

Key

science



reading comprehension worksheets

PHOTOCOPIABLE MATERIAL





Unit 1 Food and nutrition

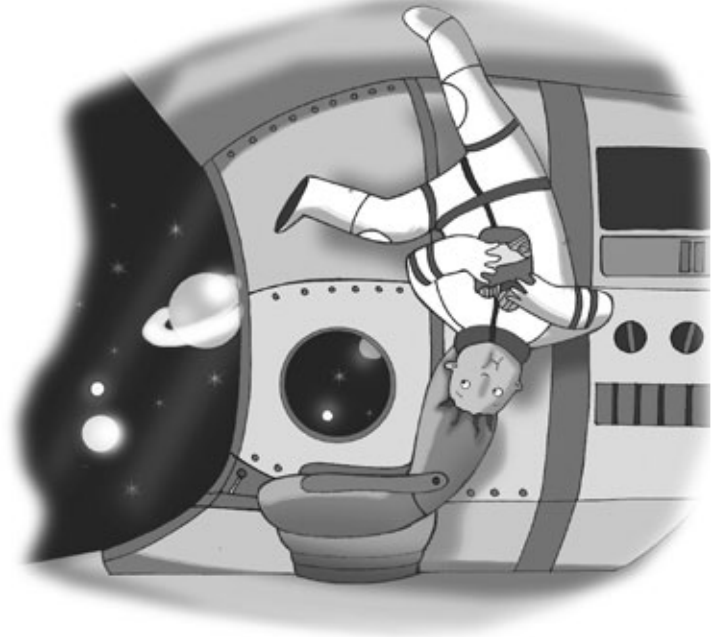
Name: Date:

Digestion trivia

Do you ask yourself about what happens during digestion? For example, why doesn't food go into your respiratory system? This is because your epiglottis, a flap of cartilage at the root of the tongue, acts like a lid when you swallow and it covers and closes your windpipe. But be careful! If you eat too fast, your epiglottis doesn't close in time. Then, your body makes you cough to expel any food in your respiratory system.

And, can you eat upside down? Yes, you can, thanks to the involuntary contractions of the muscles in your throat. They make the food go through your digestive system... even if you are on your head!

And did you know that food likes travelling a lot? After you eat, it travels 6.5 metres through your small intestine, a very long journey!



Read and answer

1. What is your epiglottis?

- a) A flap of cartilage at the root of the tongue.
- b) A vein that carries blood.
- c) A muscle in your eye.

2. What happens when you eat too fast? Circle the odd one out.

you can stop breathing • you cough • you grow
your epiglottis doesn't close in time • food gets in your digestive system

3. Why can you eat upside down?

4. How long is your small intestine? How does it fit in your abdomen? Choose the correct words.

- A small intestine is 6.5 *metres* / *centimetres* long and it fits because it is bunched like a *ball* / *very little*.



Unit 2 Breathing and circulation

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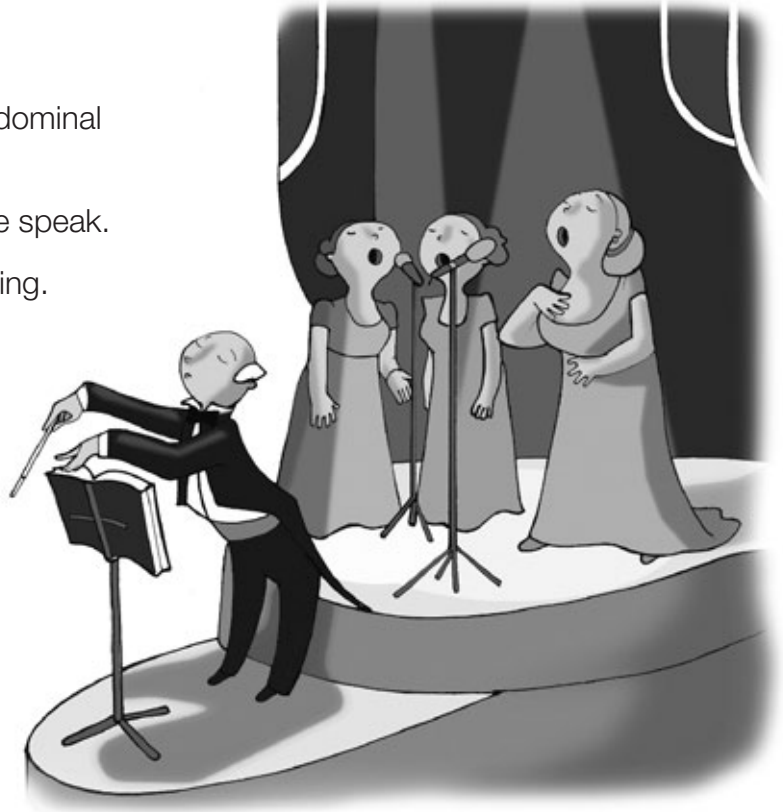
Breathing and singing

Your chest, ribs, back, diaphragm, lungs and abdominal muscles work together when you breathe.

We usually do not think about breathing when we speak.

But when we sing, we have to control our breathing.

Singers learn how to release air little by little. They use their diaphragm and other muscles to regulate air during expiration. The force and length of their breathing lets them produce the different sounds and tones they need for the song they are singing. It is like a type of exercise that keeps their muscles strong so they can control the air they breathe out.



Read and answer

1. What parts of your body take part in the process of breathing?

2. What do singers do that we usually don't?

- We control / do not control normal breathing, but singers do / don't.

3. What can singers change with their breathing?

- a) Music and instruments.
- b) Lyrics and songs.
- c) Sounds and tones.

4. Is exercising your breathing the same as exercising your arms or legs? Explain why.



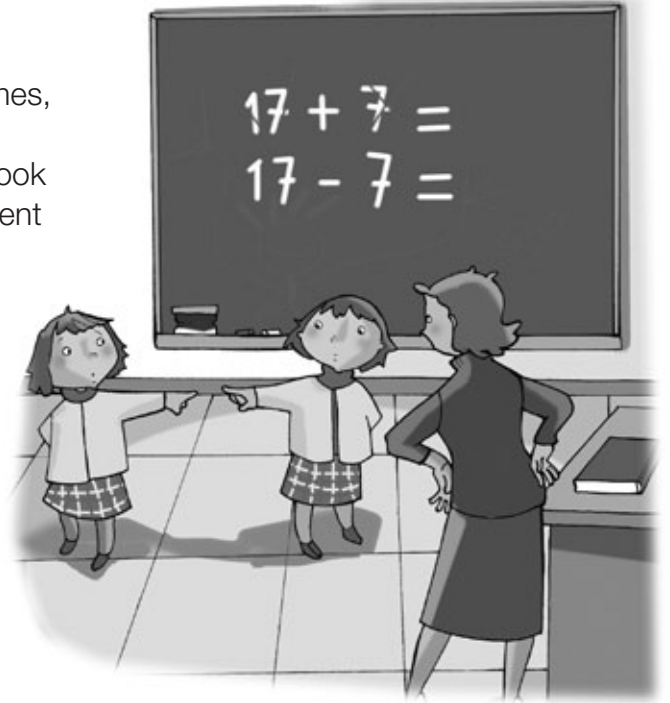
Name: Date:

Identical, but different

Usually only one baby is born during each birth. Other times, two or more babies are born. When this happens, these babies can either look the same or different. Those that look the same are called identical twins. Those that look different are called fraternal twins.

Identical twins come from one fertilised ovum. Fraternal twins come from two different ova. This is why identical twins are usually very similar and fraternal twins can be very different.

Although most people can find ways to differentiate identical twins, there is one thing that is completely different about them... their fingerprints! Fingerprints are unique to each person. That is why all twins, even identical ones, have different fingerprints.



Read and answer

1. Why do identical twins look the same and fraternal twins look different?

- Because identical twins come from *the same ovum / different ova* and fraternal twins come from *the same ovum / different ova*.

2. Are identical twins really the same? What is different about them?

3. What are fingerprints?

- a) They are the hairs in your nose.
- b) They are ridges on the skin of your fingers.
- c) They are the coloured parts of your eyes.

Unit 4 Living things

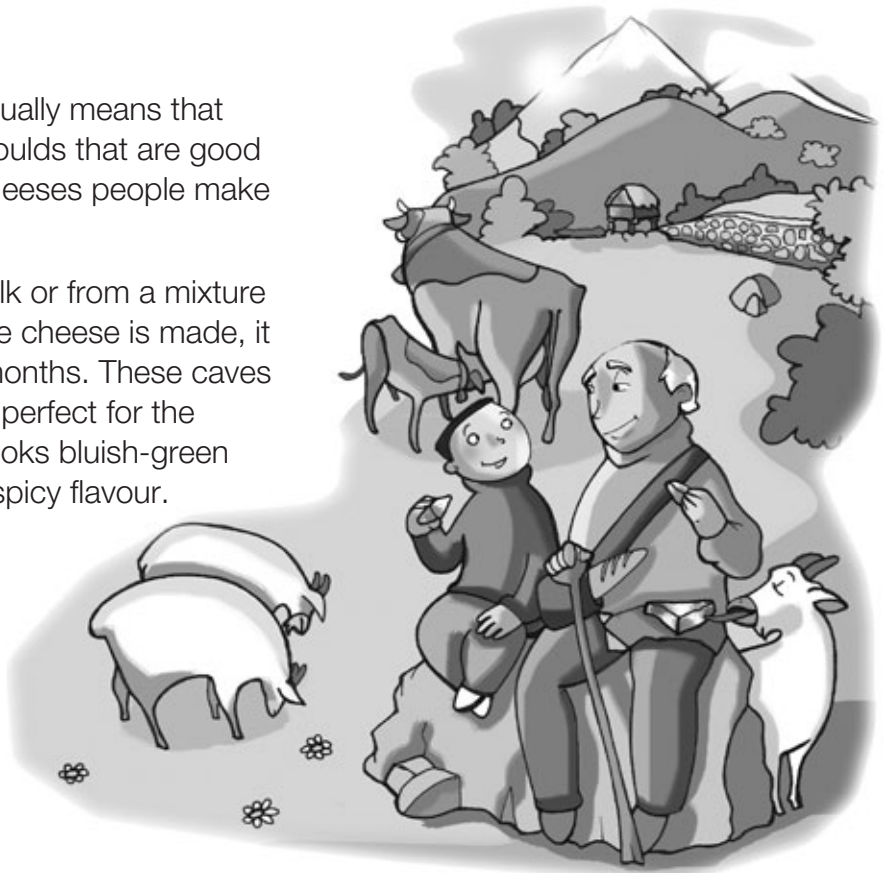
Name: Date:

Mouldy, but yummy!

When we say something is mouldy, it usually means that the food is spoilt. But there are some moulds that are good for you, like the penicillium in the blue cheeses people make in Asturias, in a place called Cabrales.

Cabrales cheese is made from cow's milk or from a mixture of cow, sheep and goat's milk. When the cheese is made, it is put in natural caves for three or four months. These caves have a temperature and humidity that is perfect for the penicillium mould to grow. This mould looks bluish-green and gives the cheese its typical strong, spicy flavour.

Alexander Fleming studied a similar variety of this fungus in 1928. He called it penicillin. We use it for antibiotics that help cure certain illnesses.



Read and answer

1. What group of living things do moulds belong to?

- a) Plants.
- b) Animals.
- c) Fungi.

2. What conditions do the caves have for the mould in Cabrales cheese? Tick the correct answers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underground water. | <input type="checkbox"/> The right temperature. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A correct humidity. | <input type="checkbox"/> Very dry. |

3. What did Fleming discover studying the penicillium mould?

4. What do we use penicillin for?

Unit 5 Ecosystems

Name: Date:

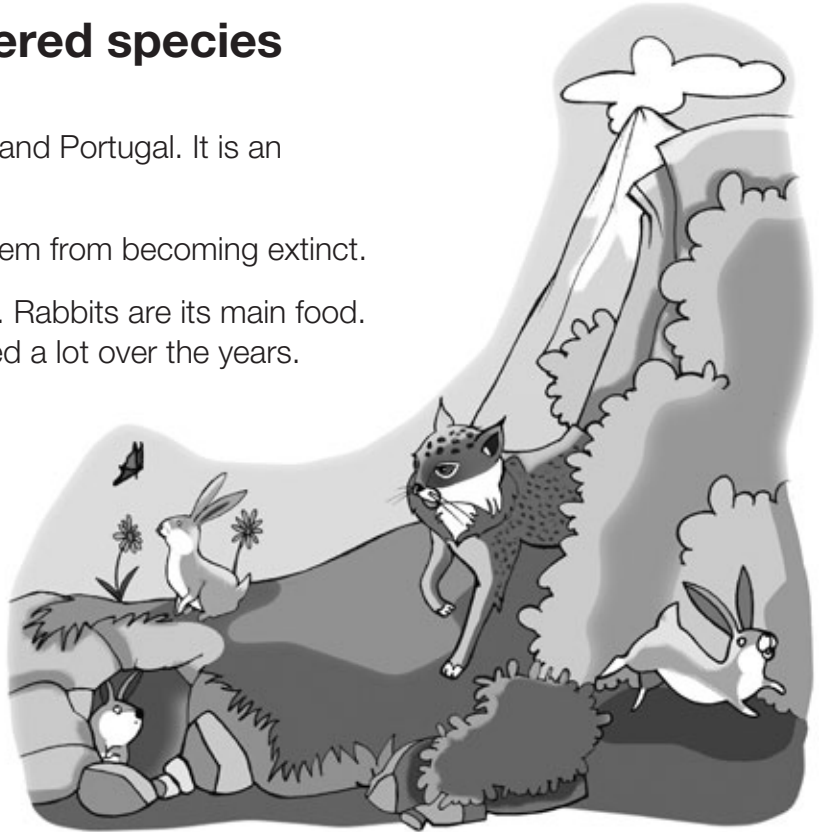
The Iberian lynx: an endangered species

There are only about 300 Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal. It is an endangered species.

They are kept at a wildlife reserve to protect them from becoming extinct.

The lynx only eats the live animals that it hunts. Rabbits are its main food. But the number of these animals has decreased a lot over the years.

At the Doñana National Park in Huelva, there is an experimental program to restore the lynx population. This project tries to increase the live rabbit population in the protected areas. The reason is because the rabbit is the main link in the food chain of the Iberian lynx.



Read and answer

1. What countries do the Iberian lynx live in? Circle the odd one out.

Spain • Portugal • France

2. What is the main food of the Iberian lynx?

3. How are they trying to help the Iberian lynx at Doñana National Park? Tick the correct answers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving the lynx a protected area to live. | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the rabbit population. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping them in cages. | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving them a bath. |

4. What do you think could happen if all the live rabbits disappeared? Choose the correct words.

- That the lynx could also *disappear* / *live*, because live rabbits are the *main* / *secondary* food of the Iberian lynx.

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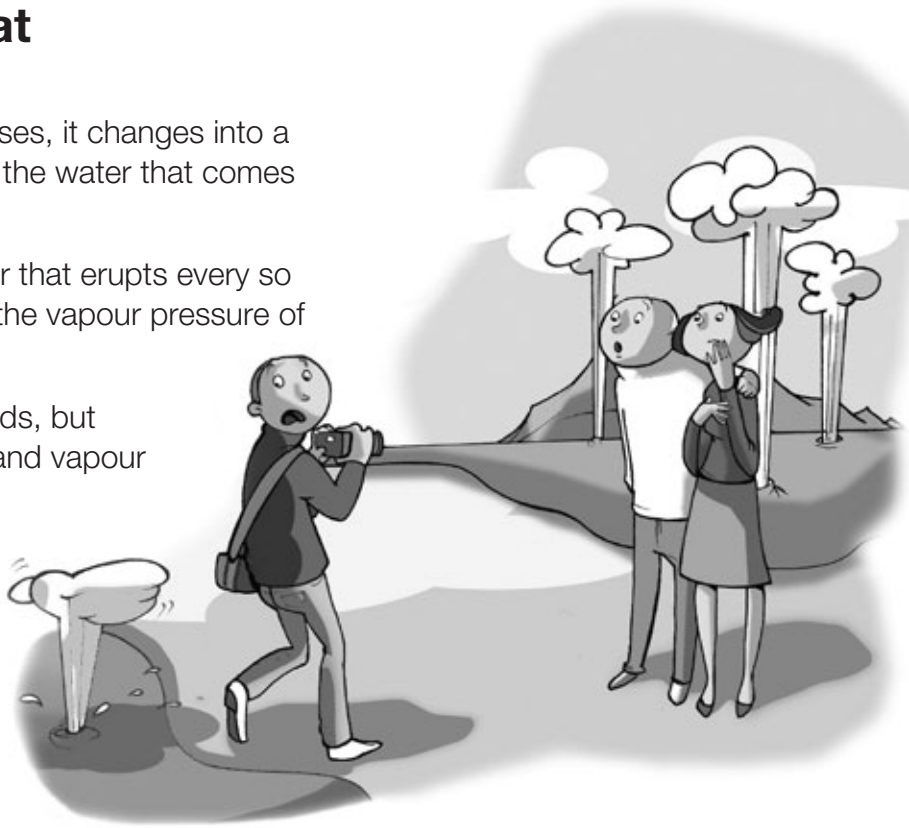
Geysers, the Earth's heat

When the temperature of a liquid increases, it changes into a vapour. This is what happens to part of the water that comes out of geysers.

A geyser is a natural source of hot water that erupts every so often. Eruptions take place because of the vapour pressure of water underground.

At first sight, geysers look like calm ponds, but sometimes they send up a jet of water and vapour that can reach 30 metres high.

Geysers only appear under very special conditions. These conditions exist only in certain parts of the planet, like in Iceland or at Yellowstone National Park in the United States.



Read and answer

1. What is a geyser?

- a) It is a natural pond of cold water.
- b) It is a natural source of hot water that erupts.
- c) It is a fountain in a park

2. Why do the geysers generate water vapour underground? Choose the correct word.

- Because it is *hot* / *cold* far down in the ground.

3. How high can the jets of hot water and vapour reach?

.....
.....

4. How can we use nature's hot water? Circle the odd one out.

for relaxing in hot baths • for heating cities • for electricity • for drinking



Unit 7 Forces and machines

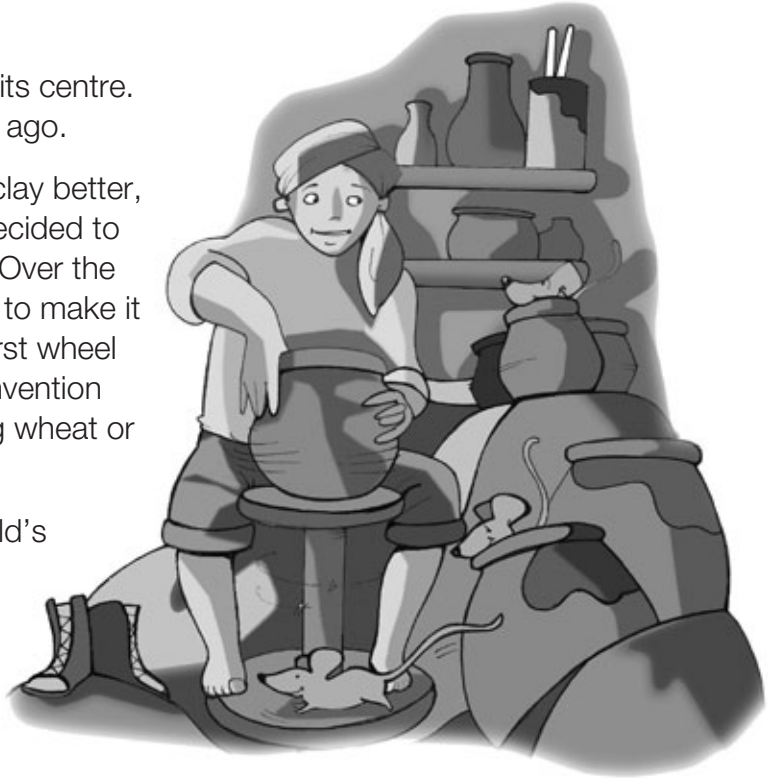
Name: Date:

From a potter's wheel to a car

A wheel is a round disk that rotates on an axis at its centre. The oldest wheels existed more than 5,000 years ago.

People first used them for pottery. To model the clay better, the potters rotated a wooden table. Later, they decided to make the table round so that it could turn better. Over the years, they later put the round table on a support to make it rotate even better. This is how they created the first wheel and axis. Finally, people started using their new invention for other things: getting water out of a well, milling wheat or transporting things in carts.

Nowadays, the wheel is very important in the world's transport and technological development.



Read and answer

1. What is a wheel?

- a) A round disk that rotates on an axis at its centre.
- b) A square table that rotates on a support.
- c) A big triangle on a pole.

2. When did the first wheels exist? And what did people first use them for?

.....
.....

3. What other uses did the wheel have? Find the odd one out.

- getting water out of a well
- to make abstract art
- milling wheat
- transporting things in carts

4. What modern inventions use some type of wheel? Circle the correct answers.

a clock • a microwave • a basketball • a book • a bicycle



Unit 8 Climate and the soil

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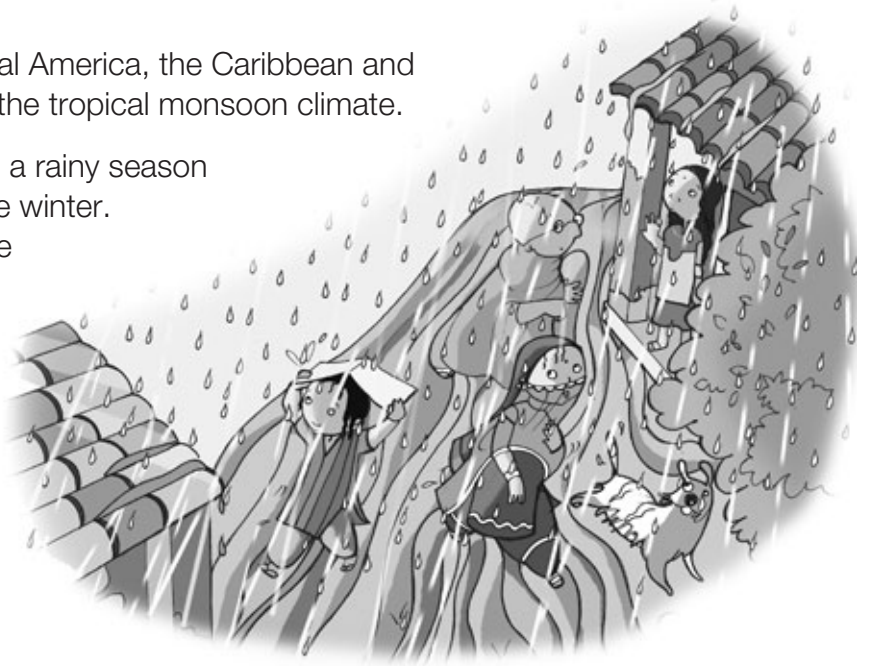
Winds that flood the Earth

There are places like Southern Asia, Central America, the Caribbean and Madagascar that have a different climate, the tropical monsoon climate.

This type of climate only has two seasons: a rainy season during the summer and a dry season in the winter.

Monsoons are the strong winds that create this type of climate.

During the rainy season, monsoonal climates usually have heavy floods. In some countries, monsoons cause such terrible floods that millions of people have to move and live in a different place.



Read and answer

1. What are monsoons?

- a) Big rivers.
- b) Strong seasonal winds.
- c) Important ports.

2. How is the monsoon climate different from the climate in your Autonomous Community?

Climate	Winter	Summer
Monsoonal climate		
My Autonomous Community		

3. What places on Earth have monsoons? Find the odd one out.

Europe • Southern Asia • Central America • the Caribbean • Madagascar

4. What are common problems of the people living in monsoonal climates? Choose the correct words.

- The monsoons cause *rain and floods* / *dry deserts* that make people *move to* / *visit* other areas.

Name: Date:

A community service

The telephone number 112 answers emergency calls that need the help of doctors, police or firefighters.

This free number works 24 hours a day all year round. They help with emergencies and coordinate all the services that need to participate.

So, in case of a fire, when we call the telephone number 112, they will contact the fire department and if someone is hurt, they also tell an ambulance to go to the place of the fire.



Read and answer

1. What is the number 112?

- a) It's a phone number for emergencies.
- b) It's my school's address.
- c) It's a Maths problem.

2. Write *T* if they are true and *F* if they are false. Then correct the false ones.

- The people who answer the 112 phone number only work from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- The telephone number 112 assists with emergency calls and coordinates the services that need to help.
- The telephone number 112 costs lots of money.

3. Imagine there is a fire. Put the events in order.

- Then they also call an ambulance if a person in the fire is hurt.
- 1 We call the telephone number 112.
- Finally, the firefighters come quickly and put out the fire.
- The people who answer first contact the fire department.



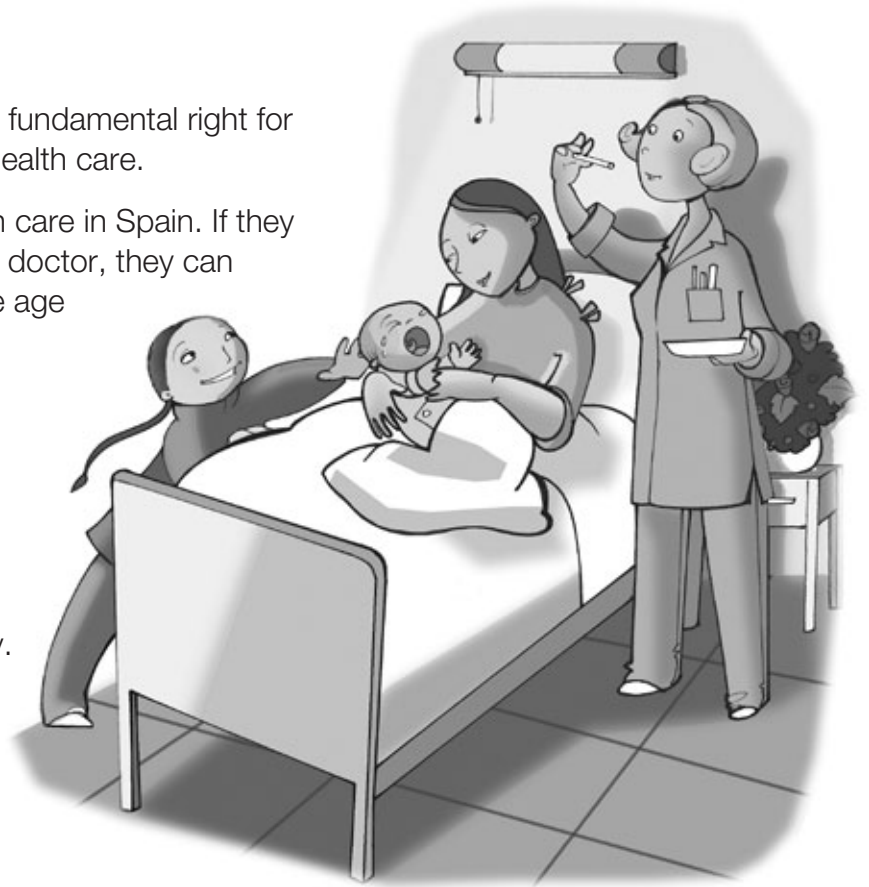
Name: Date:

Health care

The country of Spain defends health as a fundamental right for everyone. All Spanish citizens have free health care.

Many foreigners can also have free health care in Spain. If they are poor and haven't got money to pay a doctor, they can have free health care if they are under the age of 18. If these foreigners are older than 18 years old, they can also get health, but only in case of an emergency, a serious illness or an accident. Foreign women can also have free health care if they are pregnant.

This is how Spain protects the right for health for everyone living in its territory.



Read and answer

1. What is free health care?

- a) When people pay a hospital lots of money for help.
- b) When people eat at a restaurant for no money.
- c) When people can get help from a doctor for no money.

2. In Spain, who can have free health care? Find the odd one out.

Spanish citizens • foreigners under 18 • pregnant women • house pets

3. Match the phrases to complete the sentences.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Foreigners older than 18 years old | • | • | as a fundamental right for everyone. |
| Spain defends health | • | • | can have free health care in an emergency. |

Name: Date:

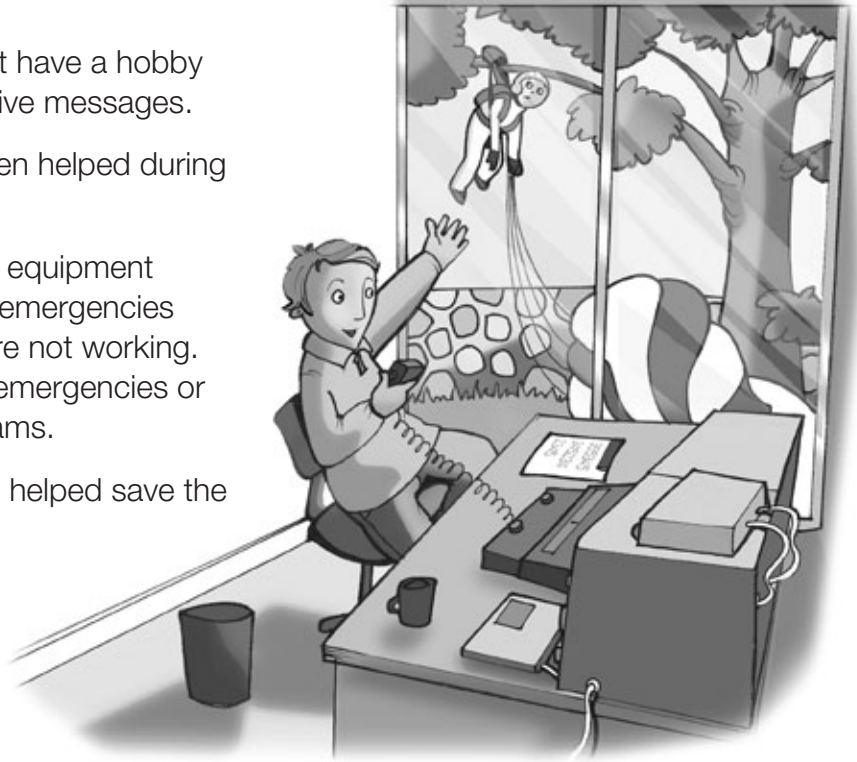
A hobby that saves lives

Amateur radio operators are people that have a hobby that uses special radios to send or receive messages.

In the past, amateur radio operators often helped during emergency situations.

Many amateur radio operators have the equipment or experience necessary to help during emergencies when other means of communication are not working. They can send voice messages during emergencies or retransmit data that can help rescue teams.

It is a volunteer job that has many times helped save the lives of people who are in danger.



Read and answer

1. Who are amateur radio operators?

- a) People with a hobby that makes model airplanes.
- b) People with a hobby that uses special radios.
- c) Volunteers that help clean the streets.

2. How can amateur radio operators help during emergencies? Tick the answers.

- They can send voice messages during an emergency.
- They can play music.
- They can retransmit data to rescue teams.
- They have the necessary equipment and experience.

3. Circle other volunteer jobs that are important to society.

rescue teams • environmental groups • charities • bus drivers

Unit 12 Life in the past

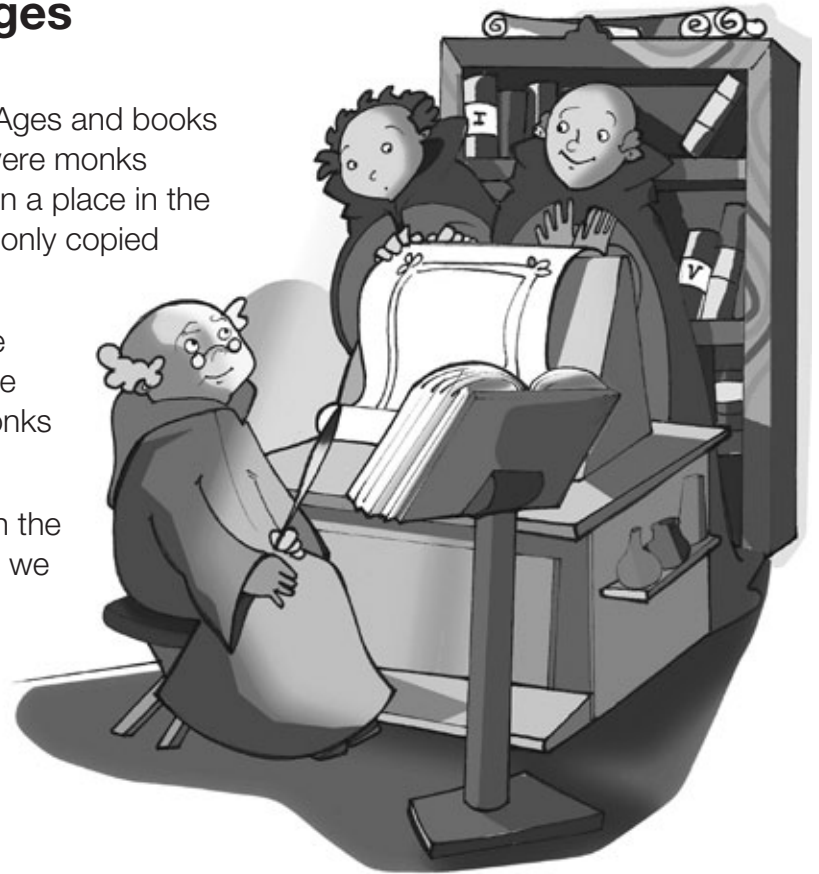
Name: Date:

The letter ñ in the Middle Ages

The printing press did not exist in the Middle Ages and books were copied by hand in monasteries. There were monks specialised in the art of writing. They worked in a place in the monastery called the *scriptorium*, where they only copied books.

When two letter *n*'s followed each other in the texts, they often looked like an *m*. To avoid the confusion and make their work easier, the monks wrote a very small *n* on top of the first *n*.

Then, over time, that small *n* changed through the years into the *tilde* or *viriguilla* of the letter *eñe* we are familiar with today.



Read and answer

1. Who copied books in the Middle Ages? Circle the correct answer.

teachers • machines • monks • kings

2. Why did the monks copy the books by hand? Choose the correct word.

- They copied the books by hand because the printing press *was* / *wasn't* invented yet.

3. Where did the copyists work in the monastery?

4. What did the *tilde* or *viriguilla* of the letter ñ come from?

- a) From a machine.
- b) From the mouth of a little happy face that was on top.
- c) From a small *n* that was on top of the first *n*.