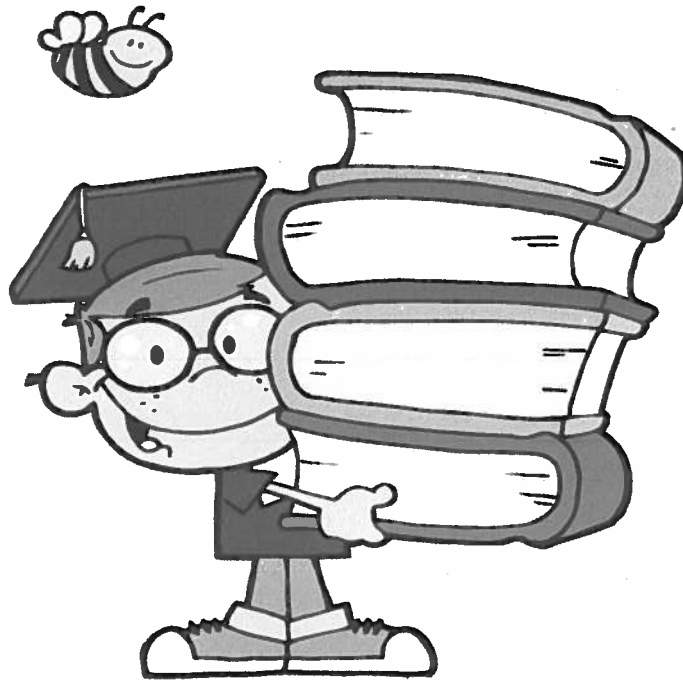


INTENSIVE ENGLISH  
GRADE 6



TIME TO READ

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

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## Tennis Classes

The city of Gatineau is offering tennis classes for people of all ages. The teachers of the tennis school have a lot of experience and all have been champions. They will help you get better and meet new challenges. You don't have to bring anything to the classes except tennis clothes and shoes. Those interested have from September 1 to 15 inclusive to sign up by phone, the city's website, email, or in person.



## Questions

1. During what season do the classes take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are the teachers of the school good tennis players? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the two ways of signing up for classes using the Internet?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If someone doesn't have access to a computer, how is it possible to sign up for the classes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. On what date will it be too late to sign up for the tennis classes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do you have to bring to the classes?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Desert Island for Sale

In the last pages of a newspaper, there is a desert island listed for sale. It is located in the middle of the ocean, a great distance away from any shore or continent. Maps don't show it because it is tiny. The island contains caves, flowers and other lovely plants. Birds and small animals can also be seen. This island is a good purchase for anyone wishing to escape the city from time to time. It is on sale with a sailboat included for \$355 000 or on its own for \$350 000.



## Questions

1. Where can you find this classified ad?

---

2. Is it possible to reach the island from the continent by swimming? Explain.

---

---

3. What does "tiny" mean?

---

4. What is the value of the sailboat?

---

5. Will you have neighbours if you purchase the island? Explain.

---

6. What kind of people would buy that desert island?

---





## Player Piano for Sale

I am selling my Pianola player piano. This antique instrument is more than 100 years old. As it was made in 1895, it comes from a different era. The Pianola uses perforated paper rolls to play. Small holes on the paper roll activate the piano keys. These keys cause hammers to hit the strings, producing sound. It is possible to change the rolls in order to make the piano play different music pieces. My Pianola, including thirty rolls, is for sale for \$10 000.



## Questions

1. How old is this piano today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is special about the paper that the Pianola uses to play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the buyer have to be able to read music and play piano to use the Pianola? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many different music pieces does the Pianola play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you buy the Pianola from the advertisement and receive 15 additional rolls as a gift, how many rolls will you own in total?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Name three parts of a piano mentioned in the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Alphonse Desjardins

Alphonse Desjardins was born in 1854 in Lévis, on the south shore of Québec City. He died in 1920. He was the eighth child in a family of 15 children. His wife, Dorimène, gave birth to 4 girls and 6 boys. Before Desjardins became a businessman, he had been journalist for a newspaper. He founded Desjardins Group, a famous cooperative well known all over Quebec. The first *caisse populaire* opened on December 6, 1900. Desjardins Group became very popular and grew quickly. It is now present in Quebec and in Ontario, as well as in 30 developing and emerging countries.



## Questions

1. What was the former profession of Alphonse Desjardins?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many older siblings did Alphonse Desjardins have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many fewer children did Alphonse and Dorimène have, compared to Alphonse's father and mother?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How old was Alphonse Desjardins when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is Desjardins Group present only in Canada? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How is Desjardins different from banks?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Hergé

Hergé was the creator of *The Adventures of Tintin*, a famous series of comics. His real name was Georges Remi. The two first letters, "R" and "G", make his well-known pseudonym Hergé. He was born in Belgium on May 22, 1907 and died on March 3, 1983. When he was young, Hergé drew pictures for a Boy Scout newsletter. It was in 1929 that Hergé created the hero Tintin and his dog Snowy (*Milou*). In 1941 Captain Haddock made his debut in the adventures. Together, they travelled to many different countries to conduct investigations. Since many people admire Hergé, an asteroid was named after him in 1982. It is found in the main asteroid belt, between Mars and Jupiter.



## Questions

1. What was Hergé's nationality?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How old was Hergé when he created Tintin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the profession of Tintin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How old was Hergé when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What special gift was given to Hergé on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was an asteroid named after Hergé?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Hubert Reeves

Hubert Reeves was born in Montreal in 1932. When he was a child, he enjoyed looking at the sky because he was very curious. One day he crafted a small telescope by himself to see the stars and the planets more closely. Later he decided to pursue studies in the field of science to become a great scientist. He did research about space and the universe. Hubert Reeves is very committed to the health of the Earth. He has written many books, including *The Universe Explained to my Grandchildren*, which is intended for a younger audience.



## Questions

1. What is Hubert Reeves's citizenship?

---

2. What is his main field of interest?

---

3. Is the passion of Hubert Reeves for space recent? Explain.

---

4. What do you think the phrase "to be committed" means?

---

5. Is Hubert Reeves an ecologist? Explain.

---

6. Do you think he wrote the book mentioned only for his own grandchildren? Explain.

---





## Julie Payette

Julie Payette travelled in space because she is an astronaut. She was born in Montreal in 1963. She studied for many years to achieve her dream. She took part in her first space mission in 1999, and a second one 10 years later. Julie Payette is successful in many ways: she speaks many languages, plays piano very well, and has received numerous awards throughout her life. Admired by many people, she has become a role model for children and adults alike.



## Questions

1. What was the dream of Julie Payette?

---

2. How old was Julie Payette when she went on her first space mission?

---

3. In what year did the second space mission take place?

---

4. How old was Julie Payette when she took part in her second space mission?

---

5. Why is Julie Payette a role model for many people?

---

6. Name one trait of Julie Payette's personality.

---



## Louis Cyr

Louis Cyr was the most famous Quebecker strongman. He was born in 1863 and died in 1912. During his youth he worked on his family's farm. Later he worked in the forest as a lumberjack. People around him already knew about his extraordinary strength. A few years later he began exhibiting his physical abilities in shows and competitions. In 2013 a movie about his life was released in theatres.



## Questions

1. How old was Louis Cyr when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years have passed since Louis Cyr's death?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Louis Cyr did a great job as a lumberjack?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why can it be said that Louis Cyr is still well known today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In your opinion, what were Louis Cyr's physical traits?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Imagine a strength test he could have done in a show.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Mylène Paquette

Mylène Paquette was born in 1978. She overcame great challenges when she crossed the Atlantic Ocean by herself in a small rowboat. She was alone on the sea for 129 days, travelling 4300 km. Throughout her journey, she came close to whales, sharks and other sea animals. She never gave up in spite of the difficulties she faced. She was very proud of herself at the end of her adventure!



## Questions

1. How old is Mylène Paquette today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many weeks did her journey last?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name two traits of Mylene Paquette's personality.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of difficulties do you think she had to face?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Give a synonym for the phrase "to give up".  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. On average, how many kilometres per day did she travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Magical Photo Album

In the living room, there is a cupboard containing all my family's photo albums. When I looked inside, I saw a pale blue album that I had never seen before. To my great surprise, the pictures in this album began to move when I turned the pages! On one of them, I could see my great-grandfather driving a very old car. These pictures are over 100 years old. On the last page, there was a picture of a fairy with butterfly wings. She smiled at me before flying away.



## Questions

1. Where did I find my family's photo albums?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is special about the pale blue album?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the pictures inside the album were moving?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you think the fairy moves around?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who are your great-grandparents in relation to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think pictures that are 100 years old are in colour?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Glass Ladder

Charles and Estelle enjoyed playing in the antiques shop owned by Estelle's father. One day Charles found an interesting small glass ladder in a corner. Estelle's father decided to gift it to Charles. When he got back home, Charles left the ladder outside. Within a few seconds, it was already touching the moon! It had grown very fast! Charles climbed up into the sky, where he found his friend on a star, waiting for him. Charles quickly understood that Estelle was a fairy, and that her father's shop was in fact a store of magical objects!



## Questions

1. Who in the story is a fairy?

---

2. Where does the ladder take Charles?

---

3. What kind of shop does Estelle's father really own?

---

4. Aside from fairies, who else do you think would be customers of Estelle's father's shop?

---

5. What does the verb "to gift" mean?

---

6. Name a magical object from a famous fairy tale.

---



## My Birdhouse

I built my birdhouse out of pine. Its roof is made out of sheet metal. I painted my birdhouse red and yellow. There is a small round hole on the front so that birds can go inside. The house is mainly intended for swallows because it is small. Outside the birdhouse under the door, there is a small stick for the birds to perch on. I hung my birdhouse very high up in a tree.



## Questions

1. What two materials is the birdhouse made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the purpose of a birdhouse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What would you call the hole on the front of the house?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are swallows big birds?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the purpose of the small stick under the door?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In what season would this birdhouse be the most difficult to see?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Blue Monster

The blue monster dwells in a very deep cave somewhere in the forest. It lives in the dark and leaves the cave only during the night because it is shy. It has eight yellow eyes, six arms and two giant feet. Its hair is blue. At the end of each of its fingers, there is something that looks like a small knife. The blue monster is three metres tall. It has very big teeth and a blue tongue because it feeds on large amounts of blueberries. Those who have seen it were very scared, even though it eats only berries.



## Questions

1. How many more arms than humans does the blue monster have?

---

2. How fast can the blue monster pick blueberries?

---

3. What does the monster use as a house?

---

4. What does the blue monster have at the end of each of its fingers?

---

5. How many pairs of eyes does the blue monster have?

---

6. Is the blue monster dangerous for humans?

---



## Breakfast at the Restaurant

My family and I are having breakfast at the restaurant today. The waitress comes to our table. Her name is written on her uniform.

Christine says: "Hi! Are you ready to order?"

My mother says: "Yes, thank you! I will have coffee and a bowl of fruit, please."

My father says: "I will have coffee as well, with ham and two eggs over easy, please."

My brother says: "My sister and I will have the same thing: blueberry pancakes and a glass of apple juice, please."

We all say: "Thank you!"

Christine says: "You're welcome!"



## Questions

1. What is the name of the waitress?

---

2. Who in the family ordered meat?

---

3. What do both parents order in common?

---

4. Who in the family ordered a meal containing fruit?

---

5. Who didn't have to talk to the waitress to order?

---

6. How many people are there in the family?

---







## Playing Hide-and-Seek

Some friends and I are playing hide-and-seek in my basement. "I will count to 20," I tell them, "and then I will start looking for you!" I close my eyes and begin counting out loud: "One, two, three, four..." Once I reach 20, I open my eyes. I hear a sound coming from the cupboard. It is my cat Lulu! I go left. I look under the bed and find Anthony! "Well done!" says Anthony, "You got me!" Lulu finds Oliver in the bathtub, hiding behind the curtain. Oliver jumps and screams "Aaah!"



## Questions

1. How many people are playing hide-and-seek?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the place where Oliver was hiding used for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you think there is a bedroom in the basement?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where was Lulu?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does the seeker have to count with eyes closed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How many people did the cat find?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Skydiving

Dear Dominic,

I am writing you an email to invite you to the skydiving activity organized by our Scout group. There are only seven places available, so you should sign up quickly! The activity costs only \$20. Come have fun with us! You will be part of the team of fearless Scouts that will see the Earth from above! Meals and transportation by bus are included. All that is needed is your parents' permission and, above all else, lots of bravery!

We are hoping to have you with us. Have a nice day!

Louis, Leader of the Pack



## Questions

1. How did Dominic receive the invitation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What group is organizing the skydiving activity?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why should Dominic hurry up to sign up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If Dominic pays using the \$2 coins he has in his piggy bank, how many coins does he have to give?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What two means of transportation will participants use to get to the activity?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think taking part in this activity requires bravery?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Comic Strip Contest

The Quebec National Library and Archives is launching a comic strip drawing contest open to all children in the province between 9 and 15 years old.

Tell us funny stories with nice, colourful drawings! You will get a chance of having your comic strip sold in bookstores. There are other prizes to be won, including a trip for four people to the *Angoulême International Comics Festival* and one of many laptop computers. Please send us your finest drawings! Sharpen your pencils, and go to it!



## Questions

1. What organization is launching the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are children from many different cities allowed to enter the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If the contest is being launched in 2020, when do participants have to be born?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do participants have to do for the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the three kinds of prizes to be won?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Can the winner's family also go on the trip to Angoulême?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Organic Farming

There are more and more organic fruits and vegetables in grocery stores. Some people think organic food is healthier. In non-organic farming, products are used to fight insects or to make produce grow more quickly. These products may remain on the surface of the fruits and vegetables we eat, thus being potentially hazardous to our health. Animals that are raised for organic meat are fed only organic food.



## Questions

1. What is the difference between organic and non-organic farming?

---



---



---

2. Why are more and more people buying organic fruits and vegetables?

---

3. Where can we buy organic food?

---

4. Can only fruits and vegetables be organic?

---

5. What does "hazardous" mean?

---

6. How can meat be organic?

---



## The Bakery

There is always a mouth-watering smell in the bakery when we enter. It is the smell of hot bread. Bakers often work during the night so that everything can be ready in the morning. Bread is made using few ingredients: mainly flour, water, and yeast. Yeast is a powder made of microscopic living organisms that make the dough rise during cooking. There are many different kinds of breads. Some types have dried fruits or berries inside them, while others contain chocolate chips.



## Questions

1. What is a bakery?

---

2. What does "mouth-watering" mean?

---

3. What is the ingredient that make the dough rise?

---

4. When do many bakers sleep?

---

5. When, during the day, are you the most likely to find hot bread in a bakery?

---

6. What could you add to the recipe to create savoury bread?

---



## Coffee

Coffee beans come from different species of shrubs called coffee trees, that often grow in the mountains. They are found mostly in Africa, South America and Asia. They produce small, red berries. Coffee beans that are roasted for a long time turn black, while those roasted for a shorter time turn brown. There are many ways of brewing coffee and many different devices used to do so. Many people love coffee for its taste and its stimulating properties.



## Questions

1. Where do coffee beans grow?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do coffee trees grow well at high altitudes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the colour of the coffee tree's berries?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does "brewing" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does "stimulating" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why isn't it a good idea to drink coffee in the evening?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Wiener Dog

The real name of the wiener dog is *Dachshund*, or *Teckel*. They have a funny look because their body is long and their legs are short. In earlier times, this breed of German origin was used for hunting. Wiener dogs can have long or short hair. If they eat well and get lots of exercise, they can live up to 13 years old. They like to play with children and are often in a good mood. However, it can be hard to make them change their mind because they are stubborn.



## Questions

1. What is the country of origin of the wiener dog?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why are wiener dogs good for families?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What activity can be done with dogs to make them move more?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does "to be in a good mood" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does it mean to be "like cats and dogs"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Where do you think the nickname "wiener dog" comes from?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Shaved Head Challenge

The Shaved Head Challenge is a series of fundraising events to benefit children suffering from cancer, as well as their families. People 7 years old or older can take part in the challenge by signing up on the Internet. On a specific day, they have their head completely shaved. The money raised is also used to fund scientific research on cancer treatment and prevention. The Shaved Head Challenge is a nice gesture of solidarity and hope.



## Questions

1. Can children take part in the challenge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do both men and women take part in the challenge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does having your head shaved have to do with cancer?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why should we keep having hope concerning cancer?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the first step for people who wish to take part in the challenge?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does this project help people learn more about the situation of children suffering from cancer?  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Malta, a Very Small Country

Malta is a very small country located in the Mediterranean Sea south of Italy. This country's history goes back more than 7000 years. Today about 400 000 people live on its two main islands. In total, Malta has an area of 316 km<sup>2</sup>. Valletta, the capital, is a lovely city with plenty of colourful balconies. A long time ago Malta was inhabited by knights. It is now a popular tourist destination because there is golden sand on the shores and many interesting places to visit.



### Questions

1. On which continent is Malta?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is Malta attached to the continent?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the demographic density of Malta?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Given that Malta is located south of Italy, is it above or below Italy on a world map?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Given that Canada has an area of 10 000 000 km<sup>2</sup>, how many times is Canada larger than Malta?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. According to the text, for what reasons could tourists go to Malta?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Monarchs

Monarchs are beautiful orange and black butterflies. All butterflies were once caterpillars. Monarchs are between 8,5 and 12,5 cm wide. They feed on nectar, a sweet liquid found in flowers. During winter, they sleep for a very long time. Monarchs can be found in many countries. They can travel long distances, up to 4000 km. They can fly up to 120 km per day. Due to pollution, there are fewer and fewer of these butterflies.



## Questions

1. What are the two distinguishable colours of monarchs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If a small monarch is 8,5 cm wide, how many centimetres smaller would it be than the largest monarch?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Could you find monarchs in a garden?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do these butterflies sleep when the temperature is cold or when it is warm?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If a monarch travels 100 km every day, what distance will it have travelled after two weeks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What threatens the monarch?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Skunk

The skunk is not a very appreciated animal. It often leaves a bad smell on its way. This smell is useful to defend itself against humans and other animals. Yet, some stray cats and some birds of prey manage to eat skunks. It is easy to identify a skunk because it is black with white stripes on its back. This animal lives mostly in the countryside, close to forests. Some people keep skunks as pets. They have the skunk operated on so it does not smell bad.



## Questions

1. What is special about the skunk's defensive system?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What colours are skunks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the predators of skunks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where do skunks live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. During what period of the day is it more difficult to watch out for skunks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How is it possible to keep skunks as pets?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Sheep

Sheep often live in large herds in the fields. There are many sheep in New Zealand, Australia and England. Sheep feed on grass. Humans and sheep have lived together for a long time. Indeed, we use their wool to make clothes, we drink their milk, we use their skin to make leather, and we eat their meat. Lamb is often appreciated in fine restaurants. This animal's character is as gentle as its wool is soft.



## Questions

1. Is a sheep a lonely animal? Explain.

---

2. What countries are famous for sheep?

---

3. According to the text, how many ways can we use sheep products? Explain.

---

4. Is the sheep an animal that is dangerous for humans?

---

5. What is a lamb?

---

6. What does "behave like sheep in a herd" mean?

---





## Firefighters

Firefighters wear very hard helmets and heavy boots. They turn their sirens on to be heard when they have to drive fast to a place that is on fire. All the cars must pull over to the side of the road to leave the way clear for their truck, on which there is a long ladder. Firefighters extinguish big fires with powerful water jets. They have a very important role in cities and towns because they save many lives.



## Questions

1. Is the outfit of firefighters very light? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why are the firetruck's sirens so noisy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What should car drivers do when they hear a firetruck's siren?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name two things carried by the truck.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How can firefighters reach the third floor of a building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Are firefighters important? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Poutine

Poutine is a famous dish invented in Quebec. Many restaurants, even fine ones, have poutine on their menu. Some of those fine restaurants put duck meat in it. In its simplest form, poutine is made of fries, fresh cheese curds and gravy. It can be fun to try unusual kinds of poutines: with green peas, tomatoes, or meat, for examples. Since it is an unhealthy dish, it is better not to eat it too often.



## Questions

1. Where was poutine invented?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is there only one recipe of poutine? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what kind of restaurants can you find poutine?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What fancy food do some fine restaurants put into poutine?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is it recommended not to eat poutine too often?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In the simplest form of poutine is there any food that comes from animals? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Hammerhead Shark

The hammerhead shark has a funny-looking head. Its name comes from its tool-shaped head. Its eyes are located on the sides of its head, which is flat. This animal lives alone in warm seas. It feeds on fish. The hammerhead shark is a good hunter. It has very good sight and can see in every direction around its body thanks to the location of its eyes and the shape of its head. It can weigh up to 150 kg and is between 370 and 420 cm long.



## Questions

1. Does the hammerhead shark live in a group? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Could we find hammerhead sharks in the Arctic Ocean? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does the hammerhead shark hunt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Can the hammerhead shark see what is behind it? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many metres long can the largest hammerhead shark be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If an average man weighs 75 kg, how many times heavier is the hammerhead shark?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Russia, a Very Large Country

Russia is the largest country in the world. It has an area of about 17 million km<sup>2</sup>. Russia is even larger than Canada, whose area is about 10 million km<sup>2</sup>. Many countries have common borders with Russia, such as China, Finland and Ukraine. The city of Sochi hosted the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. The eyes of the world were on that city for the event. Many years ago, Russia was part of an even larger country called the USSR (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). In 1991 the USSR was divided into smaller countries.



## Questions

1. What former larger country was Russia a part of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When was Russia founded?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Is Canada the largest country in the world? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is Russia in Europe or in Asia?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What international event did the city of Sochi host in 2014?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Given that Brazil has an area of about 8,5 million km<sup>2</sup>, how many times is Russia larger than Brazil?  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Book Fairs

Book fairs are events that take place in cities throughout the world, from Paris to Val-d'Or. Thousands of people can have the joy of meeting their favourite authors who are there to present their books. There are times scheduled for student groups to come visit by bus, often in the afternoon on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Going to a book fair can be done with the family, with friends, or alone. Anybody can come across a fun surprise!



## Questions

1. What do we call a person who writes books?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it possible to get an autograph from authors at the book fair? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Are book fairs popular activities for student groups? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do school trips take place on weekdays or on weekends?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there book fairs only in big cities? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What interest do the visitors to book fairs have in common?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Hair Brushing

People with very long hair know that they should brush it regularly. If they don't brush it, it will get knotted and the ends will break. Brushing our hair every day will make it shiny and look silky. Hair grows between 2 and 3 centimetres per month. In order to keep it beautiful and soft, we should brush it in the morning and the evening, and get it cut regularly.



## Questions

1. Is it enough to brush your hair once a week? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who doesn't need to brush their hair?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If I don't cut my hair at all, how long will it have grown after a year?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why can hair look like silk?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How can hair be damaged?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What colour does hair usually turn when we get older?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Public Transit

The most common forms of public transit are the bus and the subway, or metro. They are found in many cities. One benefit of using public transit is limiting pollution by having many people travel together. If all 7 billion people on Earth drove in a car by themselves, it would cause a lot of pollution and so much traffic! Walking and riding a bicycle are also ways of getting to many places without a car. Those two means of transportation are not public transit, but they are green and help us stay healthy!



## Questions

1. Are there subways in small towns?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the train a kind of public transit? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. According to the text, what is the main argument for using public transit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What problems would there be if 7 billion people used their own car?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What other means of transportation can you take to avoid polluting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What kind of car was invented to produce less pollution than regular cars?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Yeti

The yeti appears in many stories. It is a monster living in the mountains. Its hair is white, allowing it to hide in the snow easily. It is a mix between bears and humans, and can be up to 3 metres tall. It walks on its two hind legs and has huge feet. Many people have done research on the subject of the yeti. These people have not found enough evidence, so it is impossible to know whether or not the yeti actually exists, yet it continues to scare children and adults in books and films.



## Questions

1. Why would the yeti resemble a man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many centimetres tall could be the yeti?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why would the yeti be difficult to see?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Could the yeti live in a country that has warm weather? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think people are looking for when they make investigations?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Can we say if the yeti actually exists? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Cat Cafe

In the city of Paris there is a cafe where cats live. You can indeed have a meal in the company of these nice little creatures. The cats that were chosen to live in this restaurant did not have a home. Cat lovers really like to go visit them. The money made from selling meals is donated to other groups that provide help for homeless cats.



## Questions

1. What does "being homeless" mean?

---

2. What is the Cat Cafe's purpose?

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---

3. What can people do in the Cat Cafe?

---

4. Are there dogs living in this restaurant? Explain.

---

5. Who are the clients of the Cat Cafe?

---

6. Do you think people can be homeless too?

---





## The Twins

My friends, the twins Tim and Jim, often play tricks. They resemble each other a lot. They have red hair and blue eyes. In order to distinguish one from the other at a glance, their parents make them wear different coloured clothes. Tim's shirts are red, while Jim's shirts are green. One day the twins switched their clothes. It was during a music class that their teacher was tipped off; Tim plays the flute and Jim plays the violin. Neither of the twins knew how to play the instrument he had!



## Questions

1. What colour was Jim wearing during the day they switched clothes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are the twins the same age? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which twin plays a wind instrument?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When did the teacher discover the trick?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does "to be tipped off" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How is the narrator related to the twins?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Living Wig

Mr. Henry hadn't had hair for a long time. One day he decided to buy a wig of curly hair because he found it very attractive. Once he arrived home, he couldn't wait to wear it. He gently put it on his head. Looking at himself in the mirror, he was very happy with his new look. A few minutes later he felt the wig move on the top of his head. It jumped to the ceiling and quickly exited the house through the window! After that, Mr. Henry kept his bald look. He decided to let go of his wig idea and to love himself without hair.



## Questions

1. What is special about Mr. Henry's hair?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of hair did he buy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why can it be said that the wig is alive?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does "bald" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where did the wig exit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think Mr. Henry is happy at the end of the story? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Weird Pizzas

The restaurant next to my godmother's house serves very weird pizzas. One of them is a heart-shaped, colourful candy pizza. On this pizza there are bananas, cream, small pieces of flowers, and candies of all colours. On another one there are fish, blue cheese, apples and hard-boiled eggs. Many people enjoy eating at this restaurant because they find their pizzas delicious.



## Questions

1. Where is the restaurant located?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the special shape of the candy pizza?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the usual shapes of pizzas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which pizza would be suitable to eat at the end of a meal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which pizza has fruit on it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does "delicious" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_





## A Bottle on the Lake

In the middle of a lake, a red bottle was floating on the surface of the water. Ron had to wait for a long time before the bottle finally reached the shore, carried by the wind. After a few hours, Ron caught the bottle. Inside was a piece of paper that read: "Read this message, and I will appear!" Magically, a tiny smiling man came out of the bottle! From that day on, the little man has sat under his new friend's hat and has gone to school with him every day. At times he tells Ron jokes by murmuring in his ear.



## Questions

1. Why did Ron notice the bottle on the surface of the water?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Was the bottle very heavy? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If Ron waited for 120 minutes before the bottle arrived on the shore, for how many hours did he have to wait?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was inside the bottle?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why can we say that the little man enjoys making people laugh?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. On what part of Ron's body does the little man stay?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Ms. Curious

Ms. Eve Curious likes to conduct inquiries regarding missing objects. She can find thieves with a wave of her hand, and quickly send them off to prison. Along with her ferret named Alpha, she is always able to solve mysteries, even the greatest ones. Her office is located on Brave Street. Her door is always open to hear your stories, especially those involving challenges. She enjoys working hard to serve people who are honest.



## Questions

1. What is Ms. Eve Curious's job?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is Ms. Eve Curious's companion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does "with a wave of her hand" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is Ms. Eve Curious a good investigator? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does this detective's last name suit her well?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Does Ms. Curious like investigations that are easy? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Radio Show

My elder brother is in secondary IV. He and his friends have a programme once a week on the school radio. Their show is one hour long and is aired on Fridays at lunchtime. Its purpose is to introduce people to new bands. Sometimes my brother and his friends have guests who come to talk about shows taking place at school or in town. When he gets older, my brother would like to sing in operas. Music is what he loves above everything else!



## Questions

1. What is my brother's passion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What special activity does he do at school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is the show aired at lunchtime?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many times a week does the show air?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many minutes does the show last?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who listens to the radio show?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Horror Movies

My favourite movies are those that scare me. In horror films there are often vampires, ghosts, and monsters. When I get goosebumps, I cover my eyes. I know that these characters don't actually exist. However, sometimes I have nightmares because I imagine that there are evil beings under my bed. That is why my parents don't let me watch these movies too often. I never watch them when I'm alone.



## Questions

1. What kind of movies do I prefer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the expression "to get goosebumps" mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do I do when I am too afraid?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why don't my parents often let me watch horror movies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens during my nightmares?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do I never watch horror movies alone?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Raspberry Cake

Adele is preparing a raspberry cake with her grandmother. In a bowl, they mix eggs, flour, milk, oil, maple sugar, baking powder and raspberries. They bake the cake in a round baking pan for 45 minutes. When it is ready, they eat it while it is still warm with a bit of cream. Adele's father always takes two pieces because he loves raspberries! It's delicious!



## Questions

1. What is the shape of the cake?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What would have happened to the cake if they hadn't used baking powder?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. During what fraction of an hour did Adele bake the cake?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What two ingredients used by Adele come from an animal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name four pieces of equipment they use during the preparation.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If the cake were cut into six pieces, how many pieces would be left for Adele and her grandmother?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Giant and the Bird

Once upon a time there was a very strong, tall man that people called The Giant. He lived alone in the middle of a huge forest because he thought everyone was scared of him. One day he heard a noise outside his house. He opened his door and saw a little yellow bird on the ground. Both of its wings were broken. The Giant took care of the bird for a month. One morning The Giant opened a window and saw a large group of birds that had come to thank him by singing. From that day on the giant no longer believed that he frightened others.



## Questions

1. What was the noise that The Giant heard outside his house?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. For how many days did The Giant take care of the bird?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Could the bird fly when The Giant found him? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did The Giant live alone in the middle of a huge forest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did The Giant have many friends before he found the bird? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Was The Giant happier at the beginning or at the end of the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Street Hockey

People are playing hockey in the street. Instead of hitting a flat black object like on the ice, the players are using a ball. They are wearing sports shoes. There are two teams with both boys and girls on them. One team is wearing the Montréal hockey jersey and the other is wearing the Boston jersey. The goalies are very good and have blocked many fast shots. Alex is a fearless and talented player. He has scored 4 goals. At the end of the game, the winning team scored 10 goals and the losing team scored 7 goals.



## Questions

1. If Alex is on the winning team, how many goals did the other players on his team score?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the equipment needed to play street hockey?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Are the teams mixed? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If Alex is on the losing team, how many goals did the other players on his team score?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the flat black object that is used to play hockey on ice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. During what seasons can people play street hockey?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Birth

For several months the belly of my aunt had grown very large because she was pregnant. On May 5, 2014 the baby came into the world. He's a little 3,6 kg boy whose parents have named him Samuel. He has brown hair and big blue eyes. He is very healthy. On the following days the whole family came to visit, bringing pretty balloons and flowers. Samuel has a big sister 3 years older who had waited for him impatiently. My grandmother made a cake with the words "Welcome Samuel!" written on it.



## Questions

1. What does the baby look like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did the relatives bring to Samuel's family?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How is Samuel related to the narrator?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. On what date will Samuel celebrate his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When Samuel is 6 years old, how old will his sister be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do parents have to choose when their baby is born?  
\_\_\_\_\_





## The Amusement Park "The Big Scare"

Here at the amusement park "The Big Scare", we have the largest number of rides in Quebec. For a day out among friends, a good time with the family, or a romantic date, this is the right place to be thrilled. On some of our rides, you will be upside down for several minutes, you will move at the speed of light, and you will spin around in every direction. To spend a day you will remember for a long time and to have lots of fun, come visit us! Tickets are half price on Tuesday evenings.



## Questions

1. Would it be a good place to go on Valentine's Day? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is the amusement park called "The Big Scare"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If tickets are \$10 on Tuesdays, what price would they be normally?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How much would it cost for a family of four to visit on a Saturday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is "The Big Scare" a good place to try several rides? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Does our heart beat slowly or quickly when we go on a ride?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Tiramisu, the Electric Car

The Tiramisu, an electric car made in Japan, is the most powerful in the world and the best for the environment. It works using an electric battery and the power it receives from the rays of the sun. You can easily cross all of Canada from East to West without having to stop. It is available for only \$60 000 at any good car dealer. Don't wait any longer, and treat both the Earth and yourself with this beautiful gift.



## Questions

1. Does the Tiramisu car require gas to run? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does the Tiramisu come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which Canadian province is located the farthest west?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is an electric car a beautiful gift to the Earth?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you pay for your car in three years, how much would you pay each year?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How much would it cost per month if someone paid for the car over 2 years?  
\_\_\_\_\_