

Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘Street Urchin’ on pg.2 and 3 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.4. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Animal Evolution’ on pg.5 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Word’ and ‘Sentence’ questions on pg. 6 and 7. Answers can be found on pg.8. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework books are handed in at school on
Wednesday 16th October.***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Autumn 1 Week 5** list of words will take place next **Friday**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication Facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place every **Thursday**. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class.*



Street Urchin

Tom knew he was late for dinner, and he knew what that meant. If he wasn't sat at the table at half-past-six on the dot, he wouldn't be getting any food. If he wasn't there by sunset, he'd be locked out until the morning. That was the arrangement he'd had with Jack ever since he'd moved into the spare room down in the rookeries. He knew it well enough, but right now there was nothing he could do about it.

If he was honest, Tom knew he was lost. That annoyed even more. He'd grown up on these streets, he knew them like the back of his unwashed hand. It was the dogs, he thought. They'd thrown him off his game, and he'd scrambled from alleyway to alleyway without really checking where he was going. It wasn't fair, the peelers weren't supposed to use dogs. It was only one necklace after all, and it wasn't like the old lady would miss it, was it? She was covered in pearls and he could practically smell the wealth on her.

Up ahead, maybe a mile away, Tom could see the beaming face of Big Ben. He took a moment to catch his breath and listen out for the sounds of anyone in pursuit. Other than the usual sounds of fights breaking out and people selling anything they could get their hands on, the night seemed peaceful. Now he knew where the clock was, he calmed down.

Scrambling on the floor, his fingers pressed up against what he had hoped to find. Darkness filled the alleyway, but he knew what he was looking for. Years as a tosher had taught his fingers what the edge of a manhole cover felt like and he was quickly down and into the sewers. It had been a while since he'd had to use the subterranean passages and the smell stung his eyes but he instantly felt back at home.

One of his greatest nights had been spent splashing around the filth. He'd almost been ready to call it a night when he'd found a huge ball of mud and coins caked together - a tosheroon. There'd been enough silver in that ball to keep him fed for a month. Thinking back, he'd found it not far from where he was now.

Even though he was risking a shut-out, Tom couldn't help but take a detour and check out the same spot once more. He didn't even think, he just let his feet take him through the old routine until he was stood next to an inlet where the water swirled and caught. Sure enough, something was glinting in the murky light that filtered down from the drain overhead.

Tentatively, not wanting to break whatever magic had brought him there, Tom crouched down and picked up the piece of gold. He wiped it on his jumper and nearly dropped it in surprise. It was a gold ring, worth a year's wage of anyone's money on its own. The twin jewels that topped it, though, meant that neither he nor Jack would ever have to go hungry again.

That was if he could make it back home in time.



INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why did the jewel mean that they would never go hungry?
2. Why did being lost annoy Tom?
3. What happened to reassure Tom?
4. Why did Tom think it wasn't fair that he was being chased?
5. Who were the "peelers"?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

What had Tom done as a job before?

V

Which word tells you that the sewers were underground?

E

Explain how the author's use of Victorian slang improves the story.

S

What happened when Tom remembered the tosheroon he'd found?

P

Write the next paragraph in the story.

Answers - Street Urchin:

1. They could sell it and use the money
2. He knew the streets well
3. He saw Big Ben
4. It was only a necklace and the lady was rich/wouldn't miss it
5. The police - nicknamed because the head of the police was Robert Peel

R: Tosher

V: Subterranean

E: Any explanation that touches on making the story more authentic and believable

S: He went out of his way to check that area again and found the ring

P: Any suitable prediction in the structure of the story

All life on Earth can trace its ancestry back to a handful of living organisms. Back then, they were single-celled microscopic things that looked nothing like an animal you would see today. However, some of the familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you might think.

Somewhere around 550 million years ago, a creature crawled across the ocean bed before dying suddenly. The trail that it left and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute (they were found in China), but it is the earliest known example of some revolutionary adaptations.

Yilingia spiciformis, as it is known, is the first example of a creature with a distinct front and back end. It is the earliest creature known to have a left side that mirrored its right. These may not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern. Imagine a lion without a clear front and back. You'd never know which way to run!

In the same area and from roughly the same time, scientists have found tracks that indicate a small sea creature had tiny legs - the first animal to have them.

FOCUS ON - WORD

1 . Write an antonym for the underlined word.

modern humans

2 Match the prefixes to the words.
Each prefix can only be used once.

un
mis
re
dis

recognise
traced
appeared
familiar

3 Remove the suffix and write the root word.

root word	suffix word
	earliest
	handful
	roughly
	fossilised



FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 What is the grammatical term for the underlined words?
Tick one.

Imagine a lion without a clear front and back.

- ☐ preposition phrase
- ☐ adverbial
- ☐ present verb tense
- ☐ clause

2 Circle the modal verb in each of the sentences below.

These may not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern.

Familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you might think.

3 Underline the relative clause.

The trail that it left and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute.

4 Change the active sentence into a passive sentence.
Scientists have found tracks.

5 Underline the subject in the sentence.

A creature crawled across the ocean bed.



Answers - Animal Evolution

WORD

1. E.g. ancient, old, prehistoric, early, antiquated, archaic, etc...
2. disappeared
misrecognise
unfamiliar
retraced
3. early
hand
rough
fossil

SENTENCE

1. 1st option – preposition phrase
2. These may not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern.
Familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you might think.
3. The trail that it left and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute.
4. Tracks were found by scientists.
5. A creature crawled across the ocean bed.