

A Very Unusual Winter

9 Children across the country splashed and frolicked in the
16 paddling pool, wearing their swimming costumes and
25 thick streaks of sun cream. Windows were wide open,
37 fans were out of stock in most high street shops and the
48 ice cream van hadn't made so much money in ages. It
59 was the hottest day the United Kingdom had seen in over
67 thirty years... yet it was the 21st December.

77 For as long as anyone could remember, the 21st of
86 December had been an icy, cold day. Commuters walked
96 to work, wrapped up tightly in thick coats and scarves,
105 past chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke as
113 families gathered around the fireplace to keep warm...
123 but not this year. Something very unusual seemed to be
131 happening and one man – Simon Thomas – thought he
133 knew why...



Quick Questions



1. '*...chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke*' In this sentence, what does 'plumed' imply about the amount of smoke?



2. What date was the hottest day the UK had seen in over thirty years?



3. Why were people shocked about the weather?

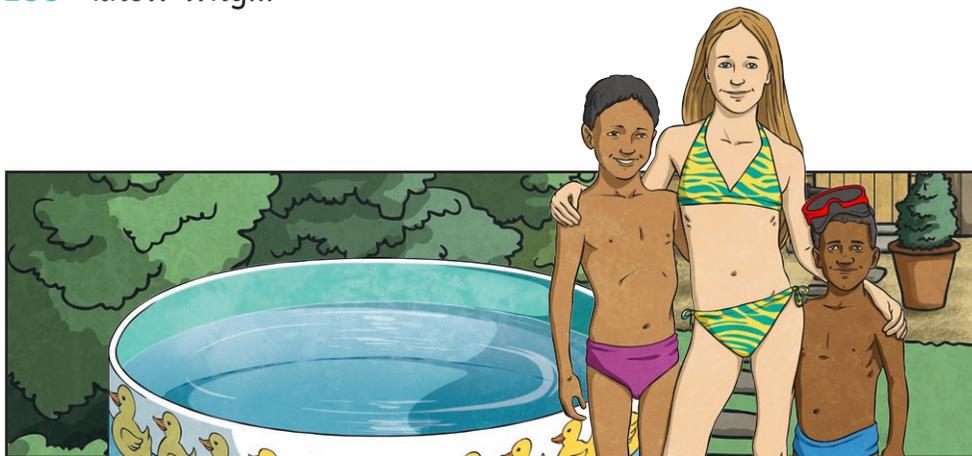


4. What do you think that Simon Thomas may do next?

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133 knew why...



Answers



1. '...chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke' In this sentence, what does 'plumed' imply about the amount of smoke?

Accept answers which discuss that there was a lot of smoke.



2. What date was the hottest day the UK had seen in over thirty years?

Accept: '21st December'.



3. Why were people shocked about the weather?

Accept any reasonable explanation regarding the fact that glorious sunshine in December is unheard of, people normally get wrapped up warm, etc.



4. What do you think that Simon Thomas may do next?

Accept any reasonable prediction which would fit with the story, such as 'Simon Thomas approached scientists to see if he could fix the change in weather', 'Simon began to research what he could do to put it right' etc.

Spotting a Tsunami

8 Before a tsunami strikes, eagle-eyed scientists can spot
19 a few warning signs which may help to save lives. An
28 earthquake can be a warning of a tsunami; tsunamis
39 can cause the ground near the coast to shake for more
50 than twenty seconds at a time and may cause the ocean
60 to pull backwards, leaving bare sand where the sea used
71 to be. There may also be loud, booming noises with no
81 apparent cause. However, it is not just humans who can
92 take notice of these warning signs. Around the time that a
102 tsunami is about to strike, animals can be seen behaving
109 strangely or beginning to leave the area.
119 If any of these signs are spotted, you must immediately
129 move away from coastal areas. Make your way to higher
138 ground as quickly as you can – do not stop.



Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two ways that the author tells the reader to act quickly if they spot a tsunami.

- _____
- _____



2. What are two warning signs that a tsunami could be about to strike?

- _____
- _____



3. Why might someone be tempted to stop on their way to higher ground?



4. Who do you think that this information is for? Explain your answer.

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138 ground as quickly as you can – do not stop.



Answers



1. Find and copy two ways that the author tells the reader to act quickly if they spot a tsunami.
Accept two of: 'immediately move away', 'as quickly as you can' and 'do not stop', or variations thereof.



2. What are two warning signs that a tsunami could be about to strike?
Accept any two signs mentioned within the text such as an earthquake, animals behaving strangely, booming noises and the water receding.



3. Why might someone be tempted to stop on their way to higher ground?
Accept any reasonable inference, such as 'to collect their belongings', 'to gather supplies' or 'to warn other people'.



4. Who do you think that this information is for? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable audience, such as 'people who live by the beach' provided that a justification is given, such as 'to warn them of signs to look out for'.

The Official Safe-Tea Shelter

11 Do you live in an extreme weather hotspot? Do you want
21 your family to be safe, no matter what the weather?
30 Then look no further than the Safe-Tea Shelter. Drink
40 your warm beverage with complete peace of mind as you
48 sit comfortably within thick, corrugated sheets of metal,
56 designed to withstand even the worst of hurricanes.

64 Three heavy-duty locks protect you from the outside
75 world, whilst a state of the art system of vents makes
88 sure that the air you breathe is as fresh as being at the
94 seaside. Buy today to avoid disaster.

102 Limited time promotion: one free box of refreshments
104 per shelter.



Quick Questions



1. What does the word 'heavy-duty' tell you about the locks on the shelter?



2. What is the shelter made out of?



3. Explain why the air in the shelter being 'as fresh as being at the seaside' might appeal to readers.



4. Give one way that the author encourages you to buy this shelter.

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Answers



1. What does the word 'heavy-duty' tell you about the locks on the shelter?

Accept answers which discuss that the locks are strong, resilient and can defend against a lot / they are stronger than an average lock, etc.



2. What is the shelter made out of?

Accept: 'metal', 'sheets of metal' or 'thick, corrugated sheets of metal'.



3. Explain why the air in the shelter being 'as fresh as being at the seaside' might appeal to readers.

Accept any reasonable explanation regarding buyers not wanting the shelter to be stuffy and that the air at the seaside is as fresh as possible.



4. Give one way that the author encourages you to buy this shelter.

Accept any reasonable explanation, such as 'use of exciting adjectives to describe', 'says it will 'withstand even the worst of hurricanes', 'Limited time promotion offer', etc.