
Comprehension **[COMPREHENSION TEXT EXTRACT – PDF]**

[QUESTIONS NOT INCLUDED – PLEASE SEE THE VIDEO TUTORIALS WHICH COVER THE COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS YOUR CHILD ANSWERED INCORRECTLY. PLEASE NOTE THE COMPREHENSION HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY REFORMATTED TO SAVE PARENTS AN ADDITIONAL SHEET OF PRINTING PAPER.]

Read through the passage below and answer the comprehension questions that follow. Mark each answer you choose on your answer sheet. Make sure you mark the correct question number. The answer options are A – D.

EXAMPLE

The Viking age in European history was about AD 700 to 1100. The Vikings came from three countries of Scandinavia: Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'.

Which countries did the Vikings come from?

- A. Britain and Ireland
- B. Denmark, Norway and Sweden
- C. Germany and Austria
- D. Scotland and Wales

The correct answer is **B**.



YOU HAVE 14 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

THERE ARE 16 QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

Read through the passage below and answer the comprehension questions that follow. Mark each answer you choose on your answer sheet. The answer options are A – D. Make sure you mark the correct question number.

- 1 The night at length passed away. At daybreak Fritz and I arose and went on deck. I brought the telescope to bear upon the shore, and with pleasure saw the flag still waving in the morning breeze; while I kept the glass directed to the land, I saw the door of the tent open, and my wife appear and look steadfastly toward us.
- I at once hoisted a white flag, and in reply the flag on shore was thrice dipped. Oh, what a weight seemed
- 5 lifted from my heart as I saw the signal!
- "Fritz," I said, "I am not now in such haste to get back, and begin to feel compassion for all these poor beasts. I wish we could devise some means for getting them on shore."
- "We might make a raft," suggested Fritz, "and take off one or two at a time."
- "True," I replied; "it is easy enough to say, 'make a raft,' but to do it is quite another thing."
- 10 "Well," said Fritz, "I can think of nothing else, unless indeed we make them such swimming belts as you made for the children."
- "Really, my boy, that idea is worth having. I am not joking, indeed," I continued, as I saw him smile; "we may get every one of the animals ashore in that way."

15 So saying, I caught a fine sheep, and proceeded to put our plan into execution. I first fastened a broad piece of linen round its belly, and to this attached some corks and empty tins; then, with Fritz's help, I flung the animal into the sea—it sank, but a moment afterward rose and floated famously.

20 "Hurrah!" exclaimed Fritz, "we will treat them all like that." We then rapidly caught the other animals and provided them, one after the other, with a similar contrivance. The cow and ass gave us more trouble than did the others, as for them we required something more buoyant than the mere cork; we at last found some empty casks and fastened two to each animal by thongs passed under its belly. This done, the whole herd were ready to start, and we brought the ass to one of the ports to be the first to be launched. After some manoeuvring we got him in a convenient position, and then a sudden heave sent him plunging into the sea. He sank, and then, buoyed up by the casks, emerged head and back from the water. The cow, sheep, and goats followed him one after the other, and then the sow alone remained. She seemed, however, determined not to leave the ship; she kicked, struggled, and squealed so violently, that I really thought we should be obliged to abandon her; at length, after much trouble, we succeeded in sending her out of the port after the others, and when once in the water, such was the old lady's energy that she quickly distanced them, and was the first to reach the shore.

We had fastened to the horns or neck of each animal a cord with a float attached to the end, and now embarking, we gathered up these floats, set sail, and steered for shore, drawing our herd after us.

30 Delighted with the successful accomplishment of our task, we got out some biscuits and enjoyed a midday meal; then, while Fritz amused himself with his monkey, I took up my glass and tried to make out how our dear ones on shore were employing themselves. As I was thus engaged, a sudden shout from Fritz surprised me. I glanced up; there stood Fritz with his gun to his shoulder, pointing it at a huge shark; the monster was making for one of the finest sheep; he turned on his side to seize his prey; as the white of his belly appeared Fritz fired. 35 The shot took effect, and our enemy disappeared, leaving a trace of blood on the calm water.

"Well done, my boy," I cried, "you will become a crack shot one of these days; but I trust you will not often have such dangerous game to shoot." Fritz's eyes sparkled at his success and my praise, and reloading his gun carefully watched the water. But the shark did not again appear, and, borne onward by the breeze, we quickly neared the shore. Steering the boat to a convenient landing place, I cast off the ropes which secured the animals, and let them get ashore as best they might. 40

There was no sign of my wife or children when we stepped on land, but a few moments afterward they appeared, and with a shout of joy ran toward us. We were thankful to be once more united.

"How clever you are!" said she.

45 "I am not the inventor," I replied; "the honour is due to Fritz. He not only thought of this plan for bringing off the animals, but saved one, at least, of them from a most fearful death." And I then told them how bravely he had encountered the shark.

My wife was delighted with her son's success, but declared that she would dread our trips to the vessel more than ever, knowing that such savage fish inhabited the waters.