



Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 4



Name.....

Useful words

carnivorous

omnivorous

retracting

prey

nocturnal

species

snare

portrayed

Foxes



Foxes are one of the most well known wild animals in the UK but can also be found in many other countries. They are members of the dog family and are only a little bit bigger than cats. Although many people think that foxes are carnivorous (meat-eaters), they are actually omnivorous (they eat both meat and plants).

1 The fox is a member of which animal family?

2 What do foxes eat?

Tick **one**.

meat

meat and plants

plants

sheep

A female fox is called a "vixen", a male fox is called a "dog fox" or a "tod" and baby foxes are called "pups", "kits" or "cubs". A group of foxes is called a "skulk" or a "leash".

3 What is the name of a female fox?

Tick **one**.

skulk

tod

vixen

kit

4 Which two words can be used to name a group of foxes?

Foxes are the only type of dog capable of retracting their claws like cats do. This means that they can tuck their claws back into their paws when they are not using them.

Foxes also hunt like cats. They sneak up on their prey just like cats and often play with their prey before they kill it. Foxes hunt mainly at night because they are nocturnal animals.

5 What makes foxes different from other members of the dog family?

6

What do you think the word "nocturnal" means?

There are many different types of foxes - they are the most widespread species of wild dog in the world. Foxes live just about everywhere — in the countryside, cities, forests, mountains and grasslands. Arctic foxes live in cold climates in countries such as Canada, Greenland, Russia, Norway, Scandinavia, and even Iceland. In contrast, Fennec foxes live in the North African desert.

7

In which countries do Arctic Foxes live?

Tick **three**.

Kenya

Algeria

Russia

Mexico

Greenland

Norway

8

In which desert do Fennec foxes live?

Foxes show great caring and intelligence when raising their young. In 2009, a baby fox cub was trapped in a snare for two whole weeks before being rescued by the RSPCA. The cub was badly injured and only survived because his mother brought him food while he was trapped!

9 What did the fox cub's mother do to help keep him alive?

In stories, foxes are often portrayed as sly, sneaky and unpleasant creatures. This may be because of the way they hunt - sneaking up on their prey from behind and pouncing. In fact, they are shy, timid creatures and pose very little danger to humans.

10 Why might foxes be thought of as sly, sneaky and unpleasant?

Useful words

fiscal

jurisdiction

capered

confusion

The Clever Fox and the Foolish Monkey



There was a huge competition in the jungle - and the prize was - "To be King of all the Beasts!"

It was very exciting! To be King of all the Beasts was a wonderful thing - when you were King you got to wear a golden crown and all the animals had to call you "Sire". Lots of animals entered the competition and each animal got to say their piece on a big stage while the other animals judged.

The first to speak was Fox, who was a very clever animal.

11

Why was it a wonderful thing to be King of all the Beasts?

Fox spoke very well about the rights of the people and the duties of the King; but he used such long and difficult words like "fiscal" and "jurisdiction" that most of the animals got bored and fell asleep.

"And," said Fox, "never forget that there are many new traps around in the jungle. Traps laid by Man to catch animals! Of course, there never was a trap made that could catch a fox. So this is my promise to you. If I am made King, I will teach each and every animal how to avoid these traps. Thank you."

12 Why did the other animals fall asleep?

13 What did fox promise to teach the other animals?

Tick **one**.

how to read long words

how to avoid traps

how to make traps

how to trap other animals

"Oooh-oooh-oooh! That was a fine and educated speech you just made!" said Monkey.

"Well, thank you Monkey," replied Fox, pleased.

"Yes - you are very clever." Monkey carried on. "But that is not what the animals want in a king. Watch this!"

And he bounded on to the stage.

And monkey danced. He frolicked and he pranced and he capered and he danced! And what funny faces he pulled!

Monkey really was very funny. The audience laughed and roared and held their sides. And that is how Monkey became King of the Beasts.

"Oooh-oooh-oooh! Well Fox!" Monkey smirked, as he paraded up and down in his gold crown. "Funny beats clever!"

14

Why did the other animals judge monkey to be King of the Beasts?

"PA!" said Fox, angrily. "We'll see about that!"

The next day, Fox saw Monkey lolling around on his throne with his golden crown upon his head.

"No hard feelings, sire," he said. "You won, fair and square. And I want to give you a present fit for a clever king."

"Oooh-oooh-oooh!" said Monkey. "Being King is boring work! Where's your present?"

"It's a little way into the forest. Come with me!"

So Monkey and Fox set off into the forest together.

"Oooh-oooh-oooh! Where is it? Where is it?" said Monkey, getting excited.

"There it is, Sire," said sly Fox, pointing at a big, ripe banana on the jungle floor.

"YUM YUM!" cried Monkey, and dived off to pick it up.

15

Which word in the text does Monkey use to describe his work as King?

Tick one.

interesting

easy

important

boring

16

Why did Fox and Monkey go into the forest together?

Later that day, the animals were running around in confusion.

"Where's the King?" they cried. "Has anyone seen the King?"

At last they found him. He was sitting - in a TRAP!

Monkey held out his arms through the bars. "Oooh-oooh-oooh! When I went to pick up a banana - this trap fell over me! Please get me out!"



17

Why were the animals running around in confusion?

18

Do you think Fox knew the trap was there? Give a reason for your answer.

But none of the animals knew anything about traps - except for Fox. Fox sat down and curled his long red tail around him.

"Fox! Fox!" cried Monkey. "Please help me!"

The Fox turned to look at the animals.

"Should a King be clever?" asked Fox.

"Yes!" the animals cried.

"Does an animal that is clever fall in to a trap?" asked Fox.

The animals were silent. They looked at Monkey.

"You are a very foolish monkey," said Fox. "I will get you out of the trap, but you must give up your crown. The King of the Beasts should be an animal that is smarter than to fall into traps. Don't you think?"

And all the other animals agreed.

19

Do you think Monkey deserved to lose his crown? Give a reason for your answer.
