

The wolf in sheep's clothing

1 Once upon a time, there was a very annoyed wolf. No matter how hard he tried, he could not catch a young, tender lamb for a delicious meal.

2 It was all the fault of the shepherd and his sheepdogs. They were too good at their job! Every time the wolf crept up closer to the flock of sheep, the shepherd would spy him or the dogs would sniff his scent.



3 He'd tried sneaking slowly through the bushes so they would hide him, but somehow he was always seen. He'd tried creeping slowly towards the flock against the breeze, so his scent would be carried away from the dogs. But somehow they still sniffed him out and chased him away.

4 One day, as the wolf was watching the flock from the top of a hill, he noticed the skin of a sheep on the ground. The sheep must have been killed by the shepherd for meat and the woolly fleece left behind. This gave the wolf a terrific idea.

5 'If I put the fleece over me, I will look like a sheep', he thought. 'Then I can get close enough to catch a lamb for supper.'



6 His idea worked! Disguised as a sheep, the wolf managed to catch a lamb without being noticed by the shepherd or his dogs.

7 He tried this several times and each time it worked. But one day, just as he was about to pounce on a lamb, he felt something grab him. It was the shepherd! He was after a sheep to kill for more meat. The shepherd thought the wolf was a sheep and quickly caught and killed the sneaky wolf. And that, of course, was the end of the sneaky wolf.

1. The wolf was annoyed because:
 - (a) *he was hungry.*
 - (b) *he couldn't catch a lamb.*
 - (c) *the lambs ran away.*

2. The wolf tried creeping up with the wind against him so the:
 - (a) *shepherd couldn't see him.*
 - (b) *dogs wouldn't know he was coming.*
 - (c) *sheep could chase him.*

3. Which paragraph explains the wolf's good idea?
 - (a) *Paragraph 4*
 - (b) *Paragraph 5*
 - (c) *Paragraph 6*

4. Which word in Paragraph 7 means **to leap at**?
 - (a) *pounce*
 - (b) *grab*
 - (c) *kill*

5. What happened before the wolf disguised himself as a sheep?
 - (a) *The shepherd caught him.*
 - (b) *He caught a lamb.*
 - (c) *He found a fleece on the ground.*

6. In Paragraph 2, **they** means the:
 - (a) *flock of sheep.*
 - (b) *wolf.*
 - (c) *shepherd and sheepdogs.*



Something extra

- ★ Draw yourself in a disguise.
- ★ Make a list of animals that eat other animals.

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Answers

1. (b) he couldn't catch a lamb
2. (b) dogs wouldn't know he was coming
3. (b) Paragraph 5
4. (a) pounce
5. (c) He found a fleece on the ground.
6. (c) shepherd and sheepdogs

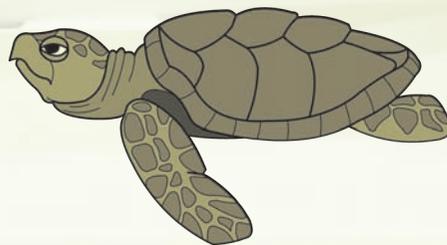
The legend of Urashima Taro

1. The Japanese legend of Urashima Taro is about a poor fisherman who rescues a turtle and is rewarded with a visit to the Palace of the Dragon. But there is an unexpected twist to his prize ...
2. One day while fishing, a young man named Urashima Taro saw a small turtle being tormented by a group of children. They were poking it with sticks and throwing stones at its shell. Taro, who had a great love for all animals, chased the children away and guarded the turtle as it made its way back to the sea.
3. The next day a giant turtle visited Taro, telling him the small turtle he had saved was the daughter of the emperor of the sea. The emperor wished to meet Taro and thank him in person for rescuing his beloved daughter. The giant turtle gave Taro gills so he could breathe underwater and together they swam to the Palace of the Dragon, at the bottom of the sea. There he met the beautiful princess he had saved.
4. For a few days, the emperor treated Taro to many fine foods and treats he had never known before. But Taro missed his family and soon wished to return home. As the princess said goodbye, she gave Taro a small box and told him that it must never, ever be opened. Taro promised to do this and returned to his small village on the back of the giant turtle.
5. But everything had changed! Where were his home, his family and his friends? He spoke to people but no-one recognised him. When he mentioned his name, they recalled a story of a young man with that name who had mysteriously disappeared at sea many years ago.
6. Tired, lonely and confused, Taro opened the box he was holding, forgetting his promise to the princess. From it came a cloud of white smoke that circled around Taro, making him feel strange. When he looked, he saw that he had grown a very long beard, his skin was wrinkled and his back bent.
7. Then he heard a sad voice coming from the sea, 'You promised not to open the box. It contained your old age ...'



Questions

1. In Paragraph 2, the word **guarded** means:
(a) *protected.*
(b) *held prisoner.*
(c) *separated.*
2. The emperor of the sea wanted to _____ Taro.
(a) *punish*
(b) *kidnap*
(c) *thank*
3. The text is written to:
(a) *give instructions.*
(b) *tell a story.*
(c) *describe something.*
4. What happened last?
(a) *Taro returned home.*
(b) *A cloud of white smoke appeared.*
(c) *Taro was given a small box.*
5. Taro helped the small turtle back to the sea to make sure:
(a) *it went straight home.*
(b) *it didn't get lost.*
(c) *the children didn't attack it again.*
6. Taro grew a very long beard, and had wrinkly skin and a bent back because:
(a) *he was a fisherman.*
(b) *he opened the small box.*
(c) *he had spent too long in the water.*
7. Taro needed gills so he could:
(a) *breathe underwater.*
(b) *stay underwater longer.*
(c) *swim like a fish.*
8. Taro must have been away from his village for about:
(a) *five years.*
(b) *twenty years.*
(c) *sixty years.*
9. The small box from the princess contained:
(a) *good fortune.*
(b) *Taro's old age.*
(c) *bad fortune.*
10. In Paragraph 5, the word *they* is used instead of:
(a) *the people.*
(b) *Taro's family.*
(c) *Taro's friends.*

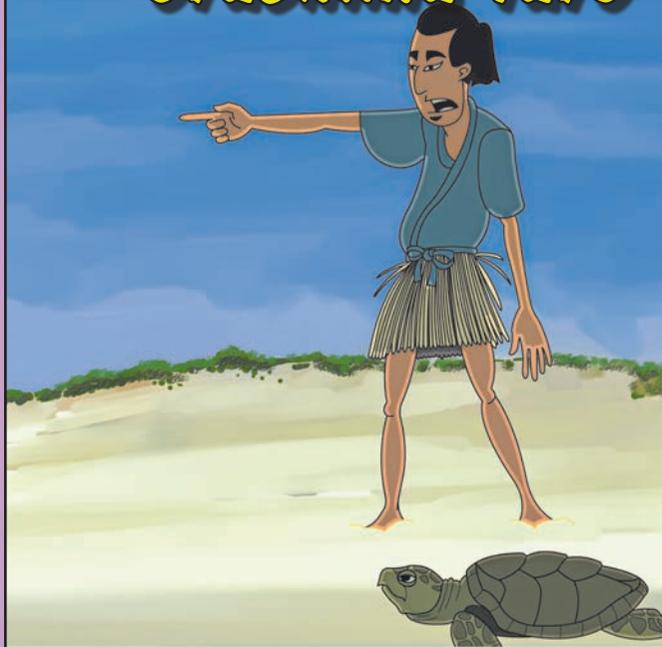


Something extra

- ★ Draw the sequence of scenes from the story. Write a sentence for each illustration.



The legend of Urashima Taro

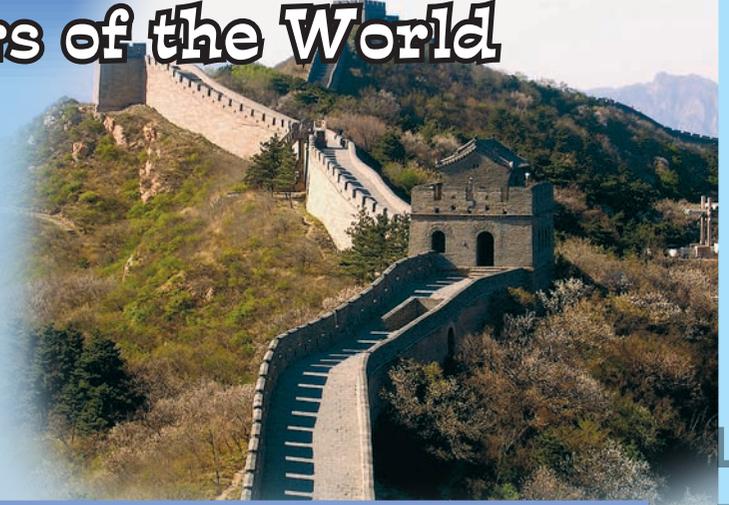


Answers

1. (a) protected
2. (c) thank
3. (b) tell a story
4. (b) A cloud of white smoke appeared.
5. (c) the children didn't attack it again
6. (b) he opened the small box
7. (a) breathe underwater
8. (c) sixty years
9. (b) Taro's old age
10. (a) the people

The New 7 Wonders of the World

1. Various lists of wonders of the world have been compiled to document the most remarkable natural marvels or human-made constructions. In 2007, at a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal, the 'New 7 Wonders of the World' were announced. They were the most popular ones decided by 100 million voters. Below is a summary of each of the seven wonders, in random order.



Great Wall of China

- Longest structure ever built by humans—6700 km.
- Constructed for defensive purposes to protect borders along northern and north-western China about 2000 years ago.
- Built entirely by hand by more than 1 million workers.
- Took hundreds of years to build.

Taj Mahal, India

- Building is actually a tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife.
- Made of white marble inlaid with thousands of semi-precious stones.
- Colour changes from white to pink to gold according to time of day.
- Commenced in 1631, completed in 1653.

Christ Redeemer, Brazil

- Statue of Christ Redeemer represents Jesus welcoming all with outstretched arms.
- At 38 m, the tallest of its kind in the world.
- Stands atop the Corcovado Mountain overlooking coastal city of Rio de Janeiro.
- Commenced in 1926, completed 1931.

Colosseum, Italy

- The Colosseum is the remains of an enormous amphitheatre (open air theatre).
- Ancient Romans watched gladiators fighting animals, mock battles, executions and mythological plays there.
- Could seat up to 70 000.
- Commenced about 70, opened 80.

Chichen Itza, Mexico

- Ruins of an ancient Mayan city in south-east Mexico.
- About 30 ruins can still be viewed.
- Site was once the centre of political, military and religious power.
- Best-known construction is the Pyramid of Kukulcan, 24 metres in height.
- Existed from 400 to 1400.

Machu Picchu, Peru

- The ruins of an Inca site located on a mountain ridge 2400 metres above sea level.
- Also known as 'The Lost City of the Incas'.
- Construction commenced around 1460, site abandoned around 1560.
- Inhabitants believed to be victims of a smallpox epidemic.

Petra, Jordan

- An ancient city in south-west Jordan carved from the crumbly sandstone cliffs of the area.
- Rock colour varies from cream, orange, red to dark brown.
- Founded in 600 BCE.
- Population declined from 200 CE as trade routes changed.

Questions

- 1.** The phrase *in random order* in Paragraph 1 means:
- (a) *arranged in a special order.*
 - (b) *placed in no specific order.*
 - (c) *listed in order of importance.*
- 2.** Each of the New 7 Wonders is:
- (a) *natural.*
 - (b) *made by people.*
 - (c) *more than 500 years old.*
- 3.** The Great Wall of China was built:
- (a) *to give millions of Chinese work.*
 - (b) *as a tourist attraction.*
 - (c) *for protection.*
- 4.** You can conclude the Ancient Romans:
- (a) *enjoyed dramatic events.*
 - (b) *preferred to be indoors.*
 - (c) *were peaceful.*
- 5.** The Taj Mahal changes colour because:
- (a) *it is made from different coloured marble.*
 - (b) *of the light it reflects during the day.*
 - (c) *each side is painted white, pink or gold.*
- 6.** Which wonder was constructed most recently?
- (a) *Machu Picchu*
 - (b) *Chichen Itza*
 - (c) *Christ Redeemer*
- 7.** This text was written to:
- (a) *summarise facts.*
 - (b) *give instructions.*
 - (c) *list famous constructions.*
- 8.** The pronoun *they* in Paragraph 1 refers to:
- (a) *natural marvels.*
 - (b) *votes.*
 - (c) *New 7 Wonders.*
- 9.** If you were of a Christian faith, you would most likely want to visit:
- (a) *the Colosseum.*
 - (b) *Christ Redeemer.*
 - (c) *Petra.*
- 10.** The Taj Mahal and Petra are similar because they:
- (a) *are both ancient cities.*
 - (b) *are made from a hard substance.*
 - (c) *have colour variations.*
- 11.** Which statement is a fact, not an opinion?
- (a) *Machu Picchu was inhabited for about 100 years.*
 - (b) *The Colosseum must have been a spectacular building.*
 - (c) *Emperor Shah Jahan loved his wife very much.*
- 12.** Which wonder took the longest to build?
- (a) *Christ Redeemer*
 - (b) *Taj Mahal*
 - (c) *Colosseum*

Something extra

- ★ List the New 7 Wonders of the World in the order you would most want to visit them.
- ★ Write a catchy slogan to describe what you would see at each place.

The New 7 Wonders of the World

Answers

1. (b) placed in no specific order
2. (b) made by people
3. (c) for protection
4. (a) enjoyed dramatic events
5. (b) of the light it reflects during the day
6. (c) Christ Redeemer
7. (a) summarise facts
8. (c) New 7 Wonders
9. (b) Christ Redeemer
10. (c) have colour variations
11. (a) Machu Picchu was inhabited for about 100 years.
12. (b) Taj Mahal