



Your summer challenge:  
**Explore the world**

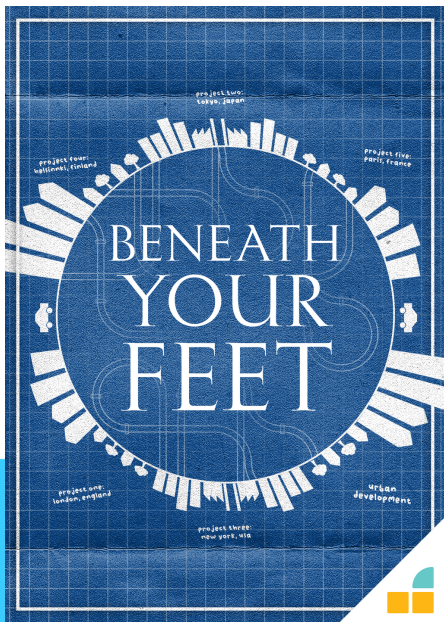
For reading ages 12-16



**Bedrock<sup>®</sup>  
Learning**

## Explore the world.

After a year stuck at home, we're going to explore some new places and think about the wider world, all through a selection of stories and non-fiction texts. Read the texts carefully and answer the questions that follow.



## Beneath Your Feet - Part One

The Lower East Side in New York is a crowded, busy place. Old buildings rub shoulders with more modern skyscrapers and that doesn't leave much room for green space! A team of New Yorkers, **desperate** for somewhere to have a picnic, decided that they would have to incorporate some green space into the concrete and metal environment of their neighbourhood. The problem? There wasn't any room!

What there was however, was a **disused**, underground train station. So the team set about building an enormous garden underground. What do you think the problem was now? Yep, there was only a trickle of sunlight, and obviously the plants didn't do so well. The team **persisted**, however, and added **sunlight catchers** to the top of the space, which brought light down into the gardens below. The test has worked and the team will be opening a bigger space, called 'The Lowline', sometime in the near future, in the hope that all New Yorkers can eat their picnics surrounded by plants and trees!

**desperate** – in need of something right now!

**disused** – no longer being used by anyone, left to gather dust.

1) How would you define the word 'incorporate'? Circle the correct answer.

*to remove, take away  
and hide something.*

*to include, involve  
and bring something  
together.*

*to be really unhelpful  
and not get involved.*

**persist** – to keep going against the odds and never give up.

**sunlight catcher** – a special mirror that reflects light.

2) How much sunlight did the underground garden get?

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3) How did the team of New Yorkers solve the problem?

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## Beneath Your Feet - Part Two

Helsinki is the beautiful capital city of Finland. It's right next to the sea, has plenty of green spaces and apparently is home to the happiest people in Europe! What do you think has **persuaded** them to move underground then? Firstly, the Finns are trying to stop the spread of the city into the countryside, but Finland is also a very cold place and by building underground they can use the Earth to try and keep things warm.

They've built lots of things underground, including an enormous swimming pool complete with slides, jacuzzis, diving boards and whirlpools. With that much water being pumped around underground, one **concern** of town planners was that pipes would **rupture** and flood the whole city. But if you visit the pool you will see it is totally **robust** – it's built into a gigantic rock.

**persuade** – to make someone want to do something by explaining why they should.

**concern** – a feeling of worry.

1) What has made Finnish people move underground?

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**rupture** – to break or tear.

**robust** – strong and solid.

2) What were people concerned about when they built an underground pool?

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3) How has the swimming pool been built to stop this from happening?

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## Strange Beasts

In the river basin of the Amazon and Orinoco, deep in the South American forests, swims a curious beast. The rivers there **teem** with life, from the enormous black caiman to the tiny - but deadly - poison dart frog. One particular **inhabitant**, though, leaves the local fishermen with a deep sense of unease each time they push their boat out into the river. The reason for their feeling of **foreboding**? The pacu. These fish are omnivores; they have voracious appetites and will eat anything in front of them. What's even creepier, though, is that they have **humanoid** teeth! Unlike the spiky fangs of the piranha, these guys have a set of gnashers that look just like ours!

**teem** - full or overflowing.

**inhabitant** - someone or something that lives in a specific place.

1) Are the rivers in South American forests full of life or empty of life?

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**foreboding** - a feeling that something bad is going to happen.

**humanoid** - a machine or creature that looks, feels and sounds like a human.

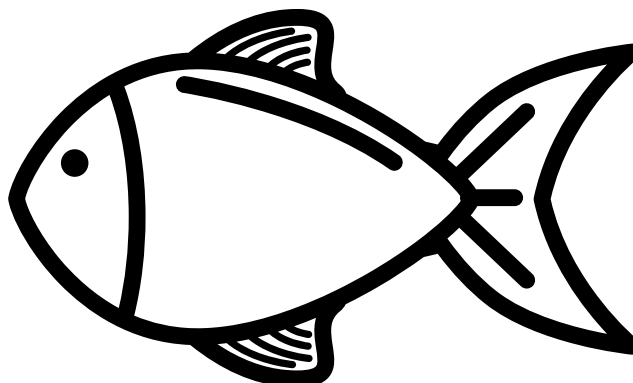
2) What creature makes the local fishermen uneasy?

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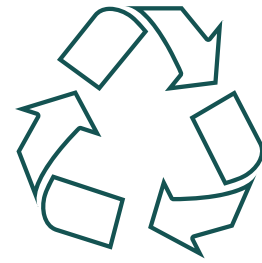
3) What does the word 'omnivore' mean? You can use phrases from the passage.

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4) The pacu have 'voracious appetites' - meaning they are greedy and always want more food. Colour and label the picture below with at least 3 descriptive words from the passage







# Climate Crisis!

We are not doing as much as we should to put a stop to the **environmental crisis**. We are being **negligent** towards our planet, ignoring its needs and refusing to look after it. In fact, there are large groups who think that our world leaders have become complacent in their attitudes towards global warming. They think that the people in power - those who have the ability to make the biggest differences - have stopped trying to protect the planet.

So these groups are taking action. From motivational speeches, powerful protests and bold rebellions, groups across the world are standing up for what they believe in to help our planet and to show they are **averse** to the leaders' lack of action. Through their demonstrations, they hope to convince everyone to try to make a difference. Whether it's eating less meat, walking to school instead of taking the bus, or recycling old clothes, many believe that making a few small changes to our daily lives could create significant positive change for our planet.

**negligent** - to be careless.

**averse** - to be against something.

1) Circle the two words that best describe the attitudes large groups of people think that our world leaders have towards global warming:

proactive

careless

inactive

unhappy

**environmental** - to do with the environment.

**crisis** - the most dangerous point in a difficult situation.

2) Give three examples of what these groups are doing to take action.

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**rebellion** - fighting against the rules or people in charge to try and change things.

3) List three things the passage says we could all do to make a positive change.

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# The Harlem Renaissance

As well as serious artists, writers, **academics**, and **activists**, 1920s Harlem in New York City was home to a buzzing nightlife scene. Have you ever heard the 1920s in the United States being called the 'Jazz Age' or the 'Roaring Twenties'? These phrases encapsulate the spirit of the time - freedom, excitement, and entertainment! When nighttime arrived, Harlem's clubs opened, and the city became a destination for socialising, dancing, and partying.

Harlem's nightlife scene revolved around live music. Although records existed at the time, most people didn't own record players, and CDs didn't even exist, let alone **digital** music, like Spotify. This meant music was mainly performed live or played on the radio. The 1920s were also called the 'Jazz Age'. This was because - you guessed it - jazz music was **burgeoning** throughout the United States! Jazz originated in New Orleans, but became very popular in New York, where it was played in nightclubs and speakeasies - underground bars - all over the city.

**academics** - adults who study something in a lot of detail, usually at a university.

**activists** - people who have very strong beliefs about a particular cause.

1) What two phrases summed up this era?

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**digital** - related to computers.

**burgeoning** - quickly growing or developing.

2) What was jazz music doing in the 1920s?

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3) The author of The Harlem Renaissance uses the 'rule of three' writers' technique to emphasise or draw attention to how exciting life was in 1920s New York. Give two examples of the 'rule of three' from the passage above:

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4) Now write your own example of a 'rule of three' to describe your favourite music.

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# Peoples of the Americas

Nobody is exactly sure when, or even how, the first humans journeyed to the Americas. The most up-to-date evidence suggests they came around 30,000 years ago, maybe by walking over a land bridge far north, or by travelling in boats. Over many generations, people moved further south, until they populated all of North, South, and Central America.

By then, the only land connection between the Americas and the rest of the world was covered by a thick layer of ice. This meant there was very little contact between people who lived in the Americas and other parts of the world for thousands of years, apart from occasional visitors who came by boat, like Vikings from Europe and sailors from Polynesia.

The people of the Americas spoke different languages, developed rich **cultures**, and had complex **political systems**. They invented new technologies to successfully **adapt** to life in many different environments - from the frozen tundra in the far north, to the **arid** plains of the American Southwest, and the **humid** rainforests and high mountains of South America.

**culture** - people's way of life: what they think and believe, what they eat, make, and wear, and how they act.

**political system** - a government; the way a group of people in power organise themselves and make decisions.

1) Why did the people of the Americas have very little contact with the rest of the world for thousands of years?

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**adapt** - to change to become suitable for a new situation.

**arid** - very dry.

**humid** - wet.

2) List three things people did over time after arriving in the Americas.

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3) What are the conditions and environments found in different parts of the Americas? Label what you would find in 'the Far North', 'American Southwest' and 'South America'.



North America



South America

4) Write a letter to the people of the Americas from 30,000 years ago describing how we live today.

Firstly, what questions would you ask them? How would you describe your culture? How do you spend your time? Why? What do you wear? Why? Describe the things you value most in this world. What new technologies has humankind invented to successfully adapt to our new way of life? What are your hopes and dreams for our futures?

Remember to read your work through at least three times before sharing. Are there any words that could be swapped for more descriptive words?

*Dear Peoples of the Americas...                      It is fascinating to find out...  
I spend most of my time.../In my free time...                      I wish we...  
Personally, ..... is very important...                      In the future, I hope...*

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## Ready, set, go!

How many times have you been wowed by an opening ceremony at the Olympic Games? They look amazing, right? These ceremonies show just how beloved the Olympics are. Did you know they started all the way back in 776 BC, in Ancient Greece? Even back then the Games were a celebration, held in honour of the Greek god Zeus.

1) What sports have you been following or playing this summer?

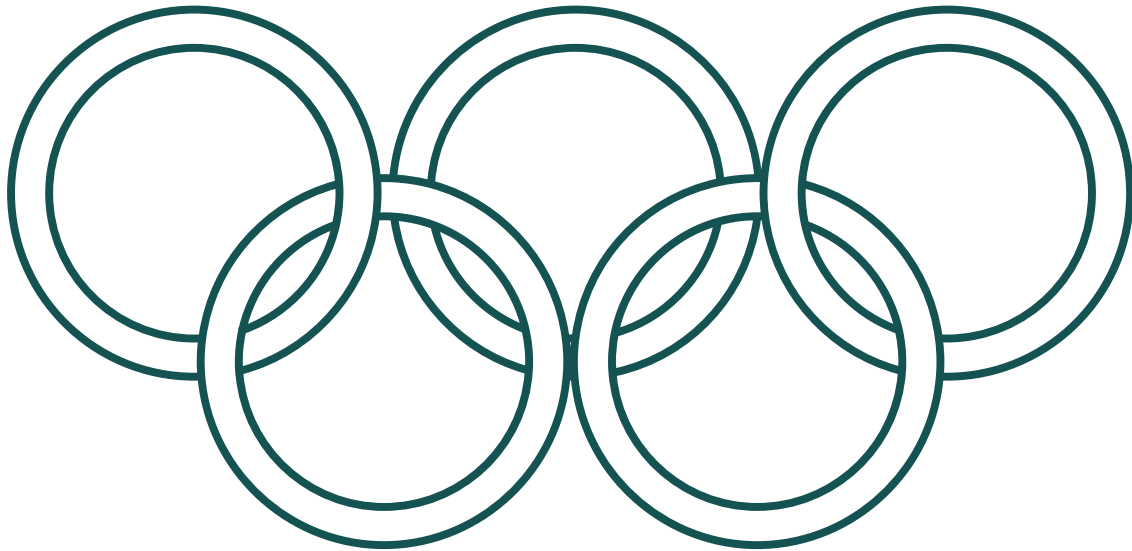
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2) Who is your favourite player in that sport and why?

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Do some fact finding using the internet, your local library, family, and friends. Write a short biography of your favourite sportsperson.

# Biography

Name

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Date of Birth

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Place of Birth

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Childhood

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# The Word of the Week Challenge



|         | Location<br>Where did you go?            | Express yourself<br>What words best describe your feelings? | Take a snapshot<br>What words best describe the scene?                              | Collect words<br>What words did you see, hear or say this week?                         |
|---------|--|---|---|---|
| Example | beach, hairdresser's or a different town | happy, anxious, reticent, excited, overjoyed                | <u>A trip to the beach</u><br>expansive, overwhelming, spacious, beautiful, chaotic | Train - carriage;<br>Park - foliage, shrubs, fungus;<br>Shops - bargain, aisle, express |
| Week 1  |  |   |   |   |
| Week 2  |  |   |   |   |
| Week 3  |  |   |   |   |
| Week 4  |  |   |   |   |
| Week 5  |  |   |   |   |
| Week 6  |  |   |   |   |

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