

Year 5/6

Reading

Comprehension

**Back to Earth with  
a BUMP!**

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# BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

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Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London.

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015 and in the months before take-off, they trained intensively for their trip. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the highlight of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station. Whilst away from home, Tim also ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times in 186 days, the crew returned home to Earth via a Soyuz capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour (25 times the speed of sound). The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany where he is recovering and adjusting to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.



*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

In a recent press conference, Peake commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim expressed how much he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

His service to science has earned him an honour from the Queen. Peake was made a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. In response, Tim said, 'I am only one privileged person in a complex team of technicians, scientists, engineers, educators, trainers and flight directors, all working in pursuit of one of the greatest scientific and technical challenges of our time - exploring our solar system for the benefit of people on Earth. This award is for them.'

## Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?

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2. Write down **two** jobs Tim had to do on the mission.

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3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?

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4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?

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5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?

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6. Why do you think Tim dedicated his special honour to the entire team?

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7. Give **two** reasons why space travel is important.

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8. Why has a picture and caption been added to the report?

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# Back To Earth With A Bump! Answers

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?  
**Tim Peake had been living on the ISS for six months.**
2. Write down **two** jobs Tim had to do on the mission.  
**Any two of; he conducted experiments, tested out new technology and did necessary repairs on the ISS.**
3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?  
**They were carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk.**
4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?  
**He noticed the smells of Earth and the fresh air.**
5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?  
**Tim said that being away from his family and friends for such a long time wasn't easy.**
6. Why do you think Tim dedicated his special honour to the entire team?  
**Own answers, which may include reference to his space travel mission being a team effort.**
7. Give a reason why space travel is important.  
**Own answer, which may include to make new discoveries, to find out if there's life in other parts of the Solar System, to conduct important experiments in space, etc.**
8. Why has a picture and caption been added to the report?  
**It has been added to make the report more eye-catching and interesting to the reader.**

# Battle of the Somme

# Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme took place during the First World War in France by the River Somme. It began on 1st July 1916 and ended on 18th November 1916. The French army had lost many soldiers to the German army at Verdun. The British Army were ordered to help the French army defend themselves against the Germans.

## Trenches

During WWI, huge trenches were dug into the ground wherever there was a battle. The soldiers would live in the trenches and, when ordered to, had to climb up out of the trenches and run towards the enemy troops.

This was called "going over the top". Trenches were muddy, narrow and damp.

## The British Plan

The plan was to fire at the German lines and then advance towards them on foot and fight face to face.

Many British commanders did not think this was a very good strategy, but others like the British General, Douglas Haig, thought it was the best thing to do.

On that first day, the British Army fired 1 738 000 shells at the German trenches. Then they advanced towards them.

It was catastrophic.

The Germans were hardly affected as they hid deep in their trenches. They stayed where they were, and as the British Army came towards them, they started firing.

The British soldiers were mown down by German machine gun fire.



The British Army suffered 20 000 casualties on that first day!

Many people in Britain were angry at the huge loss of so many young men, and called it 'The Lost Generation'.



# Battle of the Somme

Back in Britain, people began to build simple war shrines in honour of the fallen soldiers.

These were simple, wooden tablets with the names of the men carved into them.

## The End of the War

Winter was closing in. The terrible weather meant men were trying to fight in muddy, boggy fields. Fighting was suspended. The plan was to carry on fighting in February, but the Germans decided to retreat. The battle was officially over on 18th November 1916.

### Did you know?

The British Army had soldiers from other countries fighting with them. The men came from Ireland, Newfoundland, South Africa and India.

## Battle of the Somme Facts

- It had been a terrible battle, with 420 000 casualties for the British Army
- The French lost 200 000 men
- The Germans lost 500 000 men
- Many men from Britain had been grouped together in battalions from the same town.

Journalists were given misinformation about the battle, and reported that, "German prisoners are surrendering freely and a good many have already fallen into our hands." This was not true.

# Battle of the Somme

1. In which season did the battle of the Somme begin?

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2. How long did the battle last?

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3. Describe what you think it would have been like in the trenches.

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4. Why do you think some commanders didn't think the British plan sounded like a very good strategy?

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5. Name two other countries where soldiers from the British Army came from.

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6. What do you think a 'Lost Generation' means?

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7. Why did people build war shrines?

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8. What does 'fighting was suspended' mean?

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# Battle of the Somme

9. Why was it a terrible battle?

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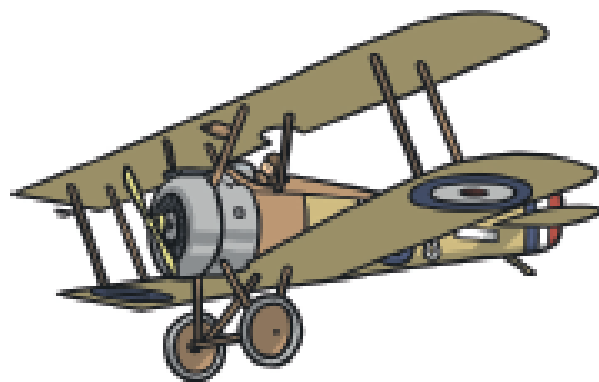
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10. What is your opinion of the Battle of the Somme?

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# Battle of the Somme Answers

## Answers

1 In which season did the Battle of the Somme begin?

**Summer**

2 How long did the battle last?

**4 months**

3 Describe what you think it would have been like in the trenches.

**Own description**

4 Why do you think some commanders didn't think The British Plan sounded like a good strategy?

**Because they knew a lot of soldiers would be killed.**

5 Name two other countries where the soldiers from the British Army came from.

**Any of the following: South Africa, India, Newfoundland, Ireland.**

6 What do you think a Lost Generation means?

**That so many young men died that there was none from that generation left.**

7 Why did people build war shrines?

**To remember the soldiers who had died.**

8 What does 'fighting was suspended' mean?

**That they stopped fighting for a while.**

9 Why was it a terrible battle?

**Because so many men died or were wounded.**

10 What is your opinion of the Battle of the Somme?

**Own opinion, must be justified.**

# **Rainforest Deforestation**

# Rainforest Deforestation

Rainforests are an essential part of our planet, providing oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide and housing 50% of the animal and plant species of the planet. Not to mention, the medicines and cures that are made using plants only found in a rainforest environment.

## Deforestation

Deforestation is the name given to the destruction of the rainforests and this is being done by burning them, chopping down the trees, or in some cases, flooding the areas. This is happening so fast that an area the size of twenty football pitches is being destroyed every minute! If the current rate of deforestation continues, it will take less than a hundred years to destroy all the rainforests on Earth.



### Fact File in Numbers

- 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon forest.
- 28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years due to deforestation.
- $\frac{1}{3}$  of the tropical rainforests that we had have already gone.

## Why are they being destroyed?

The biggest reason rainforests are cleared is to make space for food, including cattle to be farmed for cheap beef and also growing large crops, such as soya beans and palm oil. In addition, other causes of deforestation, which are also related to making money include; chopping down and using the wood from the forest, building roads for mining metals, gold or diamonds, flooding areas to make dams to generate electricity and also digging for oil.

## How can they be saved?

There are plenty of charities fighting against deforestation and people can always help by raising money for those charities. Also, think about the reasons that the forests are being destroyed and how some little changes in your everyday habits could help. For example, the cheap beef farmed in the areas that used to be rainforest land is often used in fast food chains. Could you avoid eating fast food from these outlets? You could also check on your supermarket food labels for the country of origin of any meat you buy. Was it farmed in an area where deforestation is taking place? You could also use rainforest-friendly wood so you know it is not a by-product of deforestation. Finally remember, paper comes from trees so any paper saving you can do, as well as recycling, will help the environment.

# Questions about Rainforest Deforestation

1. Name a reason not to destroy rainforests given in the first paragraph.

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2. Name **two** of the three ways given that a rainforest can be destroyed.

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3. What **percentage** of the rainforests has already gone?

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4. In the fact file, what does the author say will happen in the next quarter of a century?

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5. Why does saving paper help the rainforests?

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6. Why has the author used an exclamation mark in paragraph two?

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7. What **fraction** of the earth's plant and animal species live in the rainforests?

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8. List **two** main reasons why deforestation is occurring.

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9. Which rainforest produces 20% of the world's oxygen?

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10. What is your opinion about deforestation? How could you help to stop it?

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## Answers

1. Name a reason not to destroy rainforests given in the first paragraph.  
**Any from: medicines, cure for cancer, 50% of animal and plant species live there, gives out oxygen, absorbs carbon dioxide.**
2. Name two of the three ways given that a rainforest can be destroyed.  
**Any from: burning, chopping down, flooding.**
3. What percentage of the rainforests has already gone?  
**50% (it says  $\frac{1}{2}$  in the text).**
4. In the fact file, what does the author say will happen in the next quarter of a century?  
**(28,000) species of animals will become extinct (the text says twenty-five years).**
5. Why does saving paper help the rainforests?  
**Paper is made from wood (making it also causes more carbon footprint).**
6. Why has the author used an exclamation mark in paragraph two?  
**The rate of destruction is surprising (discuss this).**
7. What fraction of the earth's plant and animal species live in the rainforests?  
 **$\frac{1}{2}$  (the text says 50%).**
8. List two main reasons why deforestation is occurring.  
**Any two from: Food: Cheap beef, or agricultural crops including soya or palm oil, using the wood, building roads for mining, generating electricity or digging for oil.**
9. Which rainforest produces 20% of the world's oxygen?  
**The Amazon Rainforest.**
10. What is your opinion about deforestation? How could you help to stop it?  
**Open ended for discussion. Answers could discuss raising money for charities, making different choices about food and conserving paper.**

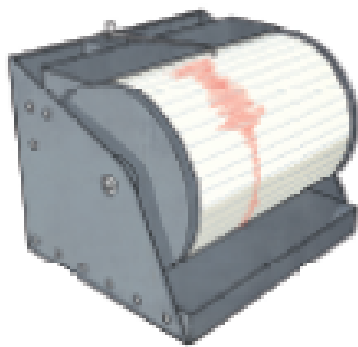


# Earthquakes

# Earthquakes

## The Earth's Crust

The Earth's crust and the top of the mantle have about twenty tectonic plates, which are like jigsaw puzzle pieces covering the Earth. These plates are always moving and bumping into each other. We call the edges of the plates 'plate boundaries', which are made up of faults. These faults are where most of the world's earthquakes occur. As the plates move, the edges get stuck because they are not smooth, but the rest of the plate keeps moving. When the force is too much, it slips and bumps and that causes an earthquake.



## Seismograph

A seismograph (say: size-mo-graf) is a special piece of equipment that records earthquakes. Seismometers are securely fastened to the Earth, so when the ground starts to shake, the instrument's case moves too. What doesn't move is a weight that hangs on a string inside the case. When there is an earthquake, the case shakes with the ground but the weight does not, and it draws a line to show how much the ground shook. Scientists use seismograms (graphs produced by the seismograph) to measure how big each earthquake is.

## Interesting Fact

Six Italian scientists were convicted of manslaughter (killing someone without planning or being hateful) and sent to prison for not predicting (knowing it was coming and warning people) the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake in which 309 people died. They argued against their cases and won, so were eventually not sent to prison.

## You could try to find out:

- 1 How earthquakes are measured.
- 2 How easy they are to predict.
- 3 About other cases where prison sentences have been handed out in unusual circumstances.
- 4 How you go about arguing a decision made by a court.

# Questions About Earthquakes

1. Which layer of the Earth do the tectonic plates make up and how many are there?

They make up...

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2. What are plate boundaries?

Plate boundaries are...

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3. Where in the world do earthquakes take place?

Earthquakes take place...

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4. Describe what causes earthquakes.

Earthquakes are caused by...

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5. Which part of the seismograph moves? The case or the weight on a string?

The part of the seismograph that moves is...

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## Answers

1. Which layer of the Earth do the tectonic plates make up and how many are there?

They make up the Earth's crust and there are about twenty.

2. What are plate boundaries?

Plate boundaries are the edges of the Earth's tectonic plates.

3. Where in the world do earthquakes take place?

Any answer that suggests: Earthquakes take place within faults / areas where the plate boundaries meet.

4. Describe what causes earthquakes.

Any answer that suggests: Earthquakes are caused by the plates rubbing against each other and getting stuck before coming free with a large force/jolt.

5. Which part of the seismograph moves? The case or the weight on a string?

The part of the seismograph that moves is the case.

**Father`s Day**

# Father's Day

On 5th July 1908, a church in West Virginia, US sponsored the first event in honour of fathers. It was a Sunday sermon in memory of 362 men who had died the previous December in an explosion at the Fairmont Coal Company mines. Many of the men who died were fathers and grandfathers.

A year later, a young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd decided to try to get an official day to honour all fathers, started. Her mother had died when Sonora was 10 years old. She was one of six children who had all been raised by their single father.

She went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and the government, to try to get support to start a national day for fathers.

She was successful! The 19th June 1910 was the day chosen by Washington State to celebrate fathers.

At first, Father's Day was not thought to be as important as Mother's Day, and people thought it was actually just an excuse to sell things in shops.

However, Sonora was outraged and said:

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"Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one."

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Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father's Day an official national holiday.

There are no set traditions on how people celebrate Father's Day, but it is a great time to appreciate any man who plays the role of a father, whether they be a grandfather, uncle or other member of the family who has looked after us.

## Did you know?

In the UK, Father's Day is celebrated each year on the third Sunday of June.

Often fathers are given socks and ties, or sports and electronic equipment as a gift, although all dads are different, and will be grateful for different kinds of presents. A homemade card is always a good option, or breakfast in bed.



# Questions about Father's Day

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908, in West Virginia?

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2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?

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3. What does the word 'outraged' mean?

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4. What date was chosen for the first official Father's Day?

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5. When will Father's Day be celebrated next year?

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6. What was the name of the man who made Father's Day a national holiday?

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7. Who else might be celebrated on this day?

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8. What does 'appreciate' mean?

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9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?

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## Answers

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908, in West Virginia?  
**The first sponsored event took place to honour fathers (who had died in a mining accident).**
2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?  
**Because her mother had died and her father raised her on his own.**
3. What does the word 'outraged' mean?  
**That she was angry.**
4. What date was chosen for the first official Father's Day?  
**19th June 1910.**
5. When will Father's Day be celebrated next year?  
**On the third Sunday in June.**
6. What was the name of the man who made Father's Day a national holiday?  
**President Nixon**
7. Who else might be celebrated on this day?  
**Grandfathers, uncles, male family members or friends who are a father figure.**
8. What does 'appreciate' mean?  
**To say 'thank you' or feel grateful.**
9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?  
**Pupil's own response.**