

Choosing a home

Name:

Five villages cluster round the market town of Deepdale. Four of them, Denhill, Alnthorp, Rigsby and Chestham are built among the hills, while Moorcroft is built on flat land. Rigsby and Denhill both have primary schools and Alnthorp is the only village with a shop. The area's only post office is at Moorcroft and the railway station is at Rigsby, which is also situated close to Tarnside Lake. All the villages are on bus routes to Deepdale and there are football and cricket facilities in Denhill, Alnthorp and Moorcroft. A golf course is being developed at Denhill and is due to open soon.

1. Use ticks and crosses to complete the grid below.

	Denhill	Alnthorp	Rigsby	Chestham	Moorcroft
hills					
flat land					
schools					
shop					
post office					
station					
lake					
bus route					
football/cricket					
golf course					

2. The people listed below are looking for new homes in one of the five villages. Which village would be most suitable for them? Give your reasons.



Mr Patel

He is over seventy years of age and finds it difficult to walk very far. He needs to be near a post office so that he can easily collect his weekly pension. Mr Patel likes to visit friends and relations by bus.

Most suitable village:

Reason for choice:



Mr and Mrs Carter

They have three children. The family likes to walk in the countryside at weekends. Mr Carter likes to watch live sport when he can and Mrs Carter hopes to take up a new outdoor sporting hobby as soon as possible.

Most suitable village:

Reason for choice:



Sally Jones

She is hoping to buy her first home. She has no car but needs to make regular business trips to London and Birmingham. Sally is particularly interested in wildlife and spends her spare time photographing and drawing water birds and plants.

Most suitable village:

Reason for choice:

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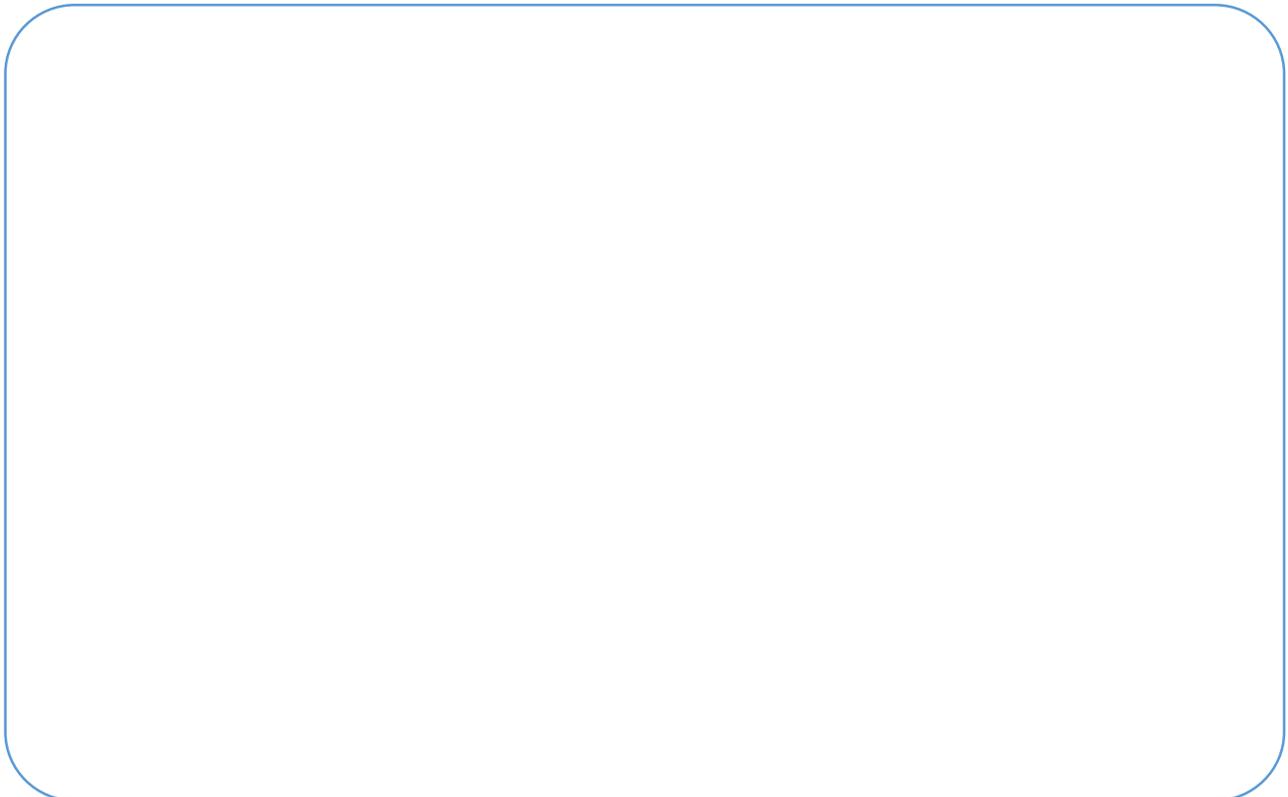
The Seasons in Ancient Egypt

Life in Ancient Egypt depended on the River Nile, which watered the land so that people could grow their food. The seasons of the year were decided by the behaviour of the Nile. There were three seasons:

- **Inundation:** when the land was flooded because the Nile was full and burst its banks (June to October).
- **Emergence:** when the level of the Nile went down and fields were free of the waters (October to February).
- **Drought:** when the water in the Nile was very low, from February to June.

The annual rhythm of the seasons led to a regular pattern of work and activity for the farmers of Egypt. During inundation, most of them went to work on great building projects for the Pharaoh – hauling huge stone blocks to build pyramids, temples or tombs. During emergence, they went back to their lands, dug irrigation ditches and planted and tended to their crops. When drought came, they harvested the crops and threshed the cereals to store grain for the rest of the year.

1. Make a cycle model (diagram) to show the seasons of the year in Ancient Egypt. You can use the space below to plan your model.
2. Add labels and illustrations in the spaces that are left inside and around the model to show what jobs the Ancient Egyptians were doing during each of the three seasons.



3. Compare your finished model with your classmates' models and decide which model is closest to the description of the seasons.

Name:

League table

This is the top of the County League table. Teams get three points for a win and one point for a draw.

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals against	Points	Goal difference
Rushall	8	6	1	1	37	12	19	25
Christchurch	7	5	2	0	29	16	17	13
Hamworthy	8	4	4	0	30	17	16	13
Burnham	8	4	4	0	25	19	16	6
Bloomfield	6	4	0	2	28	24	12	4
Cleeve	8	3	3	2	19	21	12	-2
Blandford	8	2	3	3	15	26	9	-11
Maldon	8	1	5	2	12	30	8	-18

Results

Christchurch	4-2	Rushall
Cleeve	2-2	Blandford
Hamworthy	5-1	Bloomfield

These are the results of the most recent matches in the league:

1. On the blank table, update the league figures to include the results of the new matches and reorder the teams to show their new positions.

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals against	Points	Goal difference

2. Now answer the following questions:

Who leads the league table now?

Who has scored the most goals?

Who has let in the most goals?

Who has the best goal difference?

Who has the worst goal difference?

Which teams are still unbeaten?

Name:

The Victorians

Most information books have a table of contents at the front. This can be a very useful guide when you want to find a particular aspect of the topic you are studying.

Contents	Page
Who were the Victorians?	4
Queen Victoria	7
Streets and houses	11
Factories and work	16
Education	20
Religion	25
The Great Exhibition	31
Public health	39
Counting the people	45
The Crimean War	50
Trade and Empire	58
A Victorian Christmas	64

Here is the contents list from a history book about the Victorians.

Where in the book would you be most likely to find the answers to the following questions? Write the name of the section and the page number on which it begins.

1. Who was Queen Victoria's husband? Page:
2. How many children did she have? Page:
10. Which were the largest towns in Victorian times? Page:
11. What famous event happened during the Battle of Balaclava? Page:
12. How many people went to church in Victorian times? Page:
13. How long did the Victorian period last? Page:
14. Who was Florence Nightingale? Page:
15. How many servants did wealthy people employ? Page:
16. What did Victorian children learn at school? Page:
10. Who first introduced Christmas trees into this country? Page:
11. What are cholera and typhoid? How did people catch them? Page:
12. What jobs did most Victorian children have to do? Page:
13. Which goods did Victorian Britain export from other countries? Page:

Name:

What a Story!

Look carefully at these newspaper headlines and match them to the correct stories below.

How Many More?

CLIPPER HOLDS LEAD

KIDS LEARN DIY LESSON

STAR GUEST
CUTS RIBBON

**FIRE DAMAGES
HEALTH UNIT**

MARKET EVENT
TAKES THE BISCUIT

CLEAR IMPROVEMENT!

**HOLIDAY HITCH
COMES TO TOWN**

SUCCESS STORY

WRITE ON

CHECK THE GAS

MILLION POUND WINNERS

**HAIR RAISING
MOMENT**

RIGHT UP MY STREET

**JOINING
FORCES**

Office workers shave off their hair to raise money for charity.

An author has published a new book about her local town.

A television personality opens a new supermarket.

Accidents keep happening at the same road junction.

A neighbourhood watch organiser talks to local homeowners.

A family was held up by a plane delay in Spain.

A highly successful new musical is to visit a local theatre.

Two clothing firms are to merge into one company.

Cooks sell off their tasty homemade food.

A blaze wrecks the equipment in a local hospital.

A local couple win a large prize on the national lottery.

A large sailing ship gets ahead in a long distance race at sea.

Workmen are shown how to double-glaze windows.

Faulty cookers and fires may be dangerous.

Children are taught how to make toys at a superstore.

Teachers' notes for reading comprehension activities

Activity 1: Choosing a home

- Discuss with children the problems faced when choosing a new place to live. Point out that not every single item on a 'wish list' may be fulfilled and that it's a question of trying to meet as much of the criteria as possible. This is known as finding 'the best fit'.
- Filling in the chart should help children to extract key information from the opening text. They should mark columns clearly with ticks and crosses so that they can quickly refer to them again. These will become relevant when making a choice later.
- Tell them to look out for and highlight key words and phrases in the descriptions of the people/family, as these will help them to make the best match.
- Remind children that there are no wrong answers in a creative exercise of this kind. They should opt for what they believe to be the best solution and use evidence from the descriptions to support their choice. They should be prepared to explain their choice in discussions with the teacher and with other children. Ask children to open up a discussion with phrases like "May I suggest....." and "My idea is....."

Activity 2: The seasons in Ancient Egypt

- Explain to children that a cycle is a series of events that happen in the same order over and over again. The best shape for a cycle model is a circle because events go round and round. Talk about some cycle models that the children will be familiar with, like the cycle of four seasons in our own climate, the water cycle in meteorology and life cycles in nature. Try some of these out in diagram form.
- Note that in the case of Ancient Egypt, there will only be three divisions of the circle because there are only three seasons. Labelling should be put around the outside of the circle to show in which months each season falls. The seasons should be shown in the right order, moving clockwise, with arrows to show that they are repeated in the same way year after year.
- Children should be asked to make the cycle model more interesting and informative by using pictures in the spaces left inside the circumference of the circle. They should clearly illustrate what events are happening during each of the three seasons.
- Encourage children to share their finished models with friends and decide which is the best and clearest model.

Activity 3: League table

- League tables are an essential feature of competitive sport and chart the progress of how teams are faring in comparison to their opponents. It is a simple and quick method of showing a lot of information in an easy-to-read format.
- Revise with children the basic methods used in compiling this type of league table. Three points are awarded if a team wins and one point when they draw. There are no points for a defeat. Goal difference is worked out by subtracting the number of goals given away (conceded) from the number of goals scored. Stress that this can sometimes produce negative numbers. Point out that if teams are level on points, then goal difference is used to decide league positions.
- Children should use the results given to update the league table.
- There are numerous examples of league tables given in newspapers, magazines and online that children can look at as examples of displaying this kind of information.

Activity 4: The Victorians

- Check first that children understand the difference between the contents list (table of contents) and the index in a non-fiction book. A table of contents offers the reader a list of the different parts or sections of the book. It is arranged according to the order of appearance or sequence in the book, with page numbers also indicated. The table of contents is located at the beginning of the book, usually just after the title page. The index comes at the end of a non-fiction book and is a detailed guide to key words, phrases and topics that occur in the text, it is arranged in alphabetical order to make them easier to find.
- Stress to children that the table of contents is a bit like a road map, making it easier for the reader to move around from section to section. It indicates how many chapters or sections there are, how long they are and on what pages they can be found. Point out that a table of contents is often written first when books are being planned.
- Again, this is an activity where there may not be any wrong answers. It will be a case of trying to find the best fit to answer the questions given. Bear in mind that it may be possible to find the information required in more than one of the sections listed. For example, details about Victorian towns may be mentioned in 'Streets and houses' or 'Factories and work', while cholera and typhoid may appear in 'Public health' and 'The Crimean War'.
- Extend the activity by encouraging children to make tables of contents for non-fiction project topics and themes they are working on. Longer pieces of story writing can also be divided into chapters with headings (as they are in fiction books).

Activity 5: What a story!

- Point out that a headline is the short piece of text used to identify the nature of an article or news story. It's a brief summary of what the article is about. Its main purpose is to quickly draw attention to the story. It should create curiosity, make the reader want to find out more, promise answers to a question, solutions to a problem or identify a key benefit. In simple terms, its key role is to 'tell and sell'. It has been noted that a poor headline can render an article invisible.
- In terms of grammar, headlines are most often written in the present tense, 'City defeat United', and use interesting active verbs, 'Survey reveals pupils are fed up'. It is best to avoid 'be' verbs. Stress to children that headlines should not give all the details of a story away. It should not be shrill and opinionated. It should not be over-thought and often the best headlines are the ones that occur spontaneously, once a story has been read through once. Encourage children to think about the audience that the headline is intended for.
- There are a number of word strategies that can be used in writing headlines. Draw children's attention to the following: word plays or puns e.g. 'Christmas shoppers stocking up' and 'CATastrophe of missing kitten', alliteration e.g. 'Searching stars in space' and 'Daring dog defies death', and rhyme e.g. 'Glass with class' and 'Wide awake snake'.
- There are plenty of examples of headlines from both newspapers and magazines that children can look at. Provide activities that work both ways – present a story and make up an eye-catching headline or give the headline and ask for a suitable story to fit it. Other points to bear in mind include ensuring that a headline will fit the space that is allowed for it over a story, choosing a good balance between the use of capital letters and lower case and the sensible selection of typefaces and font sizes.

Answers

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1. Use ticks and crosses to complete the grid below.

	Denhill	Alnthorp	Rigsby	Chestham	Moorcroft
hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
flat land	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
schools	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
shop	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
post office	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
station	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
lake	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
bus route	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
football/cricket	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
golf course	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

2. The people listed below are looking for new homes in one of the five villages. Which village would be most suitable for them? Give your reasons.



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He is over seventy years of age and finds it difficult to walk very far. He needs to be near a post office so that he can easily collect his weekly pension. Mr Patel likes to visit friends and relations by bus.

Most suitable village: **Moorcroft**.....

Reason for choice: **Post office, flat lands and bus stop**.....



Mr and Mrs Carter

They have three children. The family likes to walk in the countryside at weekends. Mr Carter likes to watch live sport when he can and Mrs Carter hopes to take up a new outdoor sporting hobby as soon as possible.

Most suitable village: **Denhill**.....

Reason for choice: **School, football/cricket facilities and golf course**.....



Sally Jones

She is hoping to buy her first home. She has no car but needs to make regular business trips to London and Birmingham. Sally is particularly interested in wildlife and spends her spare time photographing and drawing water birds and plants.

Most suitable village: **Rigsby**.....

Reason for choice: **Station and lake**.....

Answers

Name:

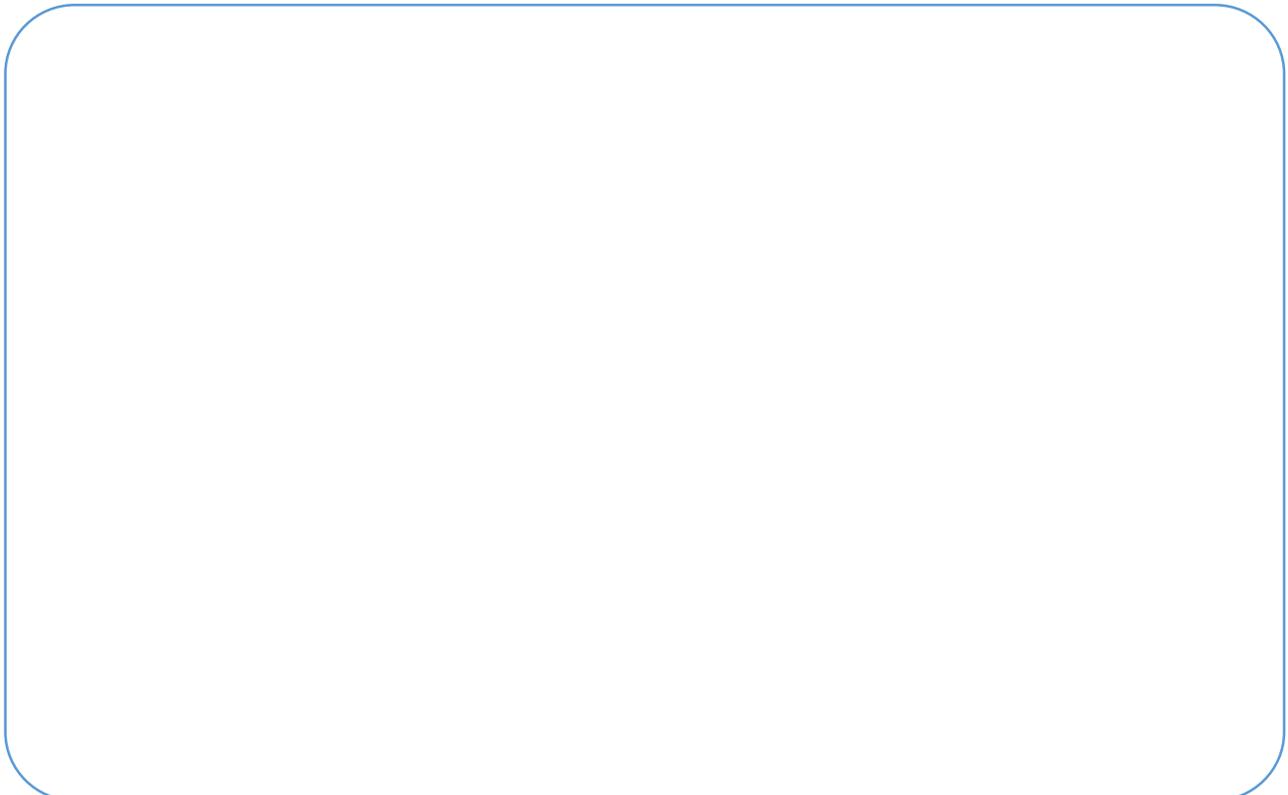
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2. Now answer the following questions:

- Who leads the league table now? Christchurch
- Who has scored the most goals? Rushall
- Who has let in the most goals? Bloomfield
- Who has the best goal difference? Rushall
- Who has the worst goal difference? Maldon
- Which teams are still unbeaten? Christchurch, Hamworthy and Burnham

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- What famous event happened during the Battle of Balaclava? The Crimean War Page: 50
- How many people went to church in Victorian times? Religion Page: 25
- How long did the Victorian period last? Who were the Victorians? Page: 4
- Who was Florence Nightingale? The Crimean War/ Public health Page: 50/39
- How many servants did wealthy people employ? Factories and work/ Streets and houses Page: 11/16
- What did Victorian children learn at school? Education Page: 20
- Who first introduced Christmas trees into this country? A Victorian Christmas Page: 64
The Crimean War/
- What are cholera and typhoid? How did people catch them? Public health Page: 50/39
- What jobs did most Victorian children have to do? Factories and work Page: 16
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Answers

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CLEAR IMPROVEMENT! **HOLIDAY HITCH COMES TO TOWN** **SUCCESS STORY**

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