

Exercise 1

Read the following article about the giraffe, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

CREATURE FEATURE – THE GIRAFFE

The giraffe is the tallest living animal in the world, and is sometimes found in dense forests but mainly on the African grasslands. With its long neck, it can reach higher than any other browsing animal, even the elephant. Despite the length of its neck, the giraffe only has seven bones in that part of its body. Its back legs look shorter than its front legs, but in fact, they are about the same length.

The giraffe family

The giraffe's scientific name is *Giraffa camelopardalis*. People gave the animal this name because in ancient times, they thought it looked like a mixture of a camel and a leopard. However, the truth is that the giraffe is a hooved mammal and is a relative of cattle and antelopes. Its closest family member is the okapi, although this animal is much smaller and looks very different.

Feeding time

The giraffe likes to eat the spiky leaves from the acacia tree, and may chew up to 34 kilograms of leaves a day. The giraffe is not hurt when it eats the pointed spines on the acacia leaves because of the thick saliva and tough skin inside its mouth. It also chews old bones for calcium, and it eats soil to gain other essential minerals. Its long, narrow tongue is ideal for pulling leaves and twigs into its mouth.

Staying safe

There are about 12 giraffes in each herd. Male and female giraffes live in separate herds and the young ones live with the females. The members of the herd guard each other and they watch out for danger even while they are resting. In order to look out for enemies, each giraffe points its head in a different direction from its neighbour.

Male and female giraffes have two distinct hair-covered horns called ossicones. Young male giraffes use their horns for play fighting with one another. Mature males fight seriously by hitting their necks against each other when competing for dominance in the herd. If giraffes are threatened by lions, wild dogs or other predators, they kick their legs and large hooves to protect themselves and their young.

Body markings

Female giraffes give birth to a single baby, which can stand up almost immediately and run away from trouble when it is only a day old. Baby giraffes have the same body shape, colour and markings as adults. Each giraffe has its own individual pattern of markings. Just like a human fingerprint, no patterns are exactly the same. Some giraffes have spots that look like leaves, whereas others have a square-shaped pattern. These markings provide the giraffes with camouflage, making it difficult for predators to see them.

(a) Where do giraffes usually live?

.....[1]

(b) In ancient times, which **two** animals did people think giraffes were similar to?

.....[1]

(c) What protects giraffes from injury when they eat sharp leaves? Give **two** details.

.....
.....[1]

(d) Why are bones and earth important in the diet of giraffes? Give **two** details.

.....
.....[1]

(e) Why do giraffes look in different directions when they rest?

.....[1]

(f) How do older male giraffes use their bodies for fighting?

.....[1]

(g) How do giraffes defend themselves if they are attacked by a predator?

.....[1]

(h) What can a young giraffe do straight after being born?

.....[1]

(i) What helps to camouflage giraffes?

.....[1]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 2

Read the following article about the discovery of eight ancient boats, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

ANCIENT BOATS FOUND

A team of archaeologists in the UK have excavated eight boats from the river Nene, near Peterborough. These boats are thought to be about 3 000 years old and were found at the bottom of the river during an archaeological excavation in 2013. The mud and silt in the riverbed had preserved the boats and stopped the wood from drying out and rotting. The archaeologists are waiting for the results of carbon-dating tests, which will tell them the exact age of the boats.

About 4 000 years ago, rising sea levels flooded the dry land and the area became wetland. People living in the region learned how to adapt to this new and different environment. They altered their way of life from hunting and farming to this. The techniques they used for fishing and boat building are impressive.

“There was huge excitement when we found the first boat, and we could not believe it when we found seven others,” said Daniel Samson, one of the archaeologists. “Although we have found objects in the area before, including a woven wooden path and some tools, this is a first because the team has never before discovered so many ancient boats at one time.” One boat has handles for lifting it out of the water; others have decorative carvings on the outside. Another boat still floats after 3 000 years. The spears that fishermen used have recently been found in the area, and they are the same as those used in more modern times. One of the boats shows traces of the fires that the fishermen lit on deck to cook the fish they had caught.

Some of the boats were made from huge trees, including one from an oak tree which once stood up to 20 metres tall. The boats were designed for fishing, to carry passengers and to transport cargo. The largest boat is 8.5 metres long. Experts are not sure how the boats moved on the water, but they think that paddles were used, although none of them have been found.

Several boats show signs of careful repairs, including extra wood to block holes. One boat had been patched up with a clay lining to keep it watertight. “The people who originally owned the boats took good care of them,” says Daniel. “They did not let them rot.”

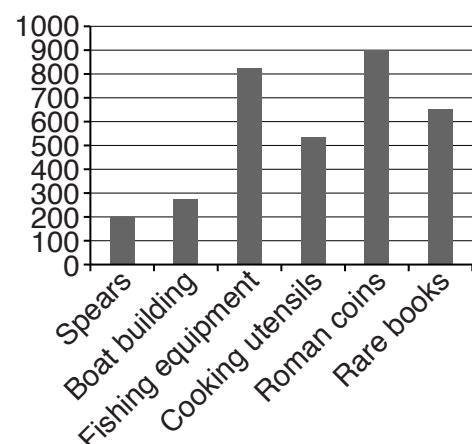
Someone had removed a wooden board from one end of each boat, which made the boats sink. The archaeologists want to find out why people did this. Daniel says, “It may be that the boats were sunk as offerings to spirits or gods, but we do not know for sure.” The team also wonders why the original owners left their boats at the bottom of the river. Daniel says, “Perhaps they made new boats and no longer needed the old ones.”

The archaeologists are pleased about the good condition of the boats. Daniel says, “The boats were found during a professional archaeological dig, and we were able to excavate them with the minimum of damage.” The boats were lifted intact and transported to the local Fen museum, where they will eventually be put on display beside other exhibitions there.

At present, the boats are being kept in a cold atmosphere to preserve them. Soon, they will be cleaned to remove any dirt or other impurities which could cause decay. Later, they will be sprayed with wax and gradually dried out. Finally, they will be displayed with other objects of the same age, including the oldest known wheel, which was found in the same locality.

Visitors to the Fen Museum

Visitors to
exhibitions
in 2014



- (a) When were the boats found?
.....[1]
- (b) What effect did the mud and silt have on the boats?
.....[1]
- (c) What new skills did people learn when their traditional lifestyle changed?
.....[1]
- (d) What was unusual about the discovery of the boats?
.....[1]
- (e) What made some boats look attractive?
.....[1]
- (f) What did the original owners do to mend their boats? Give **two** details.
.....
.....[1]
- (g) What caused the boats to sink?
.....[1]
- (h) What possible reasons were there for sinking the boats? Give **two** details.
.....
.....[2]
- (i) According to the chart, which were the most and least popular exhibitions at the museum **and** how many people visited each one in 2014?
Most popular:
Least popular:[1]
- (j) How will the boats be prepared before they are exhibited in the museum? Give **two** details.
.....
.....[1]
- (k) Apart from the boats, what historical objects have been found in the area?
Give **four** details.
.....
.....
.....
.....[4]

[Total: 15]

[Turn over]