

# BIRDS

All birds have wings but they do not all fly.

Most birds make nests and lay their eggs in them.

Some birds make nests in trees.

They do not live in their nests all the time.

The mother bird has to show the baby birds how to fly.

Then they can leave the nest and fly away.

## QUESTIONS

1. Do all birds fly? How do you know that?
2. Do all birds build their nests in trees? How do you know that?
3. Does a baby bird learn to fly by itself? How do you know that?
4. When is a baby bird ready to leave the nest?
5. What are two things this story tells us about birds?

# KEVIN

Kevin stood on the shore of the lake and looked across to the small island. It really wasn't very far away. Lots of his friends had swum across to it at different times and they had told him that they had had some great adventures over there.

Kevin wasn't a strong swimmer and he was afraid to make the attempt alone. But, on the other hand, if he were to try it when his friends were there, his secret would be revealed. None of them knew that he couldn't swim very well.

Sighing deeply, Kevin turned to go back home. As he scrambled up through the weeds and bushes on the overgrown path, he caught sight of a short, thick branch lying in the nearby undergrowth. He suddenly knew how to get to the island. It was something he had seen in a movie. He carried the branch down to the shore and launched it. Holding tightly to it, he kicked his way across and landed safely and triumphantly on the island.

## QUESTIONS

1. Where was the island?
2. Why did Kevin want to go to the island?
3. Why had he never been to the island before?
4. "... his secret would be *revealed*." What does *revealed* mean?
5. How do you think Kevin was feeling as he turned to go back home? Why do you think that?
6. Was the branch very heavy? How do you know that?
7. What could have made it difficult for Kevin to take the branch down to the lake?
8. What do you think Kevin had seen in the movie?
9. "...he landed safely and *triumphantly* on the island." What does *triumphantly* mean?
10. Do you think he would tell anybody that he had made it to the island? Why do you think that?

# LOST

Ashley felt uneasy when they came to the fork in the track. The map hadn't shown it. "We'll follow the left fork," Duncan had said, showing the confidence of a brother eighteen months older. 'He's a know-all,' Ashley had thought. Yet it was his lack of organisation that had left them without a compass.

The distance on the map had seemed shorter - about four kilometres as the crow flies - but the track twisted like a snake as it made its way from the coast to the lake.

Ever since the family started holidaying at Starfish Cove, Ashley had wanted to hike to Lake Hordern. Her parents had finally agreed on the condition that Duncan went too. "Listen to Duncan," they had instructed.

Now they were lost on the ridge, surrounded by dense forest. To make the situation worse a thick mist had come down. Duncan muttered something about going back the way they had come - if only he had made that suggestion earlier. It was then she heard the babbling sound. She headed for the stream, Duncan following in silence.

Eventually they reached the stony shore just around the headland from the cove. "Thank goodness you two are safe. Well done Duncan!" said his parents.

Duncan said nothing.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why did Ashley feel uneasy?
2. "...about four kilometres, *as the crow flies*..." What does *as the crow flies* mean?
3. How did Ashley show that she did not have confidence in Duncan?
4. Why was Duncan in charge?
5. If Ashley had no confidence in Duncan, why do you think she went with him?
6. How could the mist coming down make the situation worse?
7. Why do you think Duncan followed Ashley in silence?
8. How did Duncan and Ashley get back?
9. Do you think their parents had become worried? Why do you think that?
10. How do you think Duncan felt at the end? Why do you think that?

# LIVINGSTONE

David Livingstone was one of the most famous explorers of the 19th Century. He is remembered for his travels through Africa, his missionary work and his efforts to abolish the slave trade. He opened up much of Central Africa, a vast area that was unknown to Europeans at that time.

Livingstone was the first European to walk across Africa and also the first to see the now famous tourist attraction, the Victoria Falls. These huge waterfalls were known locally as '*The Smoke That Thunders*'. Livingstone renamed the falls after the then British Queen.

In 1866 Livingstone disappeared while trying to find the headwaters of the Nile, the longest river in the world. The owner of the *New York Herald* newspaper hired the journalist Henry Stanley to lead an expedition to find Livingstone. In 1871, after many hardships, Stanley finally found Livingstone alive but sick and frail, in a remote African village. He restored his strength with medicine and nourishing food.

A year later Livingstone set out on what was to be his final journey. Again he became very ill, but this time he did not recover. He died in 1873. Out of respect his African companions removed his heart and buried it. His remains were sent to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey - the only explorer to be given this honour.

## QUESTIONS

1. What were Livingstone's reasons for spending so much of his time in Africa?
2. Who named the falls '*The Smoke That Thunders*'?
3. Who was the British Queen at that time?
4. For how long was Livingstone lost?
5. "...find the *headwaters* of the Nile..." What does *headwaters* mean?
6. Why do you think Stanley was hired by a newspaper owner to find Livingstone?
7. Was it easy for Stanley to find Livingstone? How do you know that?
8. Stanley found Livingstone "sick and *frail*." What does *frail* mean?
9. Why do you think his body is not buried in Africa?
10. Why do think many Africans had such respect for Livingstone?