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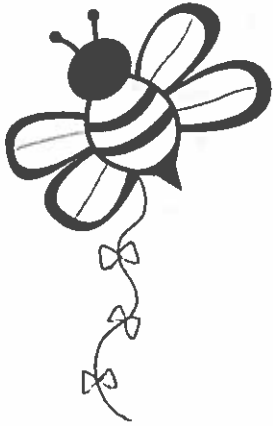
English Reading Practice Papers

Year 4 and 5

Book 2

Flying a kite

Flying a kite



I was sitting on a beach
Eating a peach,
And a kite flew over me
In the shape of a bee
It was quite a sight
Looping and swirling, whirling and twirling.

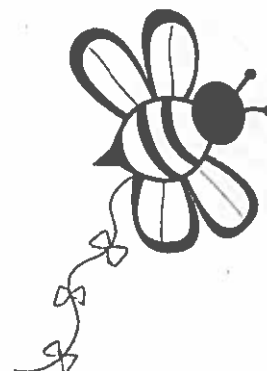
It was doing 360 degree turns - so cool
And came to give me a go.
It pulled me off ground
I was swirling around
I was curling and hurling and whirling around.

And then I was sick,
From doing a bad trick,
Sea salt taste and sand in my face.
I don't think I'll try this stunt again
But I'll come back to the beach,
Who knows when.

Yann Rigotti Year 6.

Ysgol Dolgarrog

1. Find and copy three words that describe the kite's movements.



2. Draw four lines to match the words that rhyme.

beach

bee

me

round

ground

peach

3. Look at the last two lines of the final verse.

Write in your own words what the author is telling us.

4. Where did the author see the kite?

5. How many degrees did the kite turn?

Tick one.

180° ☐

360° ☐

270° ☐

260° ☐

6. What was the writer eating while sitting on the beach?

7. What happened to the writer when "the stunt went wrong"?

8. What does the language in the poem suggest about the kite's movements?

Tick one.

they are slow and graceful

☐

they are fast

☐

they are clumsy

☐

9. The kite was in the shape of which insect?

Tick one.

wasp

☐

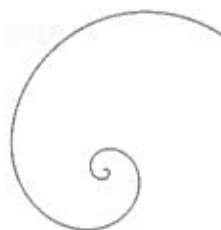
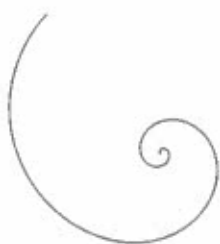
beetle

☐

bee

☐

dragonfly

☐

Red Kites

Facts about Red Kites.



- They have a forked tail and a striking chestnut red colour with white patches under the wings and a pale grey head.
- Their wings have a span of nearly 2 metres, and they weigh between 1 - 1½ kilos.
- It is both a scavenger and a predator. It will feed off dead sheep and live prey, ranging from earthworms to live mammals, amphibians and birds.
- They usually breed with the same partner for their whole life.
- Their nests are made of sticks and are built in trees. The nests are about 60cm wide.
- The Red Kite nearly became extinct, because it was regarded as vermin. It had disappeared from England and Scotland and most of Wales.
- In mid Wales there were a few pairs left and people started to protect them. They were fed and looked after.
- The number of Red Kites is now slowly increasing.
- Red kites are found mostly in Europe, and some parts of Africa.
- There are still threats to this magnificent bird - egg thieves and poisoned bait.
- Different organizations help protect the Red Kite, here are some of them.
 - the RSPB
 - the Welsh Kite Trust
 - the Red Kite Feeding and Rehabilitation Centre
 - the Forestry Commission

What else can we do to protect the Red Kite?

1. Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Red Kites have a wing span of 3 metres		
the Red Kite feeds off live sheep		
they breed with the same partner for their whole lives		
the Red Kite nests in hedges		
the Red Kite nearly became extinct		

2. How were the Red Kites saved from becoming extinct?

Tick one.

they were kept in zoos

☐

people started to protect them

☐

they migrated

☐

they nested in the towns

☐

3. Find and copy two words that describe the Kites' eating habits.

4. Tick all the colours found on a Red Kite.

white ☐ grey ☐ red ☐

yellow ☐ green ☐ blue ☐

5. Where are Red Kites found mostly?

Tick two.

Wales ☐ Australia ☐

America ☐ Europe ☐

6. What are the threats to the Red Kite?

Find and copy the two main threats.

7. Why has the author used bullet points in the text?

Tick one.

to start a new sentence

☐

to show that it is a new fact about the Red Kite

☐

to make it easier to read

☐

8. How wide are the Red Kite's nests?

Tick one.

100cm

☐

1.6m

☐

60m

☐

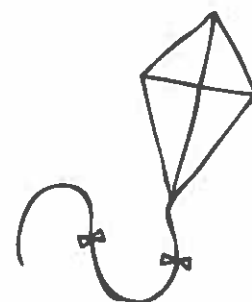
60cm

☐

Flying a kite

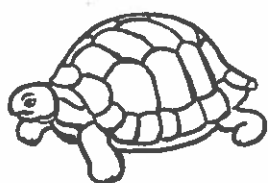
All of us enjoy flying a kite, whether it is a simple one from a local shop or a very expensive and complicated kite given to us perhaps as a gift.

But, have you ever thought where the kite originated and what is its story?



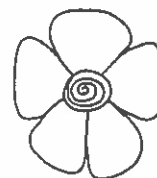
The earliest kites were probably invented in China, about 800 years before Jesus Christ was born (800 B.C.) These kites were made out of bamboo and silk and were called "mu yuan". Chinese people flew kites for fun, as we do, but also used kites in war to carry messages or to signal people far away.

About 900 years later, when paper was invented, people began making kites out of paper instead of silk. They were lighter and easier to fly and were called "zhi yuan".



The Chinese decorated their kites with mythological creatures and figures. Tortoises and cranes were used to symbolize

long life, the bat symbolized good luck; butterflies and flowers were symbols of harmony. A dragon represented power and prosperity.



Kites were also used in religious ceremonies and were believed to ward off bad luck and to bring good luck and prosperity. The higher a kite flew the greater prosperity it would bring.

Hundreds of years ago, sailors would tie people to a large kite and then it would be launched. If the kite went high and straight, it was seen as an omen of a quick and prosperous voyage. On the other hand, if it crashed or didn't fly well, the sailors would not set sail!

It was much later that the kite was brought to Britain. The colourful Chinese kites reminded the people of Britain of a bird of prey - the kite with its colourful red, white and grey feathers - so they gave this name to the Chinese flying device - The Kite.

1. Draw three lines to show what each creature symbolizes.

tortoise

harmony

butterfly

power

dragon

long life

2. Find and copy the Chinese words used to name the two different types of kites.

3. Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
the kite originated in India		
the first kites were made of bamboo and silk		
later kites were made of paper		
the kites were decorated with mythological creatures		
kites have blue feathers		

4. What other use was made of the earliest kites?

Tick one.

to frighten the birds

☐

to carry messages

☐

to start a fire

☐

5. Find and copy the phrase which means the same as 800 years before Jesus Christ was born.

6. What is the difference between these kites?

zhi yuan kites

mu yuan kite

7. Which creatures were used to decorate the kites according to the writer.

Tick 3.

butterflies

☐

dragons

☐

cranes

☐

elephants

☐

cats

☐

tortoises

☐

8. Look at the text below.

Underline one word that tells you that the creatures in the decorations might be from legends and stories and might not be true.

"The Chinese decorated the kites with mythical creatures and figures"

9. B.C. means before Christ was born and A.D. means after Jesus Christ was born.

When was paper invented according to the writer.

Tick one.

500 A.D.

☐

100A.D.

☐

200A.D.

☐

900B.C.

☐

10. Why did the kites remind people of a bird of prey?
