

Moving with the herd



Comprehension

Moving with the herd

The sun woke me up as it shone through the animal skin tent I was sleeping in. I was tired, but I really needed to get up and help the rest of my tribe. We were moving with a herd of deer. The deer had eaten all the best grass here and would move on today. Where the deer went, we went, because they were a vital source of food and materials for us.

I packed up my tent by rolling the skins and tree branches into a bundle. I put my flint axe and my knife on top, and tied it all together tightly. With this on my back, and a bark bag containing firelighting materials over my shoulder, I was ready to go.

As we walked, we kept an eye out for dangerous wild animals, for we did not want to be attacked. After a while, the deer stopped at what they must have thought was a good grazing area. This would be our new home for a bit, before the deer ate this up too, and we moved on again. I unrolled my bundle, and set about making camp. I chopped some wood with my axe to make a fire, and then pitched my tent.

Then it was time to gather some food. I wandered into the forest, and picked fruits and berries, placing them in a bark bag to take back to camp. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move on the ground. I stood completely still and looked. It was a hare!

Slowly, I drew my knife from my belt, aimed, and threw it at the hare. The knife hit its target, and stopped the hare from leaping away. I rushed over to grab it, and then killed it with one more blow. Then I slung it over my shoulder and proudly headed back to camp with what I had found.

Understanding words

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

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

b From that sentence, suggest what 'bundle' means.

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'bundle' means.

Try this for other words, too. 2

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: vital	essential

Sequencing

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

I went into the forest to pick fruits and berries.

As we moved, we kept an eye out for dangerous wild animals.

My tribe was moving with a herd of deer. The deer had eaten the best grass here and would move on today.

While I was in the forest, I killed a hare to eat back at camp.

After a while, the deer stopped. We made camp.

We packed up our tents, with our tools, into bundles.

Get to the facts

1 Where was the person in the story sleeping?

2 Which animal was a vital source of food and materials?

3 What did the tribe keep an eye out for?

4 What did the person in the story pick in the

5 Which animal did he capture?

Make a story...

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

Deserted camp

Imagine you are with the tribe following the herd of deer. At one point on your journey, you come across a deserted camp. Animal skin tents flap in the wind, and there are stone rings on the ground where fire burned not long ago... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'bundle'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'bundle' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'bundle'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'bundle'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'bundle' means.

Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – vital Synonym – essential

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

I went into the forest to pick fruits and berries.

As we moved, we kept an eye out for dangerous wild animals.

My tribe was moving with a herd of deer. The deer had eaten the best grass here and would move on today.

While I was in the forest, I killed a hare to eat back at camp.

After a while, the deer stopped. We made camp.

I packed up my tent into a bundle.

Get to the facts:

- 1 Where was the person in the story sleeping?
- 2 Which animal was a vital source of food and materials?
- 3 What did the tribe keep an eye out for?
- 4 What did the person in the story pick in the forest?
- 5 Which animal did he capture?

Make a story...

Deserted camp

Imagine you are with the tribe following the herd of deer. At one point in your journey, you come across a deserted camp. Animal skin tents flap in the wind, and there are stone rings on the ground where fires burned not long ago...
(now complete the story)

Moving with the herd

The sun woke me up as it shone through the animal skin tent I was sleeping in. I was tired, but I really needed to get up and help the rest of my tribe. We were moving with a herd of deer. The deer had eaten all the best grass here and would move on today. Where the deer went, we went, because they were a vital source of food and materials for us.

I packed up my tent by rolling the skins and tree branches into a bundle. I put my flint axe and my knife on top, and tied it all together tightly. With this on my back, and a bark bag containing firelighting materials over my shoulder, I was ready to go.

As we walked, we kept an eye out for dangerous wild animals, for we did not want to be attacked. After a while, the deer stopped at what they must have thought was a good grazing area. This would be our new home for a bit, before the deer ate this up too, and we moved on again. I unrolled my bundle, and set about making camp. I chopped some wood with my axe to make a fire, and then pitched my tent.

Then it was time to gather some food. I wandered into the forest, and picked fruits and berries, placing them in a bark bag to take back to camp. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move on the ground. I stood completely still and looked. It was a hare!

Slowly, I drew my knife from my belt, aimed, and threw it at the hare. The knife hit its target, and stopped the hare from leaping away. I rushed over to grab it, and then killed it with one more blow. Then I slung it over my shoulder and proudly headed back to camp with what I had found.