

A Storm is Brewing...

11 Dale was in the garden playing fetch with Patch, a tiny
20 brown and white puppy they had brought home only
29 three days before. Quite unexpectedly, Dale heard a loud
40 rumble and saw, from the corner of his eye, flashes of
49 light in the sky. "What is happening?" muttered Dale.

57 Suddenly, Dale heard Mum shouting from the kitchen.
66 "Get inside quickly, Dale!" she yelled with urgency in
76 her voice. This worried Dale, so he swiftly ran towards
86 the house. Unsure what to make of the situation, Patch
94 sauntered after him, stopping occasionally to shake the
98 rain from his fur.

108 "Mum, why is the sky making strange noises and what
115 are all of those lights?" asked Dale.

123 "It is thunder and lightning, Dale," explained Mum.



Quick Questions



1. Find and copy an adverb from the text which means the same as 'quickly'.



2. How long had Dale had Patch?



3. What do you think Dale and Patch did next?



4. How does the author show the reader that Patch is not really bothered about the thunderstorm?

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?

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
02 tsunami is about to strike, animals can be seen behaving
09 strangely or beginning to leave the area.
19 If any of these signs are spotted, you must immediately
29 move away from coastal areas. Make your way to higher
38 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.

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.
- 02 Limited time promotion: one free box of refreshments
04 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.

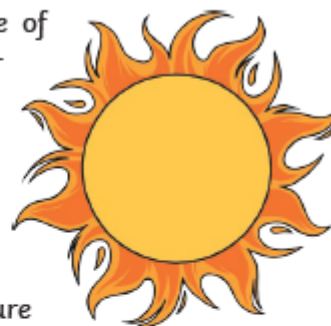
Sun Safety Reading Comprehension

We all need some sun exposure - it's the top source of Vitamin D, which helps our bodies absorb calcium for stronger, healthier bones.

However, repeated, unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can cause skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer.

Most children get much of their lifetime sun exposure before age 18, so it's important for parents to teach them how to enjoy fun in the sun safely.

Taking the right precautions is very important when protecting your skin.



Sun Exposure

The sun radiates light to the earth, and part of that light consists of invisible UV rays. When these rays reach the skin, they cause tanning, burning, and other skin damage. Sunlight contains three types of ultraviolet rays: **UVA**, **UVB** and **UVC**:

- **UVA** rays cause skin aging and contribute to skin cancer. Because UVA rays pass effortlessly through the ozone layer (the protective layer of the atmosphere, or shield, surrounding the earth), they make up the majority of our sun exposure.
- **UVB** rays are also dangerous, causing sunburns and eye damage (cataracts). They also contribute to skin cancer. Melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, is associated with severe UVB sunburns that occur before the age of 20. Most UVB rays are absorbed by the ozone layer, but enough of these rays pass through to cause serious damage.
- **UVC** rays are the most dangerous, but fortunately, these are blocked by the ozone layer and don't reach the earth.



Melanin: The Body's First Line of Defense

UV rays react with a chemical called melanin that's found in skin. Melanin absorbs dangerous UV rays before they cause skin damage. The lighter someone's natural skin colour, the less melanin it has and the darker a person's natural skin colour, the more melanin it has to protect itself.

As the melanin increases in response to sun exposure, the skin tans. Those who are regularly exposed to the sun are at a much greater risk. Sunburn develops when the amount of UV exposure is greater than what can be protected against by the skin's melanin.

Avoid the Strongest Rays of the Day

Seek shade when the sun is at its strongest (usually from 10am to 4pm). If you are in the sun during this time, be sure to apply and reapply sunscreen. Most sun damage occurs as a result of incidental exposure during day-to-day activities, not sunbathing! Even on cloudy, cool or overcast days, UV rays travel through the clouds. Clouds don't filter out UV rays and this 'invisible sun' can cause unexpected sunburn and skin damage. People are often unaware that they're developing sunburn on cooler or windy days because the temperature or breeze keeps skin feeling cool.

Cover Up	Use Sunscreen	Use Protective Eyewear
One of the best ways to protect yourself from the sun is to cover up and shield skin from UV rays. Be sure that clothes will screen out harmful UV rays by placing your hand inside the garments and making sure you can't see it through them. Babies under 6 months should be kept out of the sun.	Select an SPF of 30 or higher to prevent sunburn and tanning, both of which are signs of skin damage. Choose a sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB rays. For sunscreen to do its job, it must be applied correctly. So be sure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply sunscreen whenever you are in the sun and reapply often (every 2 hours). • Apply a water-resistant sunscreen around water or when swimming. 	Sun exposure damages the eyes as well as the skin. The best way to protect eyes is to wear sunglasses. Not all sunglasses provide the same level of ultraviolet protection; Purchase sunglasses with labels ensuring that they provide 100% UV protection.

Sun Safety Questions

1. How does Vitamin D help our bodies?

2. What are the three types of ultraviolet rays which radiate from the sun? Which is the least dangerous and which is the most dangerous?

3. How does the ozone layer work to protect us from the sun's rays?

4. How does melanin protect the skin?

5. Why does sunburn happen?

6. When is the sun at its strongest?

7. True or false: Clouds filter out UV rays.

8. What is meant by 'invisible sun'?

9. What precautions should parents of babies take?

10. Why is it important to reduce 'tanning'?

11. True or false: Sunscreen should protect against UVC rays.

12. What should you look for when purchasing sunglasses?
