



Prepare Yourself

How to deduce, infer, interpret information

Success criteria:

I can read and understand information that is only hinted at.

I can use evidence from across the text.

I can explain different possible meanings.

I can use comments which make a judgement.

Activity One- read through the following text. Underline all of the facts with a highlighter.

What is a fact?

A fact is undeniably true, and can be supported by evidence, or something that actually exists.

Activity Two – answer the questions which follow the text. A writing frame has been given to you, so that you can see how the answer should be set out.

Bill Bryson-Down Under

Australia is the world's sixth largest country and its largest island. It is the only island that is also a continent, and the only continent that is also a country. It was the first continent conquered from the sea, and the last. It is the only nation that began as a prison.

It is the home of the largest living thing on earth, the Great Barrier Reef, and of the most famous and striking monolith, Ayers Rock (or Uluru to use its now official, more respectful Aboriginal name).

It has more things that will kill you than anywhere else. Of the world's ten most poisonous snakes, all are Australian. Five of its creatures - the funnel-web spider, box jellyfish, blue-ringed octopus, paralysis tick and stonefish - are the most lethal of their type in the world. This is a country where even the fluffiest of caterpillars can lay you out with a toxic nip, where seashells will not just sting you but actually sometimes go for you.

Pick up an innocuous coneshell from a Queensland beach, as innocent tourists are all too wont to do, and you will discover that the little fellow inside is not just astoundingly swift and testy, but exceedingly venomous.

If you are not stung or pronged to death in some unexpected manner, you may be fatally chomped by sharks or crocodiles, or carried helplessly out to sea by irresistible currents, or left to stagger to an unhappy death in the baking outback. It's a tough place.

1. What factual information does the writer give about Australia?

Identify one fact in each paragraph.

When you do this you are using evidence from across the text.

2. What does the writer mean by "It is the only nation that began as a prison."?

When you do this you are explaining different meanings.

3. What is the topic sentence of paragraph two? Why is this a good sentence to start a paragraph with?

When you do this you are using comments which make judgements.

4. Look at the information in paragraph two. What image of Australia does this create?

When you do this you are explaining information that is only hinted at.

5. Find two contrasting words in paragraph two.

When you do this you are using evidence from across the text.

6. What does the phrase "irresistible currents" suggest?

When you do this you are explaining information that is only hinted at.

7. Find evidence to support the last phrase "It's a tough place".

When you do this you are using evidence from across the text.

Pupil Answer Sheet

1) A fact from paragraph one is

A fact from paragraph two is

A fact from paragraph three is

A fact from paragraph four is

2) When the writer says 'it is the only nation that began as a prison' it is referring to the fact that ...

3)The topic sentence which begins paragraph 2 is

I think this is a good topic sentence because

4)The image of Australia which is created in paragraph 2 is that it is

The following words and phrases suggest that to me:

5)Two contrasting words used in paragraph 2 are

(hint: remember to put them in quotation marks, “ “)

6)The phrase irresistible currents suggests to me that

7)There is a lot of evidence to suggest that Australia is a tough place. Some words and phrases are

I think it would be tough because

Answer Sheet

1) A fact from paragraph one is

Sixth largest country, largest island; entire paragraph fact, so any statement

A fact from paragraph two is

home of the largest living thing on earth, the Great Barrier Reef, and of the most famous and striking monolith, Ayers Rock

A fact from paragraph three is

Of the world's ten most poisonous snakes, all are Australian. Five of its creatures - the funnel-web spider, box jellyfish, blue-ringed octopus, paralysis tick and stonefish - are the most lethal of their type in the world.

A fact from paragraph four is

Coneshells can be found on Queensland's beaches, coneshells are venomous

2) When the writer says 'it is the only nation that began as a prison' it is referring to the fact that *...Britain shipped convicted criminals out there as an alternative to jail, historically*

3) The topic sentence which begins paragraph 2 is

It has more things that will kill you than anywhere else

I think this is a good topic sentence because *it introduces the subject which it then goes on to talk about in more detail*

4) The image of Australia which is created in paragraph 2 is that it is

A very dangerous place to live

The following words and phrases suggest that to me:

'most poisonous', 'most lethal', 'toxic nip', 'even the fluffiest of caterpillars can lay you out with a toxic nip, where seashells will not just sting you but actually sometimes go for you.'

5) Two contrasting words used in paragraph 2 are

'fluffiest' and 'toxic'

(hint: remember to put them in quotation marks, “ ”)

6) The phrase 'irresistible currents' suggests to me that

They are so strong that it is physically impossible not to go with them.

7) There is a lot of evidence to suggest that Australia is a tough place. Some words and phrases are *accept any quotation which suggests toughness*

I think it would be tough because *there seem to be a lot of different ways you could be hurt, or things that will hurt you.*

Test Yourself

Read the passage, and on a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions.

1a) In the third paragraph, what do we learn about why David Copperfield had been sent to school during the school holidays?

1b) What did he think when he first read the placard?

1c) Why do you think that David had to wear the placard?

1d) Find 3 phrases that suggest that the school was a miserable place.

1e) Find three phrases that refer to one of the five senses. In your answer say which sense it is, before copying the quotation.

2) What do you think happens when the other boys come back to school? Imagine that you are David and continue the story...

'The new boy,' said the Master.

The man with the wooden leg eyed me all over - it didn't take long, for there was not much of me - and locked the gate behind us, and took out the key. We were going up to the house, among some dark heavy trees, when he called after my conductor.

'Hallo!'

We looked back, and he was standing at the door of a little lodge, where he lived, with a pair of boots in his hand.

'Here! The cobbler's been,' he said, 'since you've been out, Mr. Mell, and he says he can't mend 'em any more. He says there ain't a bit of the original boot left, and he wonders you expect it.'

With these words he threw the boots towards Mr. Mell, who went back a few paces to pick them up, and looked at them (very disconsolately, I was afraid), as we went on together. I observed then, for the first time, that the boots he had on were a good deal the worse for wear, and that his stocking was just breaking out in one place, like a bud.

Salem House was a square brick building with wings; of a bare and unfurnished appearance. All about it was so very quiet, that I said to Mr. Mell I supposed the boys were out; but he seemed surprised at my not knowing that it was holiday-time. That all the boys were at their several homes. That Mr. Creakle, the proprietor, was down by the sea-side with Mrs. and Miss Creakle; and that I was sent in holiday-time as a punishment for my misdoing, all of which he explained to me as we went along.

I gazed upon the schoolroom into which he took me, as the most forlorn and desolate place I had ever seen. I see it now. A long room with three long rows of desks, and six of forms, and bristling all round with pegs for hats and slates. Scraps of old copy-books and exercises litter the dirty floor. Some silkworms' houses, made of the same materials, are scattered over the desks. Two miserable little white mice, left behind by their owner, are running up and down in a fusty castle made of pasteboard and wire, looking in all the corners with their red eyes for anything to eat. A bird, in a cage very little bigger than himself, makes a mournful rattle now and then in hopping on his perch, two inches high, or dropping from it; but neither sings nor chirps. There is a strange unwholesome smell upon the room, like mildewed corduroys, sweet apples wanting air, and rotten books. There could not well be more ink splashed about it, if it had been roofless from its first construction, and the skies had rained, snowed, hailed, and blown ink through the varying seasons of the year.

Mr. Mell having left me while he took his irreparable boots upstairs, I went softly to the upper end of the room, observing all this as I crept along. Suddenly I came upon a pasteboard placard, beautifully written, which was lying on the desk, and bore these words: 'TAKE CARE OF HIM. HE BITES.'

I got upon the desk immediately, apprehensive of at least a great dog underneath. But, though I looked all round with anxious eyes, I could see nothing of him. I was still engaged in peering about, when Mr. Mell came back, and asked me what I did up there?

'I beg your pardon, sir,' says I, 'if you please, I'm looking for the dog.'

'Dog?' he says. 'What dog?'

'Isn't it a dog, sir?'

'Isn't what a dog?'

'That's to be taken care of, sir; that bites.'

'No, Copperfield,' says he, gravely, 'that's not a dog. That's a boy. My instructions are, Copperfield, to put this placard on your back. I am sorry to make such a beginning with you, but I must do it.'

Answers

1a) He was sent there as a punishment for 'misdoing'.

1b) He thought there must be a dog hiding underneath the desk; he was frightened.

1c) It seems as if he bit (or at least attacked) someone when he was at home.

1d) Obviously there are various possibilities, eg 'a forlorn and desolate place'.

Accept any phrase which shows the school to be messy/dirty/abandoned.

1e) sight- 'bristling all around with pegs for hats and slates'

'scraps of old books and exercises litter the dirty floor'

Hearing – 'a bird ... makes a mournful rattle now and then'

Smell – 'There is a strange, unwholesome smell...like mildewed corduroys, sweet apples wanting air, and rotten books'