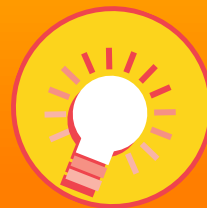


Seasons in Burundi

(Tropical climate)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Seasons in Burundi

(Tropical climate)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

Contents

Unit 3: Seasons in Burundi

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Seasons in Burundi

Mrumbi is a farmer in Burundi. It's a hot part of the world. Here is how the weather affects what he does:

"My year is not like yours, with temperatures going up in summer and down in winter. Instead, it is warm here all the time, which is nice. But then we don't have rain all year which is not so nice. Instead, we have rainy seasons and dry seasons. Let me tell you how each month goes and what we do in that month.



In January it is usually dry. This is called the "little dry season" because it is wet just before and just after. In January we sometimes plant crops like manioc and sweet potato. This is also a time to work outside and repair any damage to the fields, before the rains start again.

In February the rains start up again. Even though it is wet, we are very busy tending the crops that grow in the rain, like rice.

The heavy rain continues in March and April. In May, it starts to rain less and less. Soon, the rain stops and things begin to dry out. June is the time when we harvest our crops and take them to the market to sell. This is the start of the dry season. For farmers like me, this is when we earn most of our money for the year, by selling our crops.



July and August is the dry season and the time when celebrations take place. The dry season is a time to relax a bit and to enjoy the fruits of the harvest. This is also the time of year when people get married, because it is easy to travel on the dry roads.



In September, just when the ground is very dry and plants are dying, the rains start again. As soon as they start, we rush out to plant our crops. Everyone is happy when the rains start, because it means the plants will start to grow again.

All October and November the rains come down and we work hard to tend the crops and make sure the fields are not damaged by the rain. Then, in December, the little dry season begins – just in time for us to celebrate Christmas.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'season'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'season' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'season'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'season'.

e Name two 'seasons'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: easy	simple

3

Summarising

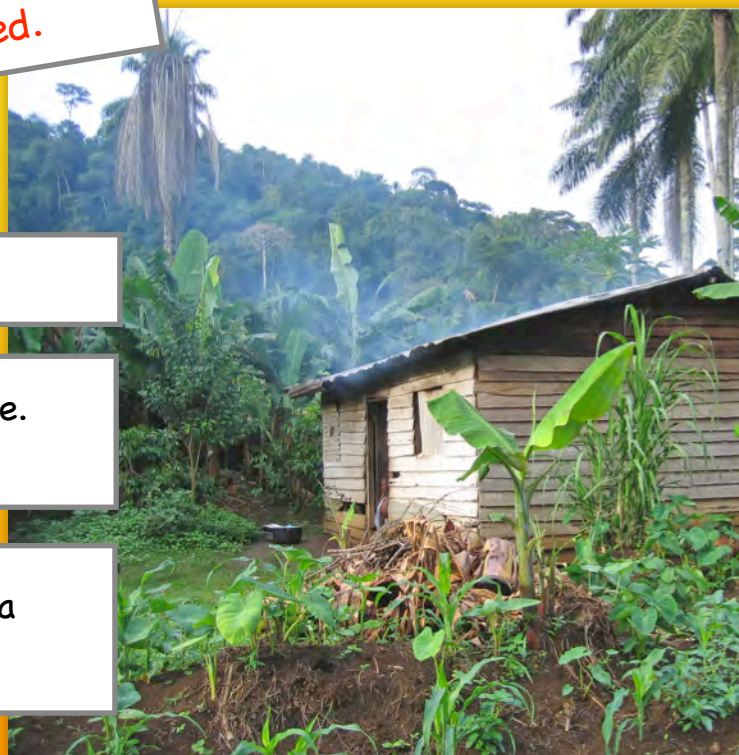
(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.



**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



In May, it starts to rain less and less.

All October and November the rains come down.

In September, just when the ground is very dry and plants are dying, the rains start again.

July and August is the dry season and the time when celebrations take place.

In January it is usually dry.

The heavy rain continues in March and April.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 What kind of work does Mrumbi do?

2 In what months do a lot of marriages happen?

3 When are the crops harvested?

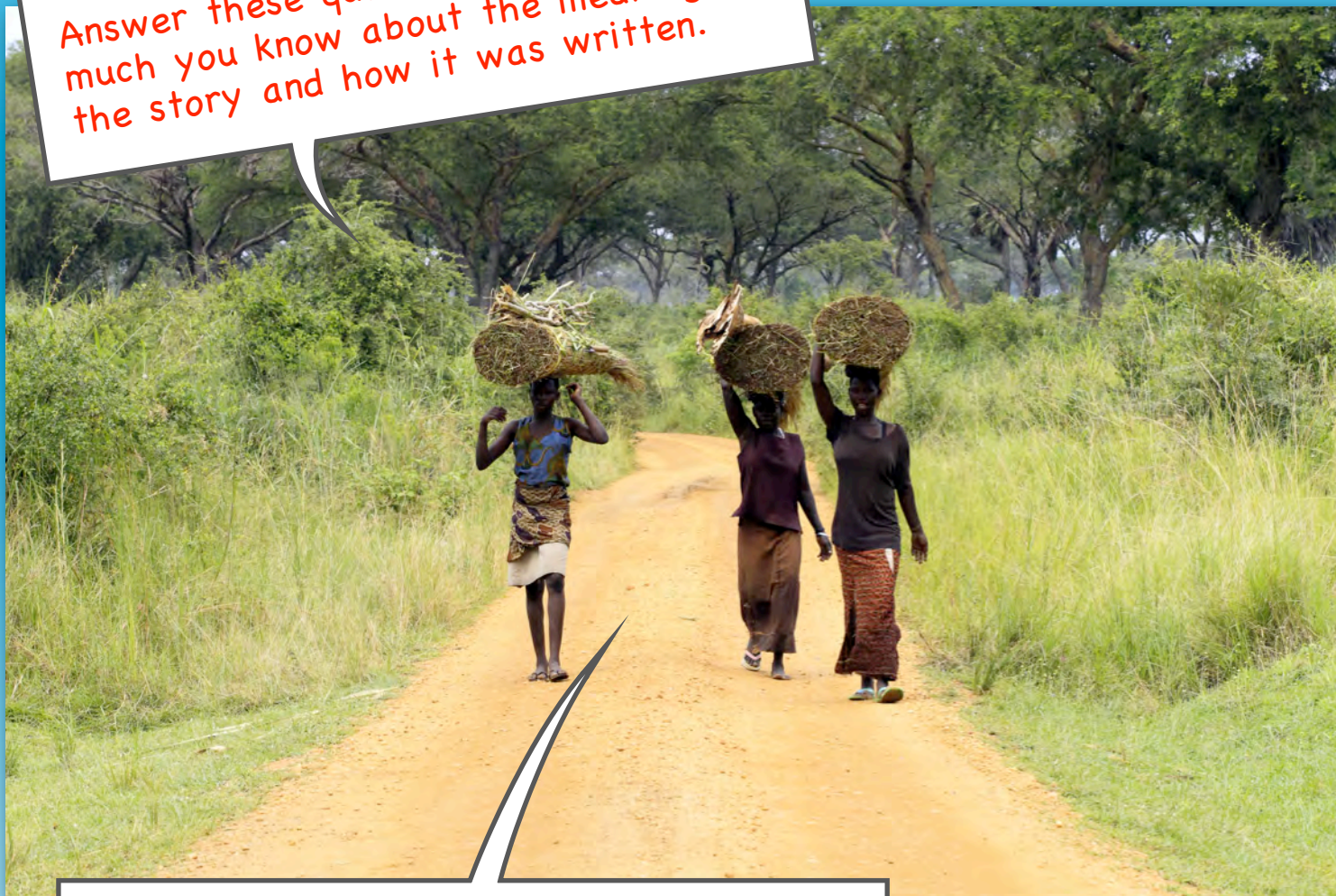
4 What happens in March and April?

5 Which months are the "little dry season"?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why are the crops harvested in June?

2 Why do people get married in July and August?

3 What is one crop that grows in the rain?

4 What crops does Mrumbi plant in the little dry season?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Why are people happy when the rains start in September?

2 Do you think it is difficult to farm when it is raining?

3 Why do you think people relax the most in the dry season?

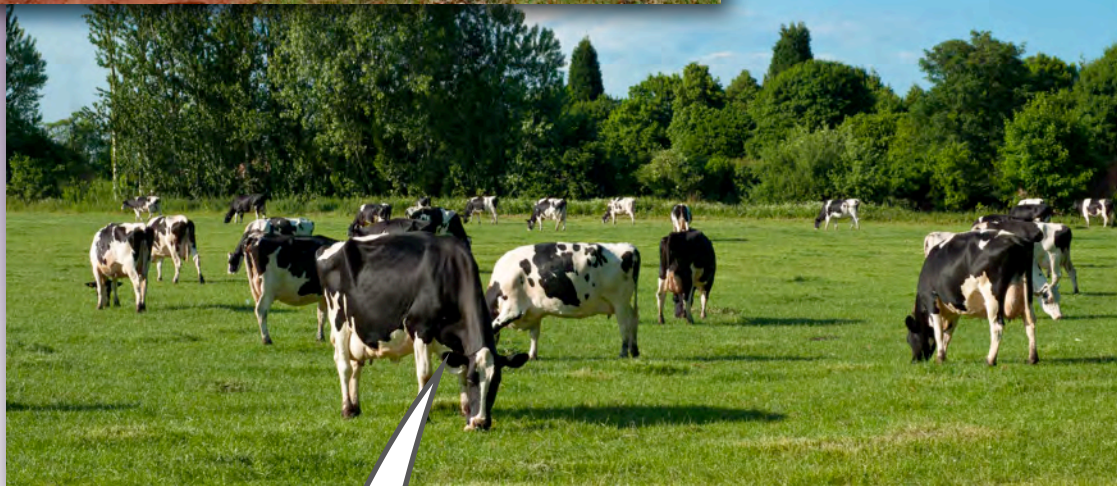
4 What would happen if the rains did not start in September, but were late?

5 Do you think people also have celebrations in December and January?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Farming

How is farming different in Burundi from in the United Kingdom?
Do you think we grow the same foods and rear the same animals in the UK as in Burundi? Why or why not?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



My year

You are writing a letter to a friend who lives in another country. Your friend lives in a place with wet and dry seasons and is very curious about what life is like when there are hot and dry seasons. (Now write your friend a letter describing the weather throughout the year and the things you do at different times of year...)

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