

ANDREW  
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AGES  
5-6

COMPREHENSION NINJA



# COMPREHENSION NINJA WORKBOOK



## Learning at Home

Non-Fiction comprehension activities  
to support the National Curriculum

BLOOMSBURY

**COMPREHENSION  
NINJA  
WORKBOOK**

**AGES 5–6**

**ANDREW JENNINGS**

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# INTRODUCTION

Reading comprehension is all about understanding what you are reading – and being able to show that you understand. This Comprehension Ninja workbook will help your child master the foundations of reading comprehension by focusing on three key aspects:

- **Skimming** and **scanning** a whole text to locate information efficiently.
- **Retrieving** the correct information from the text in eight different ways.
- **Vocabulary** awareness and the **effect of word choices**.

This book contains seven curriculum-linked texts, each followed by a set of questions to check whether your child has understood the text. There are eight question types to develop your child's comprehension skills:



For texts 1 - 4, the activity pages feature one question type per page so your child can focus on building up their comprehension skills one at a time, while texts 5 - 7 look a bit more like a test, with two pages of mixed questions. **This book includes the following topics: knights and castles, making a stir-fry, oceans, friendship, Diwali, minibests and materials.**

## HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

### STEP 1 – READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY

Encourage your child to read the whole text carefully before they start trying to answer the questions. You can help them with any words or phrases they don't know. As an extra activity, you could ask your child to read the text aloud to you.

### STEP 2 – PICK OUT KEY WORDS AND INFORMATION

Picking out key words and headings will help your child to quickly locate the information they need to answer the questions. Encourage your child to underline key information as they read the text, such as:

- **Nouns** – names of people, places and objects.
- **Time** – dates and periods of time.
- **Numbers** – amounts, statistics, percentages and figures.
- **Vocabulary** – important topic vocabulary or words they are unsure of. They could look these up online or in a dictionary to find out what they mean.

Your child should also look out for titles and headings, which will help them understand the structure of the text.

### STEP 3 – IDENTIFY KEY WORDS IN THE QUESTIONS

Encourage your child to identify key words in the questions so they know what they're looking for to find the answer. For example, in a text about the seaside:

**Question:** What might you find in a rock pool?

**Key words:** rock pool

'Rock pool' is the clue needed to answer the question.

### STEP 4 – SKIM AND SCAN THE TEXT

Once your child has identified the key words in the question, they can try to remember where in the text the answer can be found. This might be as simple as remembering whether it was at the beginning, middle or end of the text, or thinking about which section the key information was in.

Your child can then **skim read** the whole text to find the section they need. When they've found it, they should **scan** the section to find the relevant sentences. They then read those sentences carefully to find the answer.

Invite your child to work through all the questions and give them lots of encouragement along the way. The answers can be found at the back of the book.

# 1 KNIGHTS AND CASTLES

You may have read stories about kings and queens who lived in castles. Have you ever imagined living in one?

It may seem like fun, but castles were often dark, damp and full of rats. They were also very windy and cold.

Most castles were built over 500 years ago. Some were built almost 1,000 years ago! They protected rich and important people.

Castles had strong walls. Some also had water around them, called a moat. This made it harder for enemies to get inside.

Many castles were guarded by knights. Knights were noble soldiers who rode horses. They vowed to do good deeds.

To become knights, boys from rich families trained every day. They learned to ride and fight.

They also had to wear metal armour. It protected them, but it was very heavy.

Most castles are now ruins. If you visit one, pretend to be the knights protecting it.



**SKIM AND SCAN**

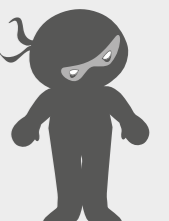


This question is about *Knights and castles*.

Use your ninja reading eyes to spot the words in the text. Circle the words when you find them.

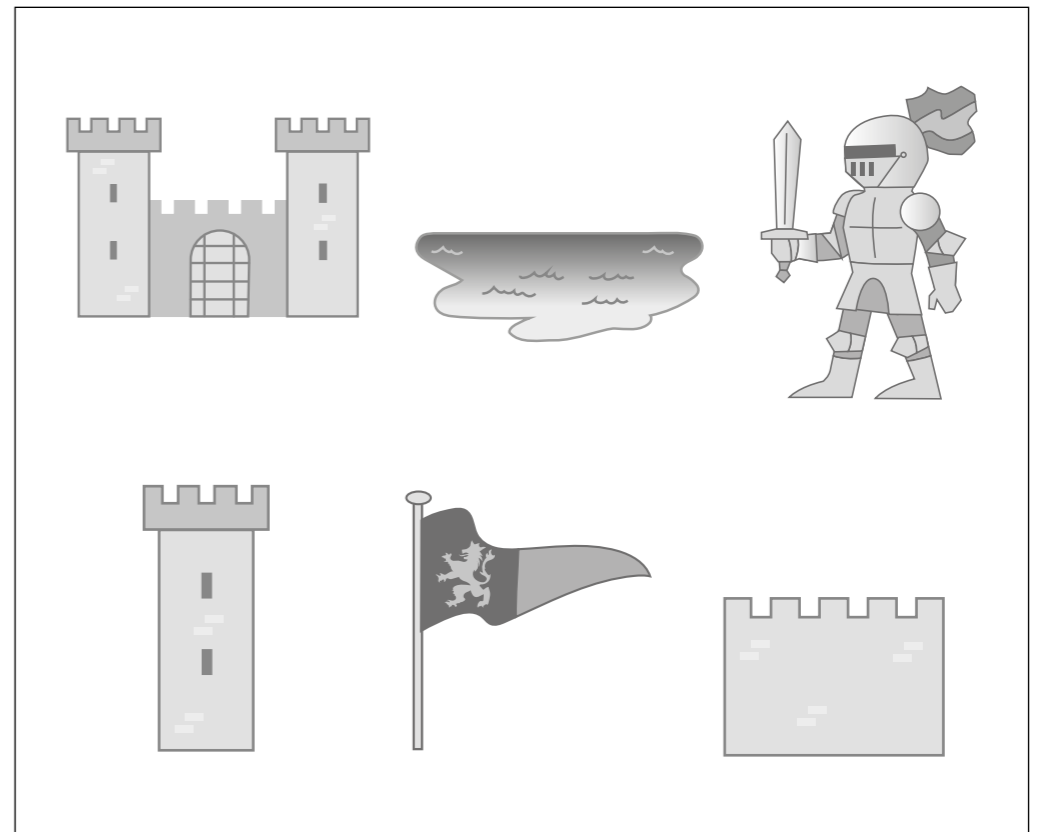
stories	kings	queens
castles	imagined	dark
damp	rats	cold
500	rich	strong
moat	enemies	metal

**LABEL AN IMAGE**



Look at the image below.

Label the image with words from the word bank.



**Word bank**

knight	water	flag
tower	castle	walls

**FILL IN THE GAP**



**FILL IN THE GAP USING A WORD BANK**

Read each sentence and choose the correct word to fill the gap. Look back at *Knights and castles* to find the correct answer.

It may seem like fun, but castles were often \_\_\_\_\_, damp and full of rats.

- damp
- dark
- fun
- bright

They \_\_\_\_\_ rich and important people.

- defended
- protected
- hid
- trapped

Knights were \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers who rode horses.

- noble
- naughty
- nice
- smelly

They also had to wear metal \_\_\_\_\_.

- clothes
- helmets
- swords
- armour

**FILL IN THE GAP**

Look back at *Knights and castles*. Skim to find the correct area or paragraph of the text. Then scan to locate the correct sentence. Fill in the gap with the missing word.

To become knights, boys from rich \_\_\_\_\_ trained every day.

Some also had water around them, called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Knights were noble \_\_\_\_\_ who rode horses.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**



Circle the correct answer to the following questions.

What did castles protect?

- rich and important people
- walls
- knights
- animals

What made it harder for enemies to get inside?

- huge fires
- darkness
- watery moats
- rats

What did knights learn to do?

- sing
- live in castles
- swim
- ride and fight

What did knights wear to protect themselves?

- robes
- metal armour
- shoes
- trousers

Who trained to be knights?

- boys from rich families
- girls from rich families
- poor boys
- kings

Which word describes a castle's walls?

- short
- strong
- grey
- slippery

Which small animals lived in castles?

- people
- knights
- horses
- rats