

Day 1: Stone Age Cave Paintings

Stone Age Cave Paintings

Deep within some ancient caves, the ceilings and walls are covered in primitive art, brought to life by flickering firelight. These paintings are not thought to have only been for decoration, as they have been found in caves with no signs of life.

Made by grinding colourful rocks (such as yellow ochre and red oxide) into powder and binding them into a paste using water or animal fat, early humans drew animals and hunters, or left empty handprints, in caves around the world, as a call for hunting success from their spirit world ancestors.

Some famous cave paintings have been dated to around 18 000 years old but many are now closed to the public, as the carbon dioxide breathed out by visitors caused irreparable damage to the prehistoric relics.

1. Find and copy two words in the text which mean the same as 'ancient'.
2. Name a rock from the text which can be ground to make a colourful powder.
3. Why isn't it possible to stop the public damaging the cave paintings?
4. Use the text to clarify the meaning of 'binding'.
5. Why else might people have created these cave drawings?

Day 2: The Chase – Retrieval Questions

The following comprehension follows the VIPERS questioning of comprehension.

What do the letters mean?

The questions in the comprehensions are not numbered but labelled with a letter from VIPERS. These letters correspond with key reading skills. Many schools use these codes in reading lessons so lots of children will be familiar with them.

If your child is not familiar with the letter codes, then do not worry – it is just highlighting the skill for them.

If you would like to read more about VIPERS then there is an explanation on our blog here:
www.literacyshedblog.com/vipers

Reading Vipers

- V**ocabulary
- I**nfer
- P**redict
- E**xplain
- R**etrieve
- S**equence or Summarise



The Chase

“Yee-haw!” The cry of the herder was loud enough to be heard across the prairie, but the crack of his whip made sure that the humans knew he was coming. “Take them to the left!”

Pounding the ground behind him were a dozen mounted cowbots. Each metal man was painted yellow and had the same fixed expression. They all rode steel horses with legs that moved like pistons. Some of them were swinging lassos around their head. Others were carrying large nets. Some of these were already filling up with disgruntled humans.

Ever since the robots had invaded Earth in 2025, humans had been allowed to live in small villages outside the big cities. Normally, the robots left them alone. Except for one day a year. During the chase, the bots would head out on horses and try to catch as many people as they could. Mostly they were all released back into the wild at the end of the day. However, some would be offered well-paid jobs as performers or engineers in the city. Most of the humans didn't mind the annual chase.

Kelvin disagreed. He was fed up with having to run away every year and this year was even worse. The siren sounded just as he reached the final level on his computer game. That was a step too far. This year, he had a plan. He'd read the rules of the hunt very carefully. There was nothing in the book that forbid the humans from fighting back. Of course, he didn't want to destroy any of the robots, that was a crime punishable by life in prison. Instead, he just wanted to get his own back. The previous night, Kelvin had set out into the dust bowl behind his house and dug half a dozen deep holes. He'd covered them with fern leaves and swept dirt on top of those. It was only because he knew where they were that he'd avoided them during the chase. Already they'd claimed two of the cowbots, but there were still ten more.

Over the years he'd learnt that the robotic horses were very good at running in straight lines, but couldn't turn very quickly. He used this to his advantage by zig-zagging as he ran. The other people in his village had copied him, and he could hear the frustrated cries of the herders behind him.

Digging hidden pits wasn't all he'd been up to during the night. A few hundred yards away was a small group of trees, and he'd spent a few hours tying very fine but very strong nets between them. Unless you were very close, you wouldn't know they were there. If you were that close on a horse, it was too late. His lungs were burning, and his heart racing, but he could practically feel the trees around him. Once he got there, he knew the other herders would become entangled.

“Ooomph!” The word escaped him along with his breath. A rope snapped around his ankles and dragged him to the floor. He rolled onto his aching back and looked up into the grinning yellow face of a cowbot.

“Bad luck, little human!” the tinny voice crackled. “Better luck next year!”



RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. How many cowbots were there to start with?
2. When did the robots invade?
3. How many holes did he dig?
4. How did he run to escape the horses?

Day 3: The Chase – VIPERS Questions

Re-read ‘The Chase’ comprehension from yesterday and answer the following questions. Remember to look for all the clues.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

What does the word “mounted” tell us about the cowbots?

V

Find another word to replace “entangled”.

E

Explain why Kelvin doesn’t normally agree with the annual chase.

P

How do you think Kelvin will try to stop the chase next year?

I

How did Kelvin feel as he got closer to the trees? Explain your answer.

iPad 9:41 AM

Express Yourself



Using an iPad or a digital camera make faces of the emotions the main characters would have gone through in your book and take photos of them. Put them together in a document on your computer or device and explain the emotion below the image and when the character would have felt this way.

Two for One

9 All our lives, we have done everything together. We've
19 had the same haircuts, worn the same clothes and we've
30 even finished all of our meals at exactly the same time.
40 But there is one thing that is definitely very different
50 about me and my twin, Johnny: the football teams we
52 play on.
63 I play for the Bolton Buffalos (clearly the best) and Johnny
74 plays for the Leigh Lions. Last Sunday was the first time
83 our teams have competed against each other and the
94 stakes were high. It was the final of the local football
102 league's annual competition and, what a surprise, the
112 Jones twins struck again. We both scored a goal within
124 the last minute of the match and the final score was one
133 all. I guess we're not so different after all.



Quick Questions



1. '...the Jones twins struck again.'
How else could the author have said this?



2. What is the twins' last name?



3. What is similar and different about the twins?

Similar: _____

Different: _____



4. What do the words '(clearly the best)' in brackets show about the author's opinion on the football teams the twins play for?
