



# Year 5

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# NAPLAN<sup>\*</sup>-style READING

## Workbook and Tests



Improve reading  
and comprehension

Develop and apply language  
and literacy skills

Interpret ideas and  
understand meaning



- ✓ Build skills with beginner, medium and advanced levels
- ✓ Levelled practice exercises based on the Australian Curriculum
- ✓ Answers for all exercises and tests

## 4 NAPLAN-style practice tests

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**Year 5**

# **NAPLAN<sup>\*</sup>-style**

## **READING**

### **Workbook and Tests**



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# Beginner Reading

## Traditional tale

Read the extract from *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and then answer the questions about this text.

### The Emperor's New Clothes

Many years ago, there lived an emperor who was so fond of fine clothes that he spent all his money on his outfits. He was so vain that he didn't care about his soldiers or going to the theatre or hunting; all he cared about was how well dressed he was. The emperor had a different suit for every hour of the day. Where most rulers could be found in their court with their ministers, the emperor could always be found in his wardrobe.

The great city where the emperor ruled was very merry and busy, and many merchants and strangers from far away travelled to visit and do business there.

One day, two tricksters arrived in town, claiming that they were weavers of the finest cloth. They told everyone the clothes that were made from their luxurious material had the amazing property of remaining invisible to anyone who was unfit for the position they held.



1. What does the word 'vain' mean in the phrase 'He was so vain that he didn't care about his soldiers ...'?

- ☐ sick with a blood disease
- ☐ conceited or extremely proud
- ☐ ugly but interesting

2. What did the emperor spend all his money on?

- ☐ the poor
- ☐ magicians
- ☐ his outfits

3. Where was the emperor most often found?

- ☐ in his wardrobe
- ☐ at the markets
- ☐ in his kitchen

4. What do you think the word 'unfit' means in the phrase 'unfit for their positions'?

- ☐ out of breath
- ☐ not worthy
- ☐ too large to fit in clothes



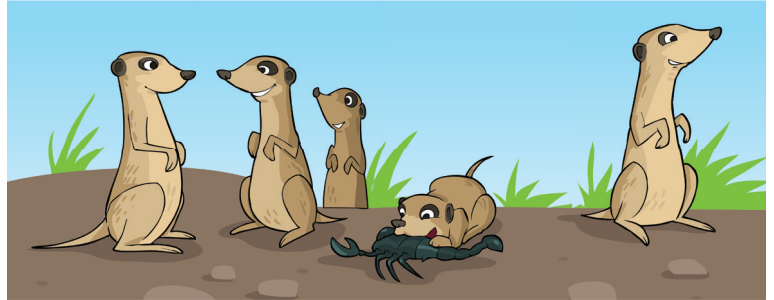
## Factual text

Read the facts about meerkats, and then answer the questions about this text.

### Meerkats

Meerkats are members of the mongoose family. They are small mammals that dig tunnels and burrows. They are not cats.

Meerkats live in all parts of the Kalahari Desert and in South Africa.



A meerkat's body is about 25–30 cm long. Their tail is about 20 cm long. There are dark patches around a meerkat's eyes that make their eyes appear bigger than they actually are.

Meerkats eat small birds, spiders, moths, crickets, caterpillars, lizards, mice, roots and occasionally snakes. Meerkats also eat scorpions. They do this by biting off the stinger and wiping the poison on the sand before eating it.

Meerkats live in packs or colonies. Each member has a special task to do. Some forage for food while others act as sentries. The sentry climbs to a high place. It gives loud warning cries if a predator is spotted. These warning calls are different if the danger is a snake, bird or other predator.

Meerkats stand facing the sun to warm up. Meerkats are not an endangered species.

1. Meerkats are members of the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
2. Where do meerkats live? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is one of the duties of a meerkat in a pack? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why don't meerkats die when they eat scorpions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does it mean that 'Meerkats are not an endangered species'? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does a meerkat know if a bird, snake or other predator is approaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Medium Reading

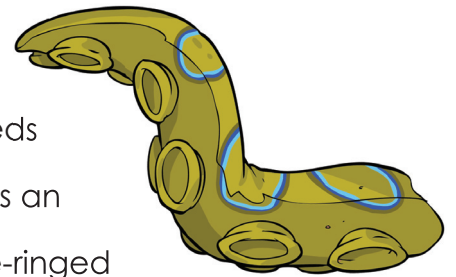
## Factual text—cloze passage

Some of the words are missing in this information report about the blue-ringed octopus. Fill in the missing words to complete this report. Choose from the words in the box below.

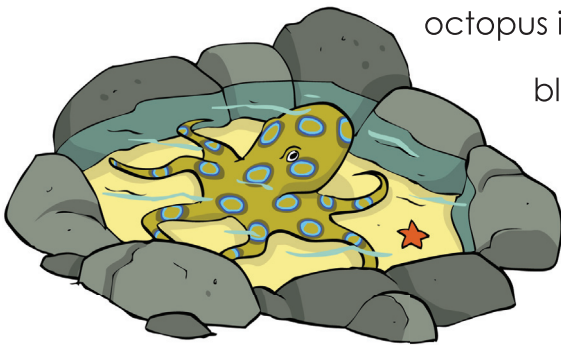
eight      disguise      rings      fish      hearts      bones  
venom      26      rocky pools      suckers

### The Blue-ringed Octopus

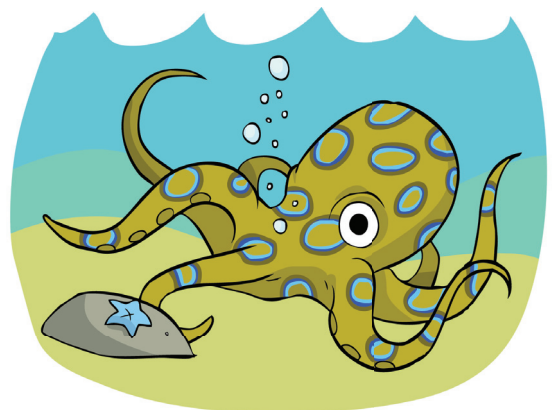
A blue-ringed octopus has 1. \_\_\_\_\_ arms. Each arm has 2. \_\_\_\_\_ underneath. The blue-ringed octopus feeds mainly on 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and crabs. A blue-ringed octopus is an invertebrate, which means it has no 4. \_\_\_\_\_.



The blue-ringed octopus is found in 5. \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean. The name, blue-ringed octopus, has been given because of the characteristic blue and black 6. \_\_\_\_\_ found on its yellowish skin. Like all other octopuses it also has three 7. \_\_\_\_\_ and blue blood.



The blue-ringed octopus can kill with its powerful 8. \_\_\_\_\_. Despite its small size, a blue-ringed octopus carries enough poison to kill 9. \_\_\_\_\_ humans within a matter of minutes. These species are also clever at camouflaging themselves in the water. Camouflage means to 10. \_\_\_\_\_.



## Recount text

Read the text, *Our Trip to the Gold Fields*, and then answer the questions about this text.

### Our Trip to the Gold Fields

Last week our class went on an excursion to Hill End to help us learn about the Gold Rush era in Australia in the 1800s. We left school extremely early on a coach and travelled on many winding roads for almost six hours. We arrived mid-afternoon.

First we walked around the town exploring the old buildings such as the school, hospital and hotel. Some of the buildings were falling apart. We then walked to the cemetery and read some interesting gravestones. I was surprised and sad to read how many babies and small children died in the gold rush time.

The next day we walked through the bush to some goldmines. We staggered through a long, underground tunnel and saw where the miners chipped away at the rock hoping to shout 'Eureka!' when they found gold. Then we climbed up a vertical ladder to get back out. Fortunately nobody fell down any mines.

Next, at the gold museum, we saw a model of the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found. It was called the Welcome Stranger and was found in 1869 in Moliagul, Victoria.

After that we went to a river. It was so cold we had to chip through a thin layer of ice to pan for gold. A few kids found some minute specks of gold. We wondered if the teachers had sprinkled them in for us to find.

We left that afternoon on the long bus trip home. Everybody had a fantastic time but we were very tired.

1. When was the gold rush in Australia? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were some of the buildings in the town falling apart? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is another word for 'era'? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where was the writer when he or she felt surprised and sad? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did miners shout when they found gold? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the Welcome Stranger? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where does the writer suspect the tiny specks of gold came from in the river? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Advanced Reading

## Factual text

Read *Our Earliest Clocks*, and then write True or False for the questions about the text.

### Our Earliest Clocks

A clock is an instrument used to indicate and measure time.

One of the first clocks used in ancient times was the sundial. Sundials were used in many cultures to help people understand what time it was.

A sundial measured the time of day using the Sun. The Egyptians were the first to use sundials. They built obelisks which were slim, tapering, four-sided monuments as early as 3500 BCE. Their moving shadows formed a kind of sundial.

Sundials allowed citizens to divide the day into two parts by signifying noon. When the Sun was directly overhead and the shadows of people and objects were at their shortest, it was said to be midday or noon. As the Sun moved from east to west the shadows formed predicted the other times of day. Markings on a circular or cylindrical piece of stone indicated the hours of a day.

Water clocks are another type of early clock, said to be invented by the Egyptians. These timepieces were different to sundials as they did not rely on the Sun or any other celestial body. Water clocks measured time by a flowing of liquid into a container where the amount was measured. The Greeks began to use water clocks in about 325 BCE. These were stone vessels with sloping sides that allowed water to drip at a nearly constant rate from a small hole near the bottom. Markings on the inside surfaces measured the passage of hours as the water level reached them. These clocks were used to determine hours at night, but may have been used in daylight as well.

The first completely mechanical clocks were invented in the 1100s in Medieval Europe.

1. The Egyptians were the first to use sundials. \_\_\_\_\_
2. An obelisk is a stone vessel with sloping sides. \_\_\_\_\_
3. When the Sun is directly overhead, the shadows of people and objects are at their longest. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Greeks were said to have invented water clocks. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Sun moves from east to west before noon and west to east after noon. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The first completely mechanical clocks were invented in Medieval Europe. \_\_\_\_\_



# Advanced Reading

## Narrative text

Read *Abseiling Nightmare*, and then answer the questions about this text.

### Abseiling Nightmare

The sunset was spectacular. Streaks of tangerine and orange juxtaposed with fluorescent purple, all mixed with the goldest of gold. This was the scene that greeted us as we dragged our bags to our tents. We were told to go to bed early as we would be up at the crack of dawn.

Our soccer manager had decided we needed a team-bonding weekend. At 5.30am a clanging saucepan woke us up. We had 5 minutes to get dressed.

Our destination was Devil's Rock. Here we would abseil down a 9-metre cliff. Mitchell and I were not looking forward to it. We were both scared of heights.

By breakfast time we found ourselves precariously balanced on the edge of a cliff with ropes, ascenders, descenders, harnesses and prusiks. Mitchell went first and descended without a hitch. Champion! I went third. With shaking knees I turned my back to the cliff and with shuffling steps I lowered myself over the edge.

The team was cheering as I disappeared over the edge. What they didn't see was that I had pushed out too far and was spinning, moving closer to the cliff with each swing.

I hit a jagged rock and my shirt became snagged on a branch. I wasn't hurt but my pride was shattered as 13 pairs of eyes peered over to see what was happening. A leader abseiled quickly down beside me. He ripped my shirt as he pulled me free. He coached me down the rest of the way. I was very glad to have my feet on the ground.

What I didn't like hearing was that he wanted me to have another go. Sheepishly I climbed back up for my second turn. All I really wanted to do was sit by the campfire and gaze at another spectacular sunset.

