

# Contents

<i>Introduction</i> .....	<i>ii</i>
<i>Treasure Hunt</i> .....	<i>1-3</i>
<i>Rocky Shore Adventure</i> .....	<i>4-6</i>
<i>Desert Trek</i> .....	<i>7-9</i>
<i>Alien Encounter</i> .....	<i>10-12</i>
<i>The Castle</i> .....	<i>13-15</i>
<i>Stowaway!</i> .....	<i>16-18</i>
<i>Living With The Dinosaurs</i> .....	<i>19-21</i>
<i>Balloon Ride</i> .....	<i>22-24</i>
<i>Caving Adventure</i> .....	<i>25-27</i>
<i>Swimming With The Dolphins</i> .....	<i>28-30</i>
<i>Skiing Adventure</i> .....	<i>31-33</i>
<i>Sea Kayak Quest</i> .....	<i>34-36</i>
<i>The Hidden Cave</i> .....	<i>37-39</i>
<i>Lion Safari</i> .....	<i>40-42</i>
<i>Horse-Riding Trek</i> .....	<i>43-45</i>
<i>Burma Trail</i> .....	<i>46-48</i>
<i>Helicopter Ride</i> .....	<i>49-51</i>
<i>Overnight Camp</i> .....	<i>52-54</i>
<i>Climbing Adventure</i> .....	<i>55-57</i>
<i>Four Seasons</i> .....	<i>58-60</i>
<i>Answers</i> .....	<i>61-62</i>

# Introduction

Listening skills are essential if students are to succeed in all areas of the curriculum, and in their every-day lives.

This resource will provide continuous opportunities for students to develop good listening skills in the classroom.

## How to use this resource

The story should be READ ALOUD by the teacher. (The students do NOT read the story themselves.) Pre-read the story to familiarize yourself with the content. As you read it to the students, try to use a calm soothing voice, and avoid speaking too quickly. Pause at the end of each sentence, and at the end of paragraphs to let the information 'sink in'.

Each story has two activity sheets to accompany it.

1. Listening comprehension activities directly related to the information in the story and
2. Creative Expression activities which develop the content of the stories in creative ways.

When students first start using this resource, they may find it difficult to concentrate for the entire time. This is a skill which they will develop as you continue to use the resource. Insist that students are quiet, or they will interrupt other students' thought processes. It is also ideal if the students keep their eyes closed, as this will help them retain the information by limiting distractions. Explain to students the purpose of the activities and talk about what it means to 'listen actively' and 'for a sustained period of time'.

### Suggested lesson format and extension ideas

#### 1. A CALMING EXPERIENCE

The students lie (or sit) quietly, and listen, as the teacher slowly reads out the story. It is useful to relax students after a busy lunch hour, or when students are particularly unsettled for some reason. You may also find that students will ask you to repeat a form story.

#### 2. A POSSIBLE PROGRESSION

- i) Cue students to listen for particular information before you start reading. Look at the Listening Comprehension sheet for the information they will need.
- ii) At first write the cues on the board and then move to giving them orally.
- iii) At first let the students make notes as they hear the information come up in the story and progress to them remembering/retaining the information until the end of the story.
- iv) After the students can hear the cues orally and remember them without writing them down, reduce the number of cues you give until you reach the point where you give no cues before reading the story at all.

#### 2. LISTENING COMPREHENSION\*

After the reading of the story, the students complete the Listening Comprehension sheet. This can be done in silence, and may be retained by the teacher to gather information for assessment. (Answers are on page 61. Another way for the Listening Comprehension sheet to be used is to discuss the worksheet as a class or groups, and allow the students to complete it in a more informal way.

#### 3. CREATIVE EXPRESSION\*

This may be used instead of, or in conjunction with the Listening Comprehension sheet. It is also ideal as an independent activity for fast workers. This sheet may be used as an assessment tool to gather information on the child's ability to be creative and to follow instructions.

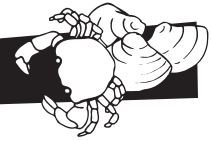
#### 4. DRAMATIC EXPRESSION

The students listen to the story as the teacher reads it. As the teacher reads the story for a second time, the students use drama to act out the story. Another option could be for the teacher to record the story onto a tape and replay it, so she/he may join in and provide a model.

- \* The activity sheets may not be appropriate for younger students who are unable to read or write yet. However, you are still able to use the stories. Follow up the reading with a shared writing activity with the whole class, or encourage students to record their ideas in the form of drama or pictures.



# Rocky Shore Adventure



*Hello children. It's time for our Learning To Listen story.*

*Lie down with your back on the mat or lean forward and put your head on your table.*

*Make sure you're not touching anyone. Close your eyes. Remember we are learning to actively listen for a sustained amount of time.*

*Now take a deep breath, hold it, and let it out slowly. Do it again, breathe in ... and out. Breathe in, and out. I want you to keep taking deep breaths while I read you a story.*

## **Listen carefully.**

Today you are going on a rocky shore adventure. Your challenge is to walk around the base of a mountain, that happens to be situated right on the rocky shore! You are travelling with an experienced ranger who has completed this walk many times. He has checked the tides and it is safe for you to complete this walk over the next three hours.

You are ready to go. You are wearing what the ranger suggested before the trip. You have your swimming suit on, and over the top you are wearing a light t-shirt and pair of shorts. You are also wearing a cap, and have covered your skin with sun block. On your feet are some comfortable but light sport shoes.

You are carrying a snack and drink in a small back-pack. The ranger has told you to put everything inside a plastic bag with a seal, but you are not sure why!

It's time to go! It's a great day for it – warm and sunny. You follow the ranger to the sandy beach, and walk over to where the rocks begin. The first part of the walk is very easy. The boulders are large, smooth and flat and you can easily jump from one to another. In between some of them are colorful rock pools, and you stop to see the anemones, crabs and tiny fish that live in them.

After a while, the rocks change. They are smaller and jagged. Some of them are wobbly, so you must take care not to topple over when they move beneath your feet. You are walking more slowly now, and choosing your rocks carefully. Some of them have seaweed on them, which is slippery. Others are covered with tiny black mussel shells, which are not only slippery but would be very sharp if you fell on them!

Just then, you come around the corner and you are surprised to see a great expanse of water in front of you! The ranger explains that this is the water crossing that you must complete to make it around the mountain.

Luckily, he also says to stop for a break before you attempt the swim. You open your pack, and take out a snack, which is a mix of nuts, seeds and chocolate. It is delicious, and it will give you the extra energy you will need. You also take a big drink of water as your throat is starting to feel quite dry in the warm sun.

It's time to move on. You pack your bag again, and then the ranger explains how to cross the water. You watch him as he strips off his t-shirt, shorts, and shoes, and puts them in his waterproof bag inside his pack. Then he puts his pack into the water, and jumps into the water. He swims across, pushing his pack in front of him. Now you know why you needed the plastic bag!

You take off your outer clothes and shoes, and put them in your pack. You walk to the edge of the water, and put the pack in. Then you ease yourself into the water. It's very cold after being in the warm sun for so long! You swim into the middle of the channel, pushing your pack in front of you. Just then, there is a shout from the ranger. "Stay there! Don't move!"

You don't know what is wrong, but you do what the ranger says. You tread water for a moment, holding on to your pack tightly. Finally, the ranger calls for you to complete your crossing. You do so quickly, and clamber up the other side of the rock. "That was close," says the ranger. "I needed you to stay there because there was a sting-ray in the water! I must have disturbed it when I crossed."

A sting-ray! They have poisonous barbs on their tails! You're very glad that you listened to the ranger and stopped when you did! You stop and dry off for a moment in the sun, before putting your shoes back on your feet. You then keep walking along the rocks until you are warm and dry again.

It's more like a beach on this side. There is no sand, but there are small pebbles everywhere. Some are plain grey, while others are multicolored with slashes of pink and green. You choose three to take home as souvenirs. You also find the shell of a crab, which is as big as your hand! You wonder how big the pincers of a crab that size would be!

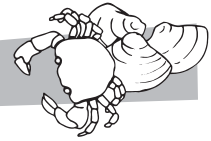
It's time to keep walking now, because you're nearly at the end. You come around the corner, and see that you are back on the sandy beach. You've finished! That was a great rocky shore adventure.

*We're going to take three deep breaths again. Breathe in, hold, and slowly breathe out. Then again, breathe in, and out. Breathe in, and out.*

*Good. Now slowly sit up.*

*We've finished.*

*Well done.*



## Listening Comprehension

1. During your rocky shore adventure, you moved through different sections. Put them in order.

- a) the channel
- b) the sandy beach
- c) the pebble beach
- d) the jagged rocks
- e) the smooth rocks
- f) the sandy beach

1st - .....

2nd - .....

3rd - .....

4th - .....

5th - .....

6th - .....

2. Choose one of the sections below and describe it in detail.

smooth rocks      or       jagged rocks      or       pebble beach

Section - .....

Description .....

.....

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3. Describe how you prepared for this trip. Consider – clothing, food, and equipment. What was the purpose for each item?

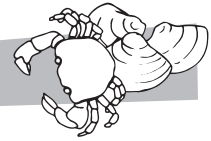
Clothing	Purpose

Food	Purpose

Equipment	Purpose



# Rocky Shore Adventure



## Creative Expression

1. The rocky shore can be a dangerous place! Write a list of some of the problems you could have on your adventure.

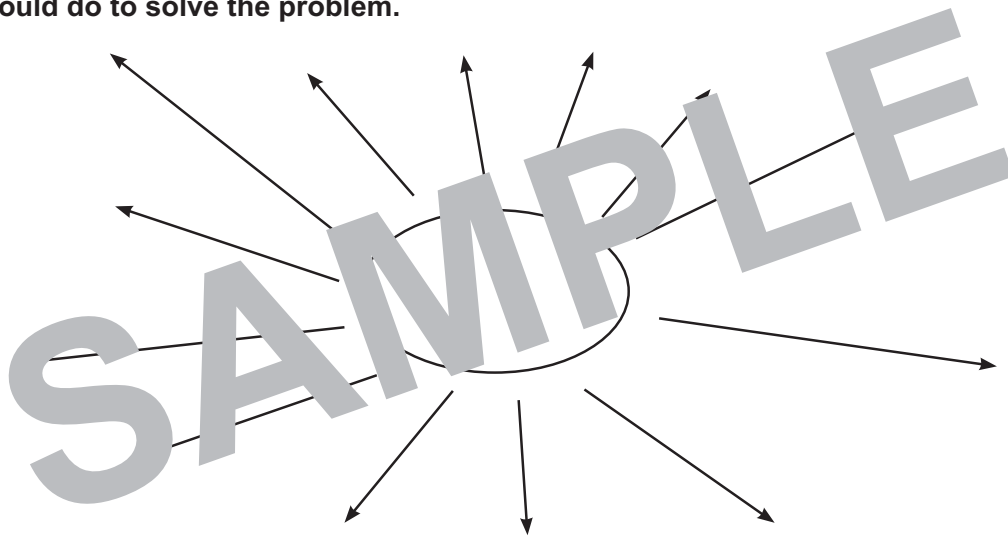
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2. Choose one of problems. Put it in the middle of the web. Brainstorm some ideas of what you could do to solve the problem.



3. Choose one of the problems and solutions, and write a story about it. Continue on another page if you need to.

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