

Complete English 5 - Comprehension suggested answers

1 Under siege

Retrieve and record

1. Because they weren't expecting a siege.
2. A siege machine/catapult.
3. Cacophony.
4. Disagree. Richard says, "it has been seven long **weeks** since the siege began".
5. Because they had not seen anything unusual for several days and nights.

Inference

1. So they would not stand out and be a target.
2. Students' own answer. Students could mention the defenders' lack of food; the attackers' siege weapons; the damage from the attacks; the defenders' ability to repel the attacks so far.
3. Answers could include: No, because he is trapped in the castle. Yes, because he survived the attack. Support phrases could include: I had been lucky / I had no significant wounds / That is, if there is an after / If I had been a few steps in the other direction, I would be dead and not him.
4. Because they can damage what is inside the walls. / Because you don't know where or when they will hit. / Because they could destroy the walls and let the attackers in.
5. Answers could include: Lack of food / Constantly expecting attacks / Needing to fight / No way to escape / Getting injured or killed. Students' own answer for second part.

2 Comparing cities

Retrieve and record

1. False. The population density of London is 5,500 people per square mile, and in New York it is 10,800 people per square mile.
2. Dutch traders/Peter Minuit
3. The opening/building of the Erie Canal.
4. About 2 miles west of Londinium.
5. Because the Thames flooded out every high tide

Inference

1. Because they reach for the sky. / Because they are tall.

2. Answers could include: London was home to an Iron Age tribe / The Romans landed in 43 AD, a permanent settlement was established on Manhattan island in 1624.
3. The word 'gate' is in the name of Billingsgate.
4. Because she attacked and burned the city.

Speech and style notes

1. The timeline could include the dates: AD 43, AD 61, AD 190, around AD 400 (Romans left Britain), AD 1066 (Norman invasion), 1940 (Battle of Britain, when London was bombed).

3 Treasure Island

Retrieve and record

1. Not correct. The text says: There was not a breath of air moving.
2. A thunder cloud.
3. The chart.
4. It was landlocked, buried in woods, there was no one there / it was remote / it was inhospitable.
5. Long John Silver.

Inference

1. A peculiar stagnant smell hung over the anchorage (there was a bad smell) / the doctor says, "I'll stake my wig there's fever here". / there were two swamps. / the foliage had a poisonous brightness.
2. Answers could include: He doesn't want anyone to get hurt. / He is worried about what will happen. / He likes the officers.
3. Answers could include: By describing the island as an unfriendly place. / By observing how the men were behaving. / By the words of the officers - talking about the chance of a mutiny. / By mentioning danger in different ways.
4. Students' own answer. Answers could include: Fever, because the men go ashore. / Fever, because the men seem happier. / Mutiny, because the men are upset when they don't find treasure/because the men fight over treasure.

4 The travels of Marco Polo

Retrieve and record

1. A long route from Europe to Asia.
2. Because they had to travel a long way, with each merchant selling them to another merchant in a nearby city. / Because they passed through many people/hands on the way.
3. He was impressed that Marco Polo had learned to speak Chinese.
4. Christopher Columbus. It says that Columbus took a copy of Polo's book with him when he sailed to the Americas.
5. He told his stories to another prisoner, who wrote them down and turned them into a book.

Inference

1. Because they had to travel by walking, ship or other slow methods. / There were no cars, planes or trains.
2. Answers could include: No, because they seemed too fantastic. / Yes, because Polo was wealthy from trading with China and could speak Chinese.
3. Answers could include: So he could afford to travel to China. / So he could afford not to work and to travel instead.
4. Answers could include: To pass the time. / For entertainment. / To have a book to sell to make money when they got out of jail.

Sequencing

a, f, e, c, b, d

5 The final labour of Hercules

Retrieve and record

1. In a boat.
2. By defeating him in battle. / By beating him. / By wrapping his arms around him.
3. Hades.
4. A huge dog with three heads. Beast / animal / gatekeeper.
5. To guard the entrance to the Underworld. / gatekeeper.
6. 12.

Inference

1. Because of the pile of bones by Cerberus.
2. Answers could include: He is described as a monster. / There is a pile of bones near him. / The king thinks it will be impossible to capture him.
3. Because he recognises some of the voices he hears in the Underworld.
4. Answers could include: Because he paid with a gold coin. / He didn't have a choice. / It's his job.

6 Sand dunes

Retrieve and record

1. A sand sea is a large area of sand dunes.
2. It covers almost 8.5 million square kilometres.
3. False. "Deserts with sand dunes are found in many continents." / "Most deserts are found in a broad belt around the world centred on 25 degrees north and south of the equator."
4. Dunes move as the wind blows sand from one side of the dune crest to the other.
5. A sand sea.

Inference

1. Because light particles of dust form into clouds and blow away.
2. Answers could include: The wind blows the sand in different ways/from different directions at different times.
3. Answers could include: Yes, because it has waves and looks like a sea. / No, because it is dry and not made of water.
4. Answers could include: Yes, because it all looks the same everywhere.

7 Excavation of Vindolandia

Retrieve and record

1. Because there was a lot of rain/a storm and mud.
2. Because it meant they were in the right place. / It meant they might find more artefacts.
3. Trowel, tray.
4. Because people have found incredible artefacts there.
5. The wooden fort was replaced by a stone fort.

Inference

1. Answers could include: So no one else would find it before she could get back to it. / To keep it safe from the rain.
2. She had a hunch. / She felt they were on the right track/looking in the right place.
3. Because the rain made it hard to work. / The mud kept filling in the area where they were digging.

Speech and style notes

1. You may want to remind students about the 5 W's in reporting - who, what, where, when and why

8 A fortune in the mountains

Retrieve and record

1. In 1896 / August 1896.
2. 1500 steps carved out of mountain ice.
3. They were not prepared for the cold. / They were not prepared for having to travel on foot.
4. Sorting gold from gravel in and around rivers.
5. News of the great discovery travelled over the telegraph wires like wildfire.

Inference

1. Because it was a lot of gold. / It could make them rich.
2. Answers could include: Because no one lives there but ghosts.
3. That it was transported in whatever people had available to them. / That it was not transported in an organised way.
4. False. The miners cut down forests for fuel and left piles of waste to pollute the ground. Over a century later, still nothing will grow on these waste tips.

Speech and style notes

1. You may want to review with students the geography of how mountains form, and of erosion.

9 Victorian mining

Retrieve and record

1. A tunnel in a Victorian coal mine. The information is at the beginning of the play. The audience might know from a voiceover, or from looking at the set.
2. No. The gurl is the leather belt used to pull the corf.
3. A metal lamp that has metal gauze over it so that only a certain amount of air can get to it, so there is not enough gas near the flame for an explosion.
4. Because they could be explosions. / The mine could cave in and fill with water. / The dirt and soot could make you sick.

Inference

1. Because of the dirt and soot in the air.
2. Child 2 started when he was 8, Child 1 just started working and is 10.
3. Answers could include: So they could get more work done. / To keep from blocking the tunnel. / To keep the candles from igniting gas that may build up.
4. Answers could include: They would work for little money. / They were small and could fit in smaller tunnels.

10 Daffodils

Retrieve and record

1. A lot / a host / a crowd.
2. Beside a lake, beneath the trees / along a bay.
3. A cloud.
4. Over vales and hills.
5. They were blown by the wind.

Inference

1. Because he writes that he often thinks of them when he is lying on his couch.
2. False. "And then my heart with pleasure fills" / "A poet could not but be gay, in such jocund company."
3. He writes that he is often lying on his couch in a vacant or pensive mood. / He writes about "the bliss of solitude".
4. Stars, a crowd.

11 The mighty city of Ur

Retrieve and record

1. Because it was located on the River Euphrates by the sea, and the surrounding land was fertile.
2. The local god.
3. Because the city could not afford to build the ziggurat until it became wealthy.
4. People left the city (also, the Sumerian language died out).
5. Archaeologists found goods that were made elsewhere in Sumerian tombs.

Inference

1. It started around 2,900 BC / around 5,000 years ago.
2. Answers could include: Because they were large. / Because they were beautiful. / Because they were filled with valuable things.
3. False. "Farming in the riverside fields was being made more reliable by using irrigation".
4. Answers could include: It was easier. / It was more reliable. / It was safer. / They could carry more things with them.

12 The age of stone

Retrieve and record

1. 40,000 - 30,000 BC.
2. 4,200 BC. People learn how to make bronze.
3. 1.
4. Devon.
5. Neolithic.
6. No, the text says that the last part of the building of Stonehenge happened in the Bronze Age.
7. Rising sea levels cut Britain off from mainland Europe.

Inference

1. There were a large number of people and they began organising into groups. / They began growing crops.
2. Answers could include: They move fast. / They hide among the trees. / People did not have good weapons.
3. Answers could include: Bogs have grown small enough to pass over on causeways. / There are more trees so causeways can be built.
4. Answers could include: There were more plants. / Crops were planted. / It was harder to hunt as people divided the land up into territories. / People were trading more.
5. Answers could include: They had to travel in order to hunt and gather crops. / They may have moved with the seasons.

13 Where does coffee come from?

Retrieve and record

1. False. The text says that coffee is grown in Central and South America, the Caribbean and Africa.
2. Because the ground coffee does not have to soak in hot water before it can be drunk.
3. Robusta, Arabica.
4. The tall trees provide shade and keep the frost away.
5. Farmers grow coffee to a certain standard and sell the beans through a cooperative. They get a higher price for the coffee, so the farmers can earn more money.

Inference

1. Because the small companies are competing with them. / The farmers would prefer to sell to the fair trade cooperative because they can earn more money.
2. Because it is valuable and in demand.
3. Students own answers. Answers may include: Yes, because the farmers can earn more money. / No, because the coffee is more expensive to buy.

4. The UK does not have the right climate. / It is too cold in the UK.

14 The curse of the mummy

Retrieve and record

1. Early evening/night time. The text says the last amber rays of sunlight slid across the sands - so the sun was just going down.
2. The leader.
3. The riches had been stolen by earlier robbers.
4. He was healthy. / He was annoyed that there were no riches.
5. Spores.

Inference

1. Answer may include: They are going after dark. / They cover their faces and hide their footprints. / They move slowly and in the dark.
2. Because they are trying hard not to get caught.
3. As they dig, they lose spirit, then the leader tells them they are close, so they have new spirit. When they find the tomb, they are happy and eager, but when they realise there is no treasure they are disappointed.
4. Because the men all catch a disease from the spores that were in the sarcophagus with the mummy, and die.
5. Answer may include: They will also get sick.

15 The walrus and the carpenter

Retrieve and record

1. At night.
2. Because the sun was out at night.
3. Any two of: shoes, ships, sealing wax, cabbages, kings.
4. On a rock.
5. They were all eaten.

Inference

1. Correct. The Walrus says, "If you're ready oysters dear, we can begin to feed."
2. Answers could include: He knew the Walrus wanted to eat them. / He was tired and old and did not want to walk. / He did not trust the Walrus.
3. Their coats were brushed, faces washed and shoes were clean. / A lot of oysters turned up for the walk.

4. Because they realised they had been tricked. / They realised the Walrus and Carpenter were going to eat them.
5. Answers could include: Walruses don't talk or walk with people, or walk. / Oysters don't walk or talk. / The sun was out at night. / The Walrus and Carpenter talk about cleaning the beach of sand. / etc.

Sequencing

c, b, d, a

16 Peoples of the rainforest

Retrieve and record

1. Brazil.
2. False. The text says: There are so few of them that each person has never needed more than one name.
3. By hunting and gathering in the rainforest.
4. A starchy root.
5. As exercise / to make them strong / as a gym lesson.

Inference

1. They are hard to catch
2. Answers should include: To make farmland to grow more food and make space for grazing cattle.
3. Answers could include: They live deep in the rainforest / They lived far from other people / They did not need to come out of the rainforest for anything.
4. Students own answers. Answers could include: They will need to move into the cities. / Their way of life will disappear. / They will move farther away/ into the rainforest.

17 The raiders return

Retrieve and record

1. Answers could include: sweat dripping from his face / he gasped and panted / his aching arm screaming in agony.
2. Answers could include: That they raid the same place over and over again.
3. False. The text says: "Sweat dripping from his forehead despite the cool August air."

4. Immediately, Algar knew something was wrong. / Her pale face was drawn, and her eyes nervous / Around him, others sat up, some grabbing swords that had been leant against their beds in readiness.

Inference

1. They are husband and wife. The text says, "We have to go!" his wife said.
2. Answers could include: He looks at the fire but does not want to take the risk. / He is worried the cots will be pulled apart by the raiders. / He thinks the raiders will tear apart the longhouse looking for goods.
3. Because they arrive in ships, so the coastal villages are closest, they are easy to attack and to get away from quickly, before help can arrive.
4. Answers could include: He was surprised / He was worried about raiders coming back / He was dreaming of raiders coming back.
5. Answers could include: Fight / run away / give them the coins and hope they would not kill him.

18 London Bridge

Retrieve and record

1. The Romans.
2. To let sailing ships through.
3. The Vikings.
4. Extraordinary / famous.
5. False: The text says: By 1894, the new Tower Bridge was opened.

Inference

1. Because people had to travel on foot or by horse, and this took a long time.
2. Because there was a chapel on the bridge dedicated to the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chapel of St Thomas.
3. Answers could include: To prevent people from escaping.
4. Because it was full of buildings / it was built partly of wood.

Sequencing

c, a, d, b

