An Egg-cellent Competition

There weren't many things that Billy Edwards was good at. He couldn't hold a tune, he couldn't spell and he couldn't get 10 out of 10 on his mental maths test, no matter how hard he tried. But there was one thing that Billy Edwards was better at than anyone else in the school: the annual sport's day egg and spoon race.

Billy had been preparing for this day for months. He'd driven his dad mad by running up and down stairs with a hard-boiled egg balanced on the smallest teaspoon he could find in the drawer. Sometimes, if he was feeling particularly brave, he wouldn't boil the egg first... that was a real test of skill. At last, his moment of glory had arrived and he stood at the starting line, determined to win first prize.

Quick Questions

1. Find and copy a word which tells you that the egg and spoon race only happened once per year.

_____

2. Name two things that Billy was not very good at?

_____

3. Why would not boiling the eggs first be a 'real test'?

_____

_____

_____

4. 'At last, his moment of glory had arrived...' What does this sentence tell you about what Billy was expecting to happen?

_____

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Answers

1. Find and copy a word which tells you that the egg and spoon race only happened once per year.
Accept: annual.

2. Name two things that Billy was not very good at?
Accept two of the following: singing/holding a tune, mental maths tests, spelling.

3. Why would not boiling the eggs first be a 'real test'?
Accept any answer which explains that boiled eggs do not smash and spill, so it is riskier to use eggs which aren't boiled because they would cause more mess.

4. 'At last, his moment of glory had arrived...' What does this sentence tell you about what Billy was expecting to happen?
Accept any answer which states that Billy was expecting to win and knew that all eyes would be on his when he did.

Unusual Olympic Sports

Throughout its history, the Olympic Games have held a range of strange and unusual competitions that we no longer take part in today.

Rope Climb: Stopped in 1932, this was an event in which competitors had to climb up a rope as quickly and as stylishly as possible. The most impressive winner was George Eyser in 1904, who won gold despite having a wooden leg!

Tug of War: At every Olympic Games until 1920, teams of eight men would have to pull their opponents six feet over a line on the floor. The British team, containing lots of police officers, were very good at this event.

Swimming Obstacle Race: This event only happened in the 1900 Olympics. Swimmers had to climb over a pole and a row of boats, before swimming under another row of boats towards the finish line.

Quick Questions

1. Find and copy two adverbs which describe how competitors had to climb up the rope.

_____ _____

2. In what year did the only Swimming Obstacle Race take place?

_____

3. Why was George Eyser's gold medal win the 'most impressive'? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

4. How do these sports compare to Olympic events we see today?

_____

_____

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124 the 1900 Olympics. Swimmers had to climb over a pole
134 and a row of boats, before swimming under another row
140 of boats towards the finish line.

Answers

1. Find and copy two adverbs which describe how competitors had to climb up the rope.
Accept: quickly and stylishly.

2. In what year did the only Swimming Obstacle Race take place?

Accept: 1900 only.

3. Why was George Eyser's gold medal win the 'most impressive'? Explain your answer.
Accept any answer which explains how difficult it might have been to climb the rope with a wooden leg and still be the fastest competitor.

4. How do these sports compare to Olympic events we see today?
Accept any valid similarity or difference provided, such as 'we don't have an obstacle swimming race but we do still have swimming races', or 'we do not have any events which involve using a rope anymore'.

Two for One

All our lives, we have done everything together. We've had the same haircuts, worn the same clothes and we've even finished all of our meals at exactly the same time. But there is one thing that is definitely very different about me and my twin, Johnny: the football teams we play on.

I play for the Bolton Buffalos (clearly the best) and Johnny plays for the Leigh Lions. Last Sunday was the first time our teams have competed against each other and the stakes were high. It was the final of the local football league's annual competition and, what a surprise, the Jones twins struck again. We both scored a goal within the last minute of the match and the final score was one all. I guess we're not so different after all.

Quick Questions

1. '...the Jones twins struck again.'
   How else could the author have said this?

   _____

   _____

2. What is the twins' last name?

   _____

3. What is similar and different about the twins?

   Similar: _____

   _____

   Different: _____

   _____

4. What do the words '(clearly the best)' in brackets show about the author's opinion on the football teams the twins play for?

   _____

   _____

   _____

Two for One

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102 league's annual competition and, what a surprise, the
112 Jones twins struck again. We both scored a goal within
124 the last minute of the match and the final score was one
133 all. I guess we're not so different after all.

Answers

1. '...the Jones twins struck again.'
   How else could the author have said this?
   Accept any answer which says 'the Jones twins did it again', or 'they were similar in another way' etc.

2. What is the twins' last name?
   Accept: Jones.

3. What is similar and different about the twins?
   Accept any similarities (haircuts, clothes, meal eating speed, amount of goals scored) and differences (football team) mentioned in the text.

4. What do the words '(clearly the best)' in brackets show about the author's opinion on the football teams the twins play for?
   Accept any answer which says that the author plays for the Bolton Buffalos so he clearly thinks they are better than his brother's choice of team.

Breaking News: Unbelievable Usain Retires

At just 31 years of age, Usain Bolt has retired today from his career as a professional athlete, with the title of 'Fastest Man in the World' securely under his belt.

Born in Jamaica in 1986, Usain has loved sport from an early age and spent most of his childhood running in school competitions across the country, winning many medals and titles. By the age of fifteen, Bolt had grown to almost two metres tall, which helped him to stand out amongst competitors of the same age.

In 2002, at the World Junior Championships, Bolt became the youngest gold medal winner ever for the 200 metre race. His career began there and he has since earned an astonishing and impressive eight Olympic gold medals. Usain Bolt will forever be known as one of the greatest sprinters of all time.

Quick Questions

1. Find and copy two adjectives which the author uses to describe the Olympic gold medals Usain has earned.

_____ _____

2. In which country was Usain Bolt born?

_____

3. How did Usain's height compare to other children of the same age?

_____

_____

4. Sum up what you have read about Usain Bolt in 20 words or less.

_____

_____

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Answers

1. Find and copy two adjectives which the author uses to describe the Olympic gold medals Usain has earned.
   Accept: 'astonishing' and 'impressive'.

2. In which country was Usain Bolt born?
   Accept: Jamaica.

3. How did Usain's height compare to other children of the same age?
   Accept any answer which discusses that Usain was considerably taller than his peers and he stood out.

4. Sum up what you have read about Usain Bolt in 20 words or less.
   Accept any answer which discusses that Usain is now a retired professional athlete, is one of the fastest people in the world and has won many medals

World Space Week

World Space Week is the largest space event on Earth. Every year, between 4th and 10th October, over 80 countries celebrate space science and technology. This year is the 20th celebration of World Space Week and the theme is 'The Moon: Gateway to the Stars'. The theme focuses on the moon because this year is the 50th anniversary of the first moon landings back in 1969.

Facts about the moon

The Moon does not make its own light. It reflects the light of the Sun.

The Moon does not disappear in daytime - it is just harder to see.

The Moon goes around the Earth. This takes 28 days.

We see different parts of the Moon depending on where it is in those 28 days. This is called the 'phases' of the Moon.

The average temperature of the Moon is 107°C in the day and -153°C at night.

The Moon affects the waves in the oceans on Earth.

First Moon Landing

On 16th July 1969, Neil Armstrong, Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin and Michael Collins set off on their journey to the Moon. Four days later on 20th July, Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon. The Moon does not have an atmosphere like Earth does and therefore he and Aldrin had to wear special suits to protect them from the Moon's difficult conditions. They carried tanks containing oxygen so that they could breathe. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spent three hours walking on the Moon, doing experiments and collecting pieces of rocks and soil.

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Before they left, they put an American flag into the ground to mark the fact that the USA were the first country to travel to the Moon. They returned safely back to Earth on 24th July.

Did You Know...?

The footprints and tyre tracks that were made by Armstrong and Aldrin will stay on the Moon forever. This is because there is no wind on the Moon to blow them away!

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Questions

1. In what month does World Space Week take place? Tick **one**.

   - ○ April
   - ○ January
   - ○ June
   - ○ October

2. What is the World Space Week theme this year?

   _____

3. How long does the Moon take to go around the Earth? Tick **one**.

   - ○ 28 weeks
   - ○ 28 days
   - ○ 28 years
   - ○ 28 hours

4. What is the average temperature on the Moon at night?

   _____

5. When did Neil Armstrong first set foot on the Moon? Tick **one**.

   - ○ 16th July 1969
   - ○ 24th July 1969
   - ○ 20th July 1969
   - ○ 1st July 1969

6. What was in the tanks that the astronauts carried? Tick **one**.

   - ○ oxygen
   - ○ water
   - ○ petrol
   - ○ an energy drink

7. If you were to travel to the Moon, what would you see on the ground and why? Explain your answer fully.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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Answers

1. In what month does World Space Week take place? Tick **one**.

   - ○ April
   - ○ January
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   - ✓ **October**

2. What is the World Space Week theme this year?

   The Moon: Gateway to the Stars

3. How long does the Moon take to go around the Earth? Tick **one**.

   - ○ 28 weeks
   - ○ **28 days**
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   - ○ 28 hours

4. What is the average temperature on the Moon at night?

   -153°C

5. When did Neil Armstrong first set foot on the Moon? Tick **one**.

   - ○ 16th July 1969
   - ○ 24th July 1969
   - ✓ **20th July 1969**
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6. What was in the tanks that the astronauts carried? Tick **one**.

   - ✓ **oxygen**
   - ○ water
   - ○ petrol
   - ○ an energy drink

7. If you were to travel to the Moon, what would you see on the ground and why? Explain your answer fully.

   Pupil's own response, such as: If I were to travel to the Moon, I would see Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's footprints and tyre tracks left from their spacecraft because there is no wind on the Moon so they would not have been blown away.