

Starter Sentences

The moonlight reflected on the ripples of the lake.

There was a fire in the forest.

There were thick trees by the edge of the water.

In the distance, there were mountains.

Around the fire, there were stones.

There were insects chirping in the woods.

Next to the fire, there was a log.

There was rough bark on the tree trunks.

The grass was short.

There was a small tent near the fire.

In front of the tent, there was a sleeping bag and pillow.



Sentence Stretching

How can we extend our sentences?

- Say where things are
- Use adjectives before a noun
- Use adjectives after a noun
- Add in extra detail (you might need to use a conjunction)
- Use a simile





It was a clear, warm night. Crickets chirped in the distance, and intermittently an owl hooted. A solitary boat bobbed on the lake and from time-to-time the water slapped against it. Moonlight hit the ripples on the lake, reflecting little sparks of light like diamonds on the water. Far off in the distance, behind the lake, great mountains loomed. They looked like giant purple sleeping beasts. Tall trees with thick trunks edged the water and birds roosted in their tangled branches. A short leaf-littered pathway led to a camping area. In the middle of the camp, a fire crackled with red embers and ash rising upwards into the night sky. By the fire, a fallen log was used as a makeshift bench, and to the rear of the camp was a small canvas tent.

Adjectives	Verbs	Preposition Phrases
clear warm	chirped hooted	In the distance on the lake

Night was creeping in. The water on the lake was barely moving and the sky was a brilliant blue-violet colour.

Vocabulary	Phrases
Reflecting	beyond the treeline
Rippling	beneath the darkening sky
Lapping	Next to the fire
Glistening	Toward the forest
Towering	Across the water
Entwined	By the edge of the...
Substantial	In the shadow of the...
Silhouettes	Under the shadowy branches
Dark	Within several feet of...
Shadowy	By the side of the tent
Embers	Along the pathway
Crackling	By the fireside
Canvas	In view of the...
Temporary	
Situated	

Skin

Eyes

Ears

Mouth

The Creature

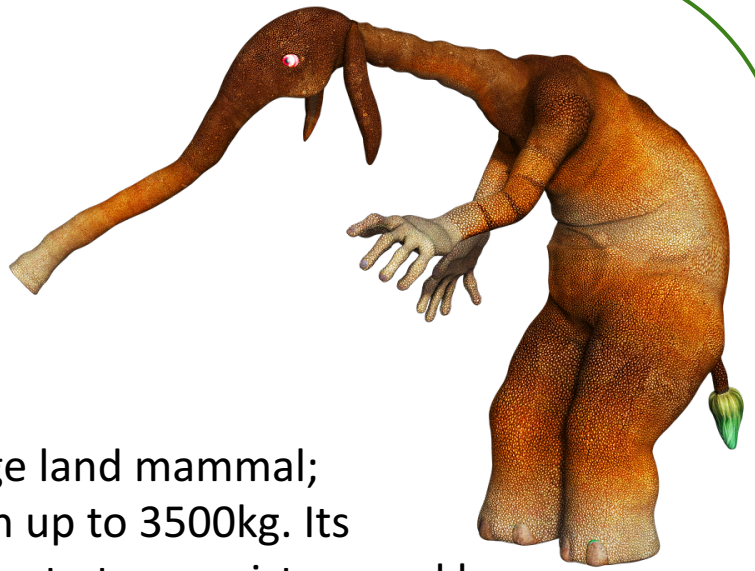
Tail

Body

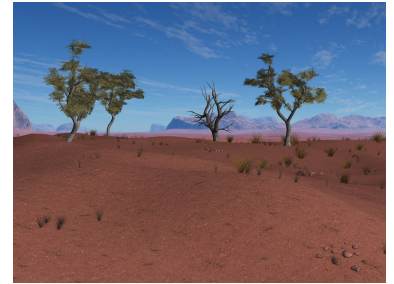
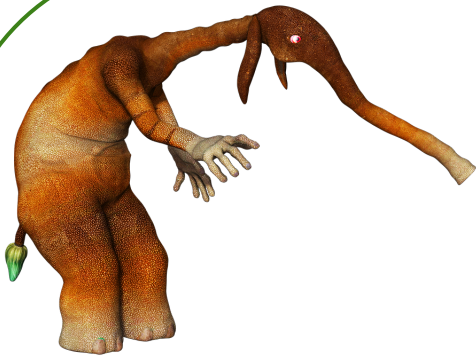
Movements

Likes/Dislikes

Sounds



The donriphiant is a large land mammal; adult males often weigh up to 3500kg. Its thick, wrinkled skin helps to trap moisture and keeps the animal cool for longer (something which is important in the African heat). Typically, the donriphiant walks in an upright stance and uses the large pads on the soles of its feet for stability, though it can run for short bursts on four legs. It has a short green-tipped tail, which is covered in coarse, wiry hairs, and is used for balance. Two arm-like limbs help it to climb trees, and its hands are capable of gripping and utilising tools. Its long neck is useful when gathering vegetation, and strong, flexible muscles allow the creature to extend its neck by a further 8-10 inches, when needed. The donriphiant has two long ears which primarily function as cooling devices. As temperatures climb, the donriphiant rotates its ears in a circular motion to cool the head and trunk. The donriphiant has acute hearing. Many animals have fairly limited vision and so donriphants rely upon their keen sense of hearing to protect themselves from predators. Although the trunk functions mainly for breathing, it is also used for grasping, feeding, smelling, drinking, making sounds and for protection. It grows an inch for every year of the creature's life until they reach maturity.



The donriphiant is found only in Africa, though fossils of a mammal similar to the donriphiant have been found in South America. Mainly found living in herds, the donriphiant is well adapted to live in a hot, dry climate and, like a camel, it can store fat to keep it nourished on long journeys. The animal's body is designed to reach the leaves and branches from the top of trees. Typically, an adult male will eat around 30-35kg of leaves a day. Leaves provide the donriphiant with some of its water and the rest is consumed at the watering holes, often in large groups.

Due to its large size, the donriphiant has very few predators. Hyenas will often work in packs to separate young, or weak, animals from the rest of the herd. In some circumstances, lions will target a lone donriphiant, though are unlikely to pursue a herd. Adult deaths are more likely to be caused by crocodiles, which strike in the rivers and watering holes.

Openers

The _____ is found...

Some animals...

Typically the _____...

A further important feature, is the...

Due to its _____, the _____...

In some circumstances,...

Today, there are...

On average,...

An adult _____ is...

Although they appear to....

Another obvious trait is...

Their diet consists mainly of...

It is widely believed that...

_____ use their sense of _____ to,...

In general,...

Unsurprisingly,...

On the whole,...

As predators, the _____,

Life expectation is...

Their habitat is usually...

habitat	physical	appearance	diet
omnivore	herbivore	carnivorous	nocturnal
prey	predator	species	endangered
inhabits	exhibits	vertebrate	invertebrate
colouration	prominent	marine	aquatic
acute	ambush	scavenger	territory
forage	hunt	population	diverse
environment	feature	function	limbs
migration	juvenile	adult	communicate

Marshmallows Resource 5b

Non-chronological Report

Introduction

Write a short introduction to your creature. This only needs to be a line or two. Explain briefly what it is and give a fact or two about it.

E.g.

The donriphant is a large mammal and a member of the elephant family. It is native to Africa and lives in large herds.

Main paragraphs

Write two (or more if you have time) paragraphs about your creature. Keep your paragraphs based around a theme.

Things to think about:

- Third person
- Present tense
- Sound like an expert
- Vary your sentence openers
- Use technical vocabulary
- Sentences should flow
- Extend your sentences
- Remain formal for most of the piece
- Use headings and sub-headings to present your information
- Additional information could be added as bullet-points or a 'did you know?' box
- Attempt to interest the reader
- Use nouns and pronouns to avoid repetition (say the creature, the animals, they etc. rather than repeating the name)

Story Track

There are ripples on the water and the creatures eyes and ears appear.

Step Number	Foreground	Background

Action Sequences

Time	What happens
Sequence One	
11s	First see the creature appear behind the boy
16s	Boy hears something as he's toasting marshmallows
20s	The viewing angle alters so that the audience looks up to the creature's face- see his teeth
22s	Boy stands up and holds up the stick with the marshmallow on it
Sequence Two	
1m17s	Creature shows his teeth, eyes change and he growls- viewing angle from the floor makes the creature seem very large
1m22s	The boy attempts to run away through the long rustling grass
1m23s	The boy falls
1m25s	The boy looks up and the creature is approaching
1m28s	The boy spots the pillow
1m29s	The creature has his mouth open wide as if to bite
1m33s	The boy hides behind the pillow

Action Sequences

With eyes glaring and teeth snarling, the creature rose upwards to a standing position behind the child sat by the fire. A twig snapped. Without hesitation, the young boy-scout whipped his head around and leapt from his seat, legs shaking. The marshmallow he had been toasting sat poised on the end of a stick and he thrust it towards the creature.



Can you find....

Any noun-verb pairs

A short snappy sentence

A prepositional phrase of time

A prepositional phrase of place

Verbs which imply speed

It was a warm night. An owl hooted and crickets chirped. A solitary boat bobbed on the lake and from time-to-time the water slapped against it. A pair of bright yellow eyes and the tips of two pointed ears appeared from the depths of the lake and moonlight reflected on the water.

A short pathway led from the lakeside to a camping area, and in the middle of the camp, a fire crackled with embers and ash rising upwards into the sky. A log was used as a bench by a young boy. The boy watched the fire as he toasted marshmallows, oblivious to the creature which was slowly making its way up the path to the camp. The creature rose behind the child sat by the fire. A twig snapped. The young boy-scout whipped his head around and leapt from his seat. The marshmallow sat on the end of a stick and he thrust it towards the creature to scare it off.



It was a clear, warm night. Crickets chirped in the distance, and intermittently an owl hooted. A solitary boat bobbed on the lake and from time-to-time the water slapped against it.

Moonlight reflected like diamonds on the water and slowly, from the depths of the lake, a pair of bright yellow eyes and the tips of two pointed ears momentarily appeared.

A short, leaf-littered pathway led from the lakeside to a camping area, and in the middle of the camp, a fire crackled with red embers and ash rising upwards into the night sky. By the fire, a fallen log was used as a makeshift bench by a young boy. The boy watched the fire as he toasted marshmallows, oblivious to the creature which was slowly making its way up the path to the camp. With eyes glaring and teeth snarling, the creature rose upwards to a standing position behind the child sat by the fire. A twig snapped. Without hesitation, the young boy-scout whipped his head around and leapt from his seat, legs shaking. The marshmallow he had been toasting sat poised on the end of a stick and he thrust it towards the creature to scare it off.

Creature Changes

1. Tongue hangs out

A long pink tongue lolled from his mouth down to his chin.

2. Starts panting

3. Tail starts wagging

4. Pupils change- become round

5. Friendly face- eyebrows up

6. Stops baring teeth

7. Whimpers for food

8. Smiles at the boy

9. Tilts head

SURPRISES Editing Method- Year 3/4

Say in head

Rehearse in head to listen to what immediately stands out, which sentences are you happy with? Unhappy with? Mark anything you think needs to change.

Under breath - mumble

In a muttered voice, begin to FEEL how the piece fits together- are your sentences varied enough? Are your sentence lengths varied enough?

Read aloud

Have you accidentally repeated anything? Are your tenses correct? Does it need anything adding in?

Punctuation power

Look at your use of punctuation- is it correct? Is it varied enough? Have you used commas after fronted adverbials?

Read the openers

Is there enough variety in your openers? Have you used fronted adverbials?

Improve worrisome words

Improve vocabulary by checking your word choices particularly verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Say in head or aloud

Read it through to listen to how it is now sounding? Have you done enough? Has it improved? What more needs to be done? Could you re-order some sentences to improve the overall effect?

Extending sentences

Look at your sentence choices. Have you expanded your noun phrases? Can you add information into your sentence?

Share with a friend

Together can you improve your work in any other ways? Does it feel finished?