. Draw a colourful picture of them.