

# LOOK CLOSER

Weekly In-Depth Reading Comprehension



Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the story in the way that they did?



18 **FirstNews** ISSUE 266 8 – 14 JUL 2011

## CRAZY BUT TRUE



# Cattle invade town

**HAVE** you 'herd' about the cows which invaded a Welsh town?

Residents in the town of Tredegar were surprised when they saw cows peering in through their windows, eating flowers and trampling on their front gardens.

The cows moo-ved into the town

after escaping from a nearby field. One local woman said: "We're used to having milk delivered to our doorstep but not the whole cow."

But people were getting annoyed with the roaming herd. There's

cow poo everywhere and the local council have said they will look into it, (the situation, not the cow poo). They're hoping the cows will hoof it.





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## CRAZY BUT TRUE

For more crazy news, pictures and videos go to [www.firstnews.co.uk/news](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/news)



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## RECORD OF THE WEEK

### MOST SPOONS BALANCED ON THE FACE

THE most spoons balanced on the face is 17 and was achieved by Aaron Caissie (Canada) on the set of Lo Show Dei Record, in Milan, Italy, on 18 April 2009.



For info on this record and hundreds more, go to [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

## QUICK CHUCKLES

Q. Why don't skeletons like exams?  
A. They don't have the guts.

Q. What do you call a short-sighted dinosaur?  
A. J'thinkhesaurus.

Email us your jokes to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk)

## A sting in the tail

A HUMPBACK whale knocked a teenage boy unconscious in Australia.

Drew, aged 13, was left with a broken collarbone, and a large bump on his head.

His parents thought the worst when he was hit by the tail as the family were whale watching in their boat off New South Wales.

The whale's tail swept along the boat, hitting the boy in the chest.

Drew was rushed to hospital and later said: "I wasn't looking too good but I'm all right now."

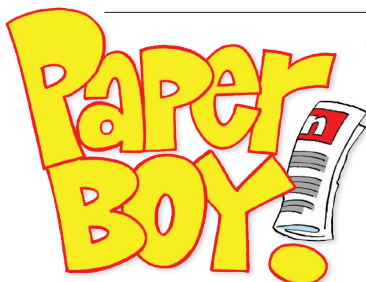
His mum said: "The tail just whacked him and sent him flying."



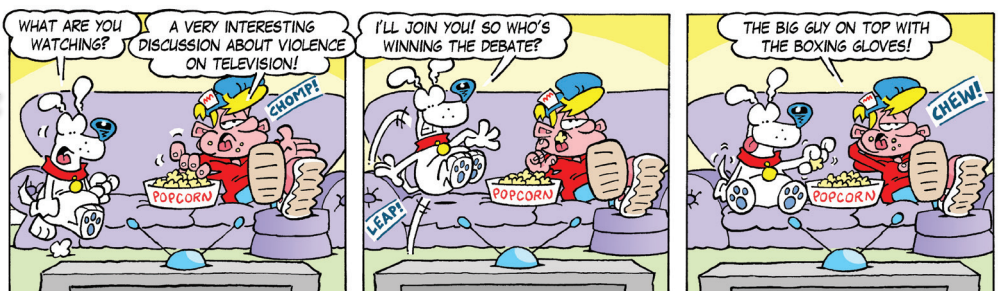
## Old bones

A CAVE in Somerset contains the bones of thousands of animals from around 80,000 years ago.

The Branwell cave was discovered in 1825, and contains mammoth, bear, reindeer, bison and wolf bones. It's thought the bones were washed into the cave at the end of the ice age. The cave is only open to the public on a few days each year.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



**CRAZY BUT TRUE - READING COMPREHENSION**

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Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the story in the way that they did?

Carefully read the article 'Cattle invade town' and then answer the following questions:



1) In which **country** did cows invade a town this week?

.....



2) Name **two things** the cows were spotted doing in the town?

i) .....

ii) .....



3) In what different ways did the people who lived in the town **react** to the cow invasion?

.....

.....



4) Why do you think people reacted in these ways?

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5) How would you react if cows invaded your street and why do you think this would be your reaction?

.....

.....

6) The first sentence of a newspaper report should tell as much of the story as possible.

**HAVE you 'herd' about the cows which invaded a Welsh town?**

How many of the **five W questions** (Who? What? Where? When? and Why?) has the journalist managed to include in the opening sentence in this article?



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# CRAZY BUT TRUE



7) How does the **photograph** help you understand the story?

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8) Why has the journalist included a **quotation** in this article?

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.....



9) In the opening sentence the journalist used the word '**herd**' as a **pun**. 'Herd' is a play on words – using both meanings of the **homophone**: herd meaning a group of cows and heard meaning to hear a sound. **Find** and **write** here another example of a pun in this article.

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10) There are **five jokes** or **puns** in this article. Why does the journalist use so many jokes in telling this story?

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**A.** Read and explore the rest of the Crazy But True stories.

**B.** Can you find any more examples of jokes in the different articles and sections on this page?

**C.** In the story 'A sting in the tail', why are there no jokes in the main article?

**D.** Think of alternative headlines for the three main stories.

**E.** Have a look on First News' website [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk) for more news and how to join in.





# TEACHER ANSWERS AND ASSESSMENT FOCUS GUIDANCE

## LOOK CLOSER

Weekly In-Depth Reading Comprehension

1) In which **country** did cows invade a town this week?

**AF2** – understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotations and make reference to text

L3 – identifying obvious points

- Wales

2) Name **two things** the cows were spotted doing in the town?

**AF2** – understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotations and make reference to text

Possible answers:

L3 - identifying obvious points

- Peering through windows
- Eating flowers
- Trampling on the grass

3) In what different ways did the people who lived in the town react to the cow invasion?

**AF3** – deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answers:

L3 – Simple inference

- 'surprised' and 'annoyed' (these words are used in the story)

L4/5 – More complex inference

- Some were surprised or annoyed, others found it funny (interpreting how the woman who was quoted must have felt)

4) Why do you think they reacted in these ways?

**AF3** – deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answers:

L3 – Simple inference

- Surprised to find the cows in their front garden
- Annoyed with the roaming herd (repetition of vocabulary from text)

L4/5 – More complex inference

- Surprised because they didn't expect to find the cows there. They usually live in the field but had escaped.
- Annoyed because the cows were destroying the gardens, leaving cow poo everywhere and it could have been frightening for some people as cows are very large animals. They wanted the problem sorted out.
- Amused because it was funny that the cows were out of place. You never usually see cows in gardens and in the street they are usually in fields.

5) How would you react if cows invaded your street and why do you think this would be your reaction?

**AF3** – deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answers:

L3 – Simple inference

- Examples repeated from the text or simple reaction with reason

L4/5 – More complex inference

- Detailed explanation with a reason based on their own situation or experience

## TEACHER ANSWERS AND ASSESSMENT FOCUS GUIDANCE

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6) The first sentence of a newspaper report should tell as much of the story as possible.

**HAVE you 'herd' about the cows which invaded a Welsh town?**

How many of the **five W questions** has the journalist managed to include in the opening sentence in this article?

**AF6** – identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Possible answers:

L4/5 – writer's purpose clearly identified

- The journalist includes three: **Who?** cows **Where?** Welsh town **What?** invaded
- We don't find out **when** and **why** in this sentence.

7) How does the **photograph** help you understand the story?

**AF4** – identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level

Possible answers:

L3 – reference to being able to see the actual cows and street where the story happened

- I can see the cows that escaped

L4/5 – reference to the fact that the photograph contains extra information that it would be impossible to include in such a short article, or that it is able to sum up and tell the whole story in a visual way.

8) Why has the journalist included a **quotation**?

**AF6** – identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Possible answers:

L3 – shows understanding of what a quote is

- The quotation is what the person said to them

L4/5 – Identifies the purpose of putting the quote in the article

- Adds authenticity
- To give the viewpoint of the people involved

9) In the opening sentence the journalist used the word 'herd' as a **pun** – a play on words – using both meanings of the **homophone**: herd meaning a group of cows and heard meaning to hear a sound.

**Find** and **write** here another example of a pun in this article?

**AF5** – explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literacy features at word and sentence level

Possible answers:

L3 – simple identification of a pun

- The cows moo-ved into Tredgar after they escaped...
- They're hoping the cows will hoof it

10) There are five jokes or puns in this article. Why does the journalist use so many jokes in telling this story?

**AF5** – explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literacy features at word and sentence level

Possible answers:

L3 – Simple explanation of the writer's intended effect on the reader

- The journalist has used jokes to make me laugh

L4/5 – Detailed explanation making reference to the story and the section of the newspaper

- It is a silly story and an unbelievable event so the journalist wants to make the readers laugh even more. The writer can be funny because no one was injured and is choosing to look on the funny side of the event. Many of the articles or features in the Crazy But True section of the newspaper are included to make the readers laugh.

**TEACHER ANSWERS AND ASSESSMENT FOCUS GUIDANCE**

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## Resource Explanation

Look Closer is a resource designed to encourage pupils to look closer at one article in the week's newspaper and analyse it in depth. Each week the questions will enable children to find the facts, interpret the information and work out why journalists wrote and presented the story the way they did. These questions are based on the assessment focus strands (AF2-7) which are referenced in the Teacher Answers along with suggested levels.

The resource aims to assist Year 6 pupils in developing the essential reading comprehension skills of extracting and understanding information. It is a useful weekly SATs practice activity using topical real news to engage pupils.

## Uses

Ideal for:

- guided reading
- booster sessions
- homework activities
- whole class starters
- cross-curricular functional skills practice
- extension activities
- individual assessment focus (AF2-7) teaching opportunities by focusing on one question in a plenary session
- a handy record of pupils' reading performance and ideal APP evidence

**This resource is available to schools that subscribe to six or more weekly copies of First News. It usually consists of seven pages including a blown-up version of the Look Closer article.**

**Please pass this resource onto the Year 6 teacher or Literacy Co-ordinator if it is not appropriate for the year group you are currently teaching.**