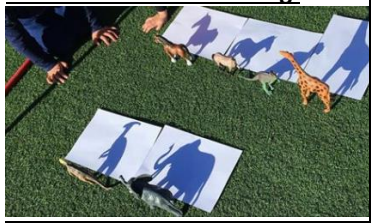
Year 6 Summer Learning Grid

In this pack, you will find some suggested activities to keep you busy during the summer holidays and to help you prepare for Year 7.

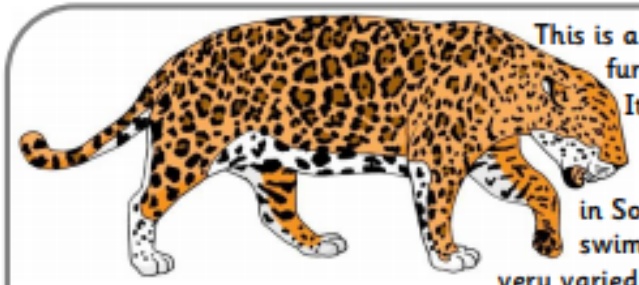
Maths	Reading	Writing	Wider Curriculum	Creative	Physical
Times Table Rockstars Keep up with your times table practice to keep you sharp for September! **Revision** Log in to Mathletics and complete some of the activities there. There is no deadline on these activities so you can pick and choose how many you do each day. Arithmetic (Daily 10) Go onto the 'Daily 10' website and answer the 10 questions on your chosen area. **Nrich** Look here for some great problem solving activities (with answers to check at the end). **Everyday Maths** Two of the most important areas of everyday Maths for you will be 'time' and 'money': Practise working out how long there is before something happens, or what time something finishes if it starts at a certain time. Take some responsibility for your own money over the holidays. Can you afford things? How much more do you need? How much change will you get? Make your way through the Summer Maths booklet.	After you have finished a book, see if it is on the Accelerated Reader quizzing system and take a quiz on it. Click here for the link. You could make your way through some of the reading packs that have been uploaded online. Read the text and have a go at answering the questions that go with it. Try to branch out and read a variety of text types. You could: -Read a newspaper. -Read a non-fiction book. -Read to a family member over the internet. -Read and learn a poem. Make your way through the Summer English booklet.	Authors love receiving mail from their readers. You could write a letter to your favourite author. Perhaps visit the author's website first so that you can learn a little more about your chosen author. Why not send the letter and wait for a reply? **Pobble365** Use the picture and complete one of the activities each day. Write and send a postcard to a family member or friend. Write a poem about summer. Write the instructions to make your favourite dish. Write a new ending for the last book you have read. Write a review for your favourite book.	Grow your own vegetable and use it in a recipe at home. Plan and cook an evening meal (with adult supervision, of course) for your family – don't forget to set the table and create your own restaurant style menu! Perhaps your family members can rate the experience based on presentation and taste. Create wild art using natural things in your garden. **Do some shadow drawing:**  Make your way through the Summer Self-Care pack to allow yourself time to relax and recuperate over the summer break.	Create a scavenger hunt for your family. Learn to thread a needle. Play a board game. Make a reading den. Join Will Sliney on the #wewilldraw challenge. Follow this link to see a range of home learning projects that you could do at home. Have a go at some the Art activities that have been uploaded onto our website.	Join the Supermovers for ideas on how to stay active during the break. Cosmic Kids Yoga Perfect for videos of yoga, mindfulness and relaxation. Youth Sports Trust Suggested activities and videos to do at home to keep busy. #thisispe Short videos on activities that can be done at home. Make the most of the lovely weather and stay active outdoors with your family.

Rainforest Creatures

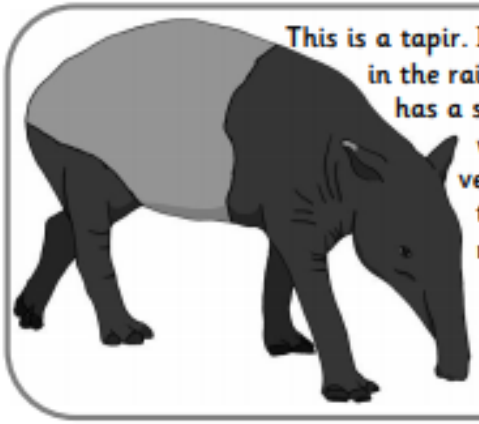
Rainforests are also called jungles. They are located close to the equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The weather is very hot. It rains nearly every day so it is also very wet. Many creatures live there because there is plenty of food and water, shade from the heat and shelter from the rain. In fact, more creatures live in the rainforest than anywhere else on Earth. It is estimated that about half of all the Earth's animal species live in the rainforest areas.

Trees grow very tall in the rainforests and all the vegetation is very thick and dense. Different creatures live in different layers of the forest vegetation. Some live high up in the forest canopy, while others remain on the forest floor.

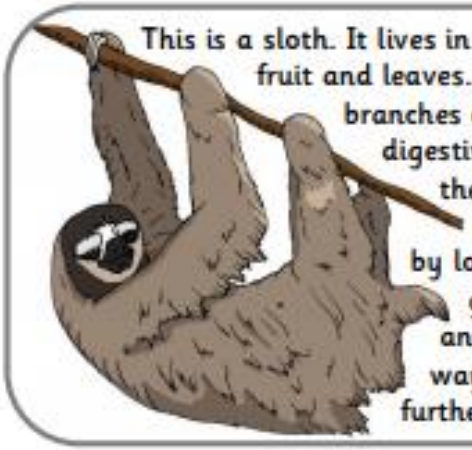
Many rainforest animals are camouflaged to help them avoid predators and to creep up on their own prey without being spotted.



This is a jaguar. It has tan or orange fur and distinctive black spots. It has become an endangered animal and is now mainly found in the Amazon basin in South America. It is a strong swimmer and climber. Its prey is very varied including fish, turtles, deer and tapirs. Jaguars lie in wait until its prey comes near and then they leap out to kill it. It has an exceptionally powerful bite which enables it to kill its prey swiftly with a fatal bite to the skull.

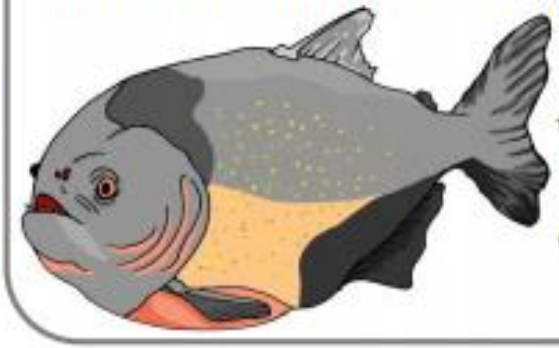


This is a tapir. It is an animal similar to a pig that lives in the rainforests of Central and South America. It has a snout combining its nose and upper lip which helps it to grasp and bite off vegetation. It eats shoots and leafy plants that grow on the forest floor. Tapirs are most active at night when they use their sense of smell. Their vision is poor. Tapirs are good swimmers and often plunge into water to escape big cats who do not swim so well.



This is a sloth. It lives in the rainforests of South America and eats fruit and leaves. Moving very slowly, it travels along the branches of trees, often hanging upside down. The digestive system of the sloth works very slowly so the sloth may only need to come to the ground once a week to go to the toilet! It is covered by long brown fur. Tiny green plants called algae grow on the fur which helps camouflage the animal. The sloth's tongue can protrude a long way from its mouth, helping it to reach leaves further away.

This is a piranha fish. It is native to the warm rivers and lakes of the Amazon region in South America. Although it will eat plants too, the piranha has very sharp teeth and an aggressive appetite for meat. When it is alone, a piranha will eat small fish, birds, reptiles and mammals. However, when piranhas are in large groups, they will attack larger creatures in the water too.



This is a spider monkey. It lives in Central and South America. A Spider monkey finds its food in the treetops and feasts on nuts, fruits, leaves, bird eggs, and spiders. It lives almost all of the time high in the tree canopy, rarely visiting the forest floor. It has a very long strong tail which helps it to move quickly to escape from predators like eagles or jaguars. Its thick fur comes in a variety of colours including brown, black and even white.

This is a chimpanzee. It lives in the forests of Central and Western Africa. Mostly it eats fruit, leaves and seeds, but it also enjoys ants and termites. Sometimes it hunts larger prey, such as bush pigs or small monkeys. The chimpanzee is covered in black hair. It is also very clever and is able to use tools, such as sticks, to help it obtain food.

This is a golden lion tamarin. It is very rare and only lives in forests in Brazil, South America. It uses its long fingers to pick insects out of the bark of trees. It also eats snails, lizards, fruit and leaves. It has beautiful golden fur which frames its black face in a similar way to the mane of a lion. Tamarins live mainly in the trees and usually give birth to two young ones.

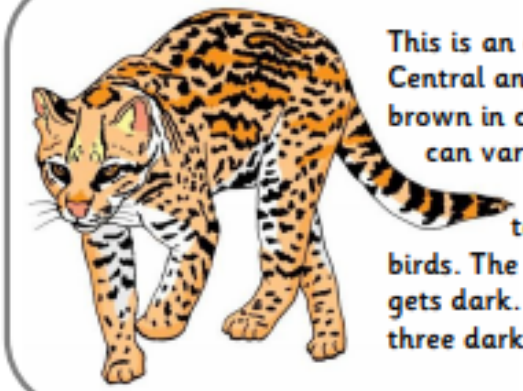
This is a howler monkey. It lives in the top of the forest canopy of South America where it forages for its favourite leaves, fruit and flowers. The howler monkey has thick hair which can be black, brown or red in colour. It makes a loud booming call to warn other monkeys not to invade its territory. The calls of an adult male can be heard up to three miles away.

This is a tiger. It is the biggest animal in the cat family. The tiger's orange fur with black stripes helps it to blend with its surroundings. Each tiger has its own pattern of stripes. Tigers live in Asia, some in cold places and many in the jungle. It eats meat and hunts and kills smaller animals like deer, antelopes and wild pigs. Tigers give birth to two or three cubs at a time. Cubs may be born in a den among rocks, tall grass or tree roots.

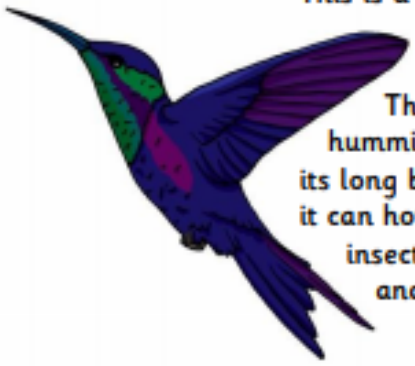
This is a gorilla. It is the largest ape and lives only in central Africa near the Equator. The gorilla is covered by thick black or brown hair. It mainly eats plants and really likes young juicy shoots of grass and sometimes eats worms, ants or other insects. Gorillas do not drink water as they get all the liquid they need from the plants they eat. It spends a lot of time sleeping! Female gorillas have one baby. A mother gorilla will usually have three children in her lifetime, spaced about four years apart.

This is a giant anteater. It lives in South America and eats ants and termites. It uses a really long tongue to eat and can eat up to 30,000 ants a day! It has coarse hair which is grey or brown and a long bushy tail. If it finds ripe fruit on the floor, it may also eat that. A female anteater gives birth to one young one which will ride on its mother's back for up to a year.

This is a toucan. It is covered in black and white feathers and has a very big, bright orange beak which is mainly used to pick and peel fruit. It also eats some insects, frogs and reptiles. It lives in the treetops of South America. However, it does not fly well and often hops between trees. It can only fly short distances. The toucan nests in holes in trees and usually lays between two and four eggs.



This is an ocelot. It lives in the rainforests of Central and South America. Its fur is reddish brown in colour with black spots and rosettes, this can vary quite a lot between animals. It eats small mammals, fish and frogs. It also takes to the trees to catch monkeys and birds. The ocelot is nocturnal, only active once it gets dark. Female ocelots have litters of two or three darkly coloured kittens.



This is a hummingbird. It is a tiny, colourful bird which lives throughout North , Central and South America but mainly in the tropics. There are more than 300 different types of hummingbird. It drinks nectar from flowers using its long beak. Its wings have to flap very fast so that it can hover to feed. Occasionally it will eat small insects. It makes its tiny nest in trees or bushes and usually lays between one and three eggs.

Rainforest Creatures

Complete this table with ✓.

	Eats plants or fruit (or parts of these)	Eats other creatures	Lives in Africa	Lives in South America	Lives in North America	Lives in Central America	Lives in Asia	Striped or spotted coat for camouflage	Lays eggs
tiger									
gorilla									
giant anteater									
toucan									
ocelot									
hummingbird									
golden lion tamarin									
howler monkey									
chimpanzee									
piranha fish									
spider monkey									
sloth									
jaguar									
tapir									

Why has the writer put the information in boxes?

What does the anteater use to help it eat?

Do you think all birds pick and peel fruit in the same way that a toucan does?

Why do you think that the ocelot has a spotted coat?

Why is a table like that above a good way to present information?

How do you think that the howler monkey got its name?

Why do you think that the ocelot hunts at night?

In which ways is the howler monkey similar to the spider monkey?

Why do you think that it is only when piranhas are in large groups that they attack large animals?

Name of creature	Eats plants or fruit (or parts of these)	Eats other creatures	Lives in Africa	Lives in South America	Lives in North America	Lives in Central America	Lives in Asia	Striped or spotted coat for camouflage	Lays eggs
tiger		✓					✓	✓	
gorilla	✓	✓	✓						
giant anteater	✓	✓		✓					
toucan	✓	✓		✓					✓
ocelot		✓		✓		✓		✓	
hummingbird	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
golden lion tamarin	✓	✓		✓					
howler monkey	✓			✓					
chimpanzee	✓	✓	✓						
piranha fish	✓	✓		✓					✓
spider monkey	✓	✓		✓					
sloth	✓			✓					
jaguar		✓		✓				✓	
tapir	✓			✓		✓			

Why has the writer put the information in boxes? To make it easier to read.

What does the anteater use to help it eat? It uses its long tongue.

Do you think all birds pick and peel fruit in the same way that a toucan does? No some birds eat fish, seeds, insects etc.

Why do you think that the ocelot has a spotted coat? It acts as camouflage, in the same way as a tiger's coat.

Why is a table like that above a good way to present information? Easy to find information.

How do you think that the howler monkey got its name? From its really loud call that can be heard for miles.

Why do you think that the ocelot hunts at night? Darkness enables it to creep up and surprise its prey.

In which ways is the howler monkey similar to the spider monkey? Both monkeys living high in tree canopy of South America.

Why do you think that it is only when piranhas are in large groups that they attack large animals? A single fish would stand no chance of success on its own.

25 Years of the Internet

The internet is a marvel of modern technology. It is only 25 years old but it has completely revolutionised the way the world works. So what on earth *is* the internet? Who was the genius who invented it? How has it changed the world so drastically in such a short period of time? Find the answers to these questions and more as you keep reading!

What is the internet?

The internet is an enormous and complex network which carries electronic data and information all over the world. It is like a wide-stretching web which links millions of items of technology with each other. Computers, televisions, mobile phones and tablets are all joined together by a gigantic system of huge underground cables, tiny household wires and even wireless connections. Soon our toasters, lights and cars will be linked in as well. Millions upon millions of signals and messages are sent zipping around the internet system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Particularly in the developed world, people are becoming ever more reliant on the internet and the shortcuts it offers. We also use it for an increasingly wide variety of things, such as viewing websites, watching our favourite video clips and sending emails.

Who made it?

Smaller networks – which were similar in design to the modern internet – were created 50 years ago, but they were relatively tiny and required particular expertise to operate. They were designed mainly to be used by university academics and the military so very few people outside these fields used them at all. Then in 1990, a brainy British scientist called Tim Berners-Lee invented something he called the World Wide Web, which connected networks all over the world and was simple enough for normal people to use and add content to. In 1991, he shared his transformative invention with the planet, and it exploded into businesses and households across the world. Nowadays anybody and everybody can use the internet easily!

Changing the World

Tim Berners-Lee only created the first website in 1990, but now half the population on Earth use the World Wide Web regularly! That very first website was a simple page describing Berners-Lee's project to create his World Wide Web; now there are over one billion websites in existence! Once people had access to the internet they very quickly realised that 'the Web' (as it became known) let people do things they had previously thought were impossible. Millions of websites were created very rapidly with all sorts of information and features.

Early internet use took place across the network of telephone lines which had spread across the world since that technology had been invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. Mobile phones only became common very recently; previously people used to have just one phone in their house, which was linked to everyone else's phones by telephone wires. Early on in the life of the internet, people could not be on the internet and the phone at the same time because they used the same wires! People used to have to 'dial-up' the internet like you do when you make a phone call!

Nowadays we have wireless networks, broadband and amazing new wire technology called 'fibre-optics' which use light to transmit information. All of this means we can have faster access to the internet in many more places. As the internet system grows and develops, new technologies will replace what we have now. By the end of your life, who can imagine what wonders will exist?

The internet is so revolutionary because it connects people almost instantly and is capable of so many different functions. Using the internet, a person in China can easily have a conversation with somebody in America about a visit or a joint business venture; it is just as quick and simple as talking to someone across a desk or the office! The internet also offers people a much more extensive choice of things to buy than a local shop or even a shopping centre ever could; for example, someone in Britain can buy a car from Australia with a few clicks of their computer mouse!

It is clear from the amount of money made by internet companies that 'online' business is very big business indeed. Amazon, the online retailer, was recently valued at 69.4 billion dollars! Facebook (the social media website) earned its inventor, Mark Zuckerberg, 1.6 billion dollars *in a single day*. Using internet is now one of the most important parts of running a business.

The amount of new things added to the internet is showing no signs of slowing down; if anything, it is speeding up! The possibilities seem to only be limited by people's imaginations! Nowadays, people can meet and fall in love on dating websites. They can store all their precious photos and record memories on social media. They can spread new ideas far and wide on the internet and people are constantly searching for answers on the search engine Google. In fact, Google has become so widely used that 'googling' something (searching on Google) has become a common word! Many people have become millionaires simply by making videos in their house which they share online! New websites, new technology and new ideas are constantly being added. The internet has made progress happen faster than anyone would have believed 25 years ago. Tim Berners-Lee's invention has completely revolutionised the way the world works.

5. 'It links lots of things together.' Think of a word which you could use instead of 'links'.

6. Not many people remember when 'things like the modern internet were made 50 years ago'. Why does the world remember the start of the World Wide Web?

7. 'Things like the modern internet were made 50 years ago, but they were smaller.'
   a. What does the word 'modern' mean?

   b. Rewrite the sentence using a word (or words) other than 'modern'.

25 Years of the Internet

1. Who made the first website?

2. Which information goes with which bit of history? Put the letters next to the right answer.

   A. The first website was made.
   B. Things like the modern internet were made.
   C. Half the people in the world use the internet.

50 years ago	
1990	
Today	

3. Write down one way you use the internet. Then write down one way an adult you know might use the internet.

4. The title says '25 Years of the Internet'. Find and copy the sentence which shows that this is a good choice for the title.

8. Sometimes the writing in books which tell us facts is split up into different parts. Why has the writer split this writing into different parts?

9. This piece of writing has a very clear structure.
   a. What is the purpose of the introduction?
   b. How does the way the rest of the writing is presented connect it to the introduction?

10. Make a list of five things which people use the internet for. Your answers must come from the text.

11. Tara says 'This piece of writing is about how the internet has changed the world'. Explain how the first and last paragraphs show Tara is right.

12. 'The internet is a marvel of technology.' Copy from a dictionary what the word 'marvel' means in this sentence.

13. What is the effect of the writer saying that signals and messages are sent 'zipping' around the internet?

14. Which two groups used similar networks years before the invention of the World Wide Web?

16. What does the word 'exploded' mean when the author says the World Wide Web 'exploded into businesses and households across the world'?

17. Do you think the internet was used as much as it is today when people had to 'dial-up'? Copy and explain a phrase from the text which supports your answer.

25 Years of the Internet

1. Who made the first website? Tim Berners-Lee
2. Which information goes with which bit of history? Put the letters next to the right answer.

A. The first website was made.

B. Things like the modern internet were made.

C. Half the people in the world use the internet.

50 years ago	B
1990	A
Today	C

3. Write down one way you use the internet. Then write down one way an adult you know might use the internet. Personal answers which must make sense.
4. The title says '25 Years of the Internet'. Find and copy the sentence which shows that this is a good choice for the title. 'In 1991 he shared it with everyone, and now anybody can use the internet!'
5. 'It links lots of things together.' Think of a word which you could use instead of 'links'. Joins; connects; attaches; combines; ties.
6. Not many people remember when 'things like the modern internet were made 50 years ago'.

7. ‘Things like the modern internet were made 50 years ago, but they were smaller.’

   a. What does the word ‘modern’ mean? To do with present or recent times; contemporary; happening nowadays.

   b. Rewrite the sentence using a word (or words) other than ‘modern’. Various answers possible; answers must make sense and include a synonym for ‘modern’.

8. Sometimes the writing in books which tell us facts is split up into different parts. Why has the writer split this writing into different parts? Either to make it easier to read and find the right information; or to answer the questions asked in the introduction.

---

9. This piece of writing has a very clear structure.

   a. What is the purpose of the introduction? To briefly explain what the piece is about and to indicate what further information will be provided.

   b. How does the way the rest of the writing is presented connect it to the introduction? It is split into three sections which repeat and directly answer the questions posed in the introduction.

10. Make a list of five things which people use the internet for. Your answers must come from the text. Any 5 of the following: viewing websites; watching video clips; sending emails; speaking to people around the world; business conversations; buying cars; falling in love; storing photos; spreading ideas; becoming millionaires by making and sharing videos.

11. Tara says ‘This piece of writing is about how the internet has changed the world’. Explain how the first and last paragraphs show Tara is right. Both the first and last paragraphs of the piece contain the phrase ‘it has completely changed the world’. It begins and ends with that message.

12. ‘The internet is a marvel of technology.’ Copy from a dictionary what the word ‘marvel’ means in this sentence. Answers will vary depending on the dictionary used; however, any answer given must be a definition of ‘marvel’ which is appropriate for this context.

13. What is the effect of the writer saying that signals and messages are sent ‘zipping’ around the internet? It conveys a sense of speed and busyness.

14. Which two groups used similar networks years before the invention of the World Wide Web? Universities and the military

15. 'So what on earth *is* the internet?' (Paragraph 1). What is the effect of the italics on the word 'is'? They place emphasis on the word and show that a major focus of the text is going to be what the internet actually comprises of.
16. What does the word 'exploded' mean when the author says the World Wide Web 'exploded into businesses and households across the world'? It means that it had an immediate and unmissable impact; it was used in businesses and households instantly.
17. Do you think the internet was used as much as it is today when people had to 'dial-up'? Copy and explain a phrase from the text which supports your answer. No; any phrases which mention the sharing of phone lines; the inability to be on the telephone and internet at the same time; or the fact that access was less instantaneous are applicable. The choice of quotation must be explained.

General Elections

The 8th of June is a very important day this year. The British people will elect a Prime Minister to lead our nation. All around the United Kingdom, people will also select leaders for their local areas who will represent them and their interests on a national level. Britain is a democracy, so both of these things will be decided by a nationwide vote, known formally as a general election.

The election was supposed to happen in three years time, but Prime Minister Theresa May asked for an election to be held this year so that the best person can be in charge of Britain leaving the European Union (EU). This is an important decision as the new Prime Minister will be making decisions for future generations.

Why is it important?

The results of the election will have a major impact on our country in the coming years because the leaders who are chosen will obtain the power to make important decisions. They will decide about social issues, such as the content of the lessons you learn at school and the size of the budget allocated to the National Health Service. They will be able to create new laws and set the levels of tax which different individuals and businesses will have to contribute.

Their decisions will not just affect the United Kingdom but also the whole world, as the men and women selected in the general election will influence how Britain relates to other countries financially and politically. Our leaders may also have to decide if our country goes to war, and will determine the amount of money Britain donates to other nations (the foreign aid budget).

We call the leaders 'politicians' and they make many of these decisions by voting. Often, the government presents new proposals or new laws (called 'bills') to the other politicians, and then they are debated. These presentations and debates are known as 'readings'. Normally, the government and the other groups of politicians disagree and the proposed idea or new law is amended a little to convince more of them to support it. After several readings have occurred, the politicians vote to decide if the proposal should proceed.

This process takes place in the Houses of Parliament, which are located in central London. The 'Houses' are not two different buildings but are actually two grand rooms in an ornate, old building called Westminster Palace. Westminster Palace stands on a bank of the river Thames and has a tall, four-faced clock tower nicknamed 'Big Ben'.

The two enormous chambers, or 'Houses' of Parliament, are called the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Politicians who are selected in the general election work in the House of Commons. Lords and Baronesses are appointed by the Queen to work in the House of Lords, but they still debate bills in the same way as the elected politicians. A bill must be approved by both Houses before it is given the Queen's 'Royal Assent' and becomes law.

How do people vote?

Our country is divided into 650 sections called constituencies, and each constituency can send one politician to the Houses of Parliament. Various candidates put themselves forward. The people in each constituency (the 'constituents') will vote for the candidate that they think will represent them best. Almost every citizen who is 18 or older is allowed to vote, but there are some exceptions (such as criminals serving a sentence in prison).

It is possible to vote by post but most people do it in person. On election day, certain places such as churches, libraries and schools will be transformed into 'polling stations' where people can cast their vote. These polling stations are open from 7 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night to ensure that everyone has time to vote, so if you are lucky, you might get a day off! A few weeks prior to election day, anyone who desires to vote has to send off their name and address so their eligibility to vote can be assessed. If they are eligible, their name is put on the electoral register. When they attend a polling station to vote, they will have their name marked off this register and will be handed a 'ballot paper' which lists the candidates that they can choose. Hidden from everyone else by a special screen, they will mark a cross next to the name of the politician they

want. Finally, they put their paper into a secure case called a 'ballot box', which remains sealed until the votes are counted. All of this is to ensure that every vote remains anonymous.

At the close of voting, all the ballot boxes will be gathered and all the votes from the area will be counted. Sometimes counting up can last until the early hours! In Britain, we use a voting system known as 'first past the post', which means that the candidate who gains the most votes in their constituency will become a Member of Parliament, or 'MP'. They are elected, and will proceed to spend a lot of time in Westminster Palace, where they will be permitted to sit on the lengthy green benches in the House of Commons, debating proposals and making serious decisions. It is because of these famous benches that when a politician is elected, it is often announced that they have 'won a seat'.

Who can people vote for?

Everybody's opinions differ about how our country and society should function. One person may be convinced that a particular system or solution is perfect while another person believes that it is completely unsound. Some people want social reform; others are certain that a preferable course of action is to keep things exactly as they are. A person who desires very strongly to see their opinions implemented might choose to become a politician. If they are elected, they will have a much better opportunity to make society operate the way they think it should. Their vote in Parliament will directly affect which ideas become realities and which do not.

A person must be 18 or older before they can stand for election in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. In Scotland, people as young as 16 can stand for election. Independent candidates are people who attempt to be elected on their own, but most prospective politicians join a group which shares the same opinions and values as them. A group like this is known as a 'political party'. The size of political parties varies considerably; some have memberships which number in the tens of thousands. Some of these members will try to become MPs, and the others will give them financial backing and practical assistance on the campaign. There are a number of different parties in the United Kingdom, but the largest are:

The Conservatives – The Conservatives are lead by Theresa May, the current Prime Minister. They are often known as the 'Tories', and secured the largest number of seats in the last election (331 in total). In 2015, they promised 'Strong leadership', 'A clear economic plan' and 'A brighter, more secure future'. The party logo is a picture of a tree filled with a Union Jack, and the party colour is blue.

The Labour Party – The Labour Party leader is Jeremy Corbyn. Often just called 'Labour', this party won 232 seats in the previous general election. For the 2015 election, they declared that 'Britain only succeeds when working people succeed', and that they had 'a plan to reward hard work, share prosperity and build a better Britain'. The party logo is a rose, and the party colour is red.

The Liberal Democrats – The Liberal Democrats are lead by Tim Farron. People sometimes shorten the party name to 'The Lib Dems'. In the election of 2010 they won 57 seats, but joined with the Conservatives to form a government. In 2015, they dropped to just 8 seats after promising to deliver a 'Stronger Economy', a 'Fairer Society' and 'Opportunity for Everyone'. The party logo is a picture of a bird, in the party colour of yellow.

The Green Party – The Green Party are lead by both Jonathan Bartley and Caroline Lucas. A relatively new party, the 'Greens' have won just 1 seat in the last two elections. For the last election, their plan was 'to create a more equal, more democratic society while doing our part to heal the planet'. The party logo is a picture of the world surrounded by petals, and the party colour is, of course, green!

The United Kingdom Independence Party – The leader of The United Kingdom Independence Party is Paul Nuttall. Often known just by their initials, 'UKIP' did not have any MPs elected in 2010, but two Conservative politicians swapped parties to join them after the election! In 2015, they only managed to hold onto one of those seats after promoting a plan 'for a Britain released from the shackles of the interfering EU' (a group of European countries who work together), and which 'takes care of Britain's finances'. In 2016, Britain voted to leave the EU in the referendum. The party logo is a pound sign with 'UKIP' written across it, in the party colours of purple and yellow.

The Scottish National Party – The Scottish National Party are lead by Nicola Sturgeon. The SNP (as they are known) gained 50 seats in the 2015 election, from a mere 6 in 2010. The increase in seats happened after Scotland held a referendum to gain independence from the rest of Britain, where they voted to remain. The party logo is of the initials, SNP, and a symbol which represents Scotland in two ways: a thistle (the national flower of Scotland) and the Saltire (the cross on the Scottish flag).

At this election, these large parties will have a candidate in nearly every constituency across the country, all striving to persuade people to elect them. Each party has a different vision for the future of Britain and will promise something different to the other parties. We do not know what these promises are yet. There are also some influential parties who only try to obtain votes in Scotland, or Northern Ireland, or Wales. The main leader of the political party which is victorious in the election will become the new Prime Minister.

All the candidates are extremely busy in the weeks preceding an election. They go on a campaign, trying to convince the local constituents to vote for them. Often they knock on doors and explain to residents how their policies and ideas will benefit them. They put up posters and distribute informative manifestos, which contain policies and pledges that they promise to implement if elected. All of this is done to convince voters that they are the best politician to elect. Sometimes, there are heated political discussions on television where party leaders debate the policies they believe in. They declare that their proposed ideas are best for the country and that the other leaders are misguided and misinformed. These debates and the manifestos of all the parties are given a great deal of scrutiny and analysis in the media in the weeks preceding election day.

There is a great flurry of activity before a general election. Some parties create and broadcast adverts which explain their ideas or which mock the policies and proposals of the other groups. Sometimes constituents put up bright posters in a certain party's colours on their houses or on lamp posts. The posters proudly display the name of a local candidate, declaring who the people want to vote for.

Who wins the election?

Every constituency will elect a politician which means that 650 politicians will be chosen to be Members of Parliament. They will be from a wide variety of parties, but the party to which the majority of the elected politicians belong, will be the winner. This party will form the new government and the party leader will be appointed as the Prime Minister by the Queen. A majority of seats is important because it means that the governing party will be able to win when MPs vote on new laws in the House of Commons. If no single party has a clear majority, it is known as a 'hung Parliament'. If a hung Parliament occurs, a new election can be arranged, or two parties can agree to work together as one government. A 'coalition' government like this was formed in 2010 between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. Whichever way a government is formed, the Prime Minister will be the leader of our country and is permitted to live in a special house in London. The house is number 10, Downing Street, and has been the official residence of Prime Ministers since 1735.

The United Kingdom operates on a system of 'fixed term' governments, which means that an election is held every five years. However, in certain circumstances, MPs could vote to hold one earlier than that. As Britain have voted to leave the EU, the Prime Minister has called for an election 3 years early and the MPs agreed. This 'snap' election will be held on June 8th and will not only determine the future in Britain over the next 5 years, but also how Britain will leave the EU.

What is an election? Pick 2 answers.

- A time when people vote.
- A time when hospitals are closed.
- A time when people have a party.
- A time when leaders are chosen.

Find and copy 2 things that the leaders who are picked will do.

Why might you get a day off?

Why do some parties make adverts which make fun of the other parties?

When else might you or other people use voting?

In what year should the next election have taken place?

Do you think you would find this text in an encyclopaedia or a story book? Give a reason for your answer.

'Big Ben' is a famous London landmark.

(a) Find and copy another famous place in London from the text.

(b) Which person in the text might you find at Buckingham Palace?

Do you think people write their names on their voting papers? Why?

Choose the best answer.

Do you think the author is trying to:

Persuade readers?

Annoy readers?

Inform readers?

Make readers laugh

Put these election events in the order that they happen.

- [ ] A politician is made into the Prime Minister by the Queen.
- [ ] Politicians go on campaigns to win voters.
- [ ] Votes are counted.
- [ ] People go to polling stations.

There are four underlined questions which break up the text. Explain one way that they are helpful.

The author writes that party leaders 'declare that their proposed ideas are best for the country and that the other leaders are wrong.' What does the word 'declare' tell you about the attitude of the party leaders?

Why might it benefit a politician to join a party?

Describe two ways in which the author has tried to make it easy to compare the main parties.

What does the word 'heated' show the television debates are like? Pick one.

- Calm
- Long
- Passionate
- Quick-paced

A 'glossary' is a list of words and their explanations which relate to a particular subject. Write your own glossary of 3 important words to do with a general election.

Look at the descriptions of the 5 main parties.

(a) Identify one similarity between the plans of any 2 parties.

(b) Find a promise which was made by only one party in 2015.

Do you think this text was written for children or adults? Give a reason for your answer.

What is an election? Pick 2 answers.

A time when people vote.

A time when hospitals are closed.

A time when people have a party.

A time when leaders are chosen.

Find and copy 2 things that the leaders who are picked will do.

Various answers; must be from the text.

Why might you get a day off?

School may be closed so people can vote there.

Why do some parties make adverts which make fun of the other parties?

To make voters think that the other parties are bad/silly/wrong; so that more people vote for them instead of the other parties.

When else might you or other people use voting?

Various answers from occasions in school/friendships/the wider world.

In what year should the next election have taken place?

2020

Do you think you would find this text in an encyclopaedia or a story book? Give a reason for your answer.

An encyclopaedia because it is non-fiction/factual writing.

'Big Ben' is a famous London landmark.

(a) Find and copy another famous place in London from the text.

The Houses of Parliament/10 Downing Street.

(b) Which person in the text might you find at Buckingham Palace?

The Queen

Do you think people write their names on their voting papers? Why?

No, because everyone's votes are kept secret.

Choose the best answer.

Do you think the author is trying to:

Persuade readers?

Annoy readers?

Inform readers?

Make readers laugh

Put these election events in the order that they happen.

2	A politician is made into the Prime Minister by the Queen.
4	Politicians go on campaigns to win voters.
3	Votes are counted.
1	People go to polling stations.

There are four underlined questions which break up the text. Explain one way that they are helpful.

Various answers relating to the features of a subheading, for example, it gives the reader an idea of the information that will be in that section.

The author writes that party leaders 'declare that their proposed ideas are best for the country and that the other leaders are wrong.' What does the word 'declare' tell you about the attitude of the party leaders?

Various answers; confidence/forcefulness/a desire to convince voters.

Why might it benefit a politician to join a party?

For the financial and physical support.

Describe two ways in which the author has tried to make it easy to compare the main parties.

Various answers; placing them one after another/giving the same selection of information for each/others if justified.

What does the word 'heated' show the television debates are like? Pick one.

Calm

Long

Passionate

Quick-paced

A 'glossary' is a list of words and their explanations which relate to a particular subject. Write your own glossary of 3 important words to do with a general election.

Various possible answers; must be featured in the text.

Do you think this text was written for children or adults? Give a reason for your answer.

Various answers; must be justified.

Look at the descriptions of the 6 main parties.

(a) Identify one similarity between the plans of any 2 parties.

Various answers; economic improvement/fairer society/future improvement for Britain.

(b) Find a promise which was made by only one party in 2015.

Various answers; healing the planet/strong leadership/withdrawal from the EU/rewarding hard work/opportunity for everyone/better democracy.