

**ANDREW
JENNINGS**

**AGES
8-9**

COMPREHENSION NINJA



COMPREHENSION NINJA WORKBOOK



Learning at Home

Non-Fiction comprehension activities
to support the National Curriculum

BLOOMSBURY

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INTRODUCTION

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I'm proud to call him a friend and even prouder that he could be a part of the
Comprehension Ninja series.

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: the Lake District, Anglo-Saxons, Ramadan and Eid, guide dogs, chimpanzees, Russia and Boudicca.**

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 THE LAKE DISTRICT

Have you ever visited the Lake District? This stunning part of England is breathtaking to see. It's extremely popular with tourists, having over 15 million visitors per year. It's not only a place of outstanding natural beauty, but also the home of some of England's most impressive landmarks and wonderful wildlife. It's even protected by the government, to preserve its beauty.

The Lake District – also known as the Lakes – is England's largest national park. It's located in Cumbria, in the North-West of England. There are 16 lakes in the Lake District. Most of them are called either 'meres' or 'waters'. In the Middle Ages, the word 'mere' meant pure – and, as a lake is filled with fresh water that can be drunk, this makes perfect sense. The largest lake in England can be found in the Lake District: Lake Windermere. It measures a whopping 18 km long, and it's ideal for sailing. Many visitors come to enjoy a boat ride over this fantastic lake.

Of course, the lakes see a lot of rain – it keeps them topped up! The town of Seathwaite has the highest rate of rainfall in the whole of England. It receives around 355 centimetres of rain each year.

The Lakes aren't all about water, though! The park is also mountainous, and many people visit the area to rock climb or stroll along the steep landscape. The Lake District is home to England's highest mountain: Scafell Pike. Scafell Pike stands proudly at 978 m above sea level. Just imagine getting to the top and looking down at the beautiful lakes in the valleys below – this amazing sight is why so many people take on the challenge!

The Lakes are an ideal place for an action-packed adventure, even if you don't fancy mountain-climbing. You could test your map-reading skills with orienteering, which is a hiking race: you use a map and compass to explore. You could go gorge walking, which involves getting very wet to scramble down into rivers and explore them. You could also try canoeing or sailing across the lakes themselves.

If you'd like a more relaxed time, you could simply sit and enjoy the view. The Lakes inspired some of the most famous English poets: William Wordsworth's poem 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' was written after he saw daffodils all along the shore of one lake called Ullswater. Beatrix Potter enjoyed the scenery and wildlife of the Lakes so much that she included it in her famous Peter Rabbit stories. You could follow their examples and try watching for birds of prey such as eagles, ospreys, kites, buzzards and falcons. Back on the ground, you could keep your eyes open for rabbits, red squirrels and wild mountain ponies.

Visitors to the Lakes bring in a lot of extra money to the area – in 2017, it totalled 2.9 billion pounds! With all of this to see and do, it's no wonder that there were over 15 million of them! Why not become one yourself?



FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word to fill the gap. Look back at paragraphs one and two in *The Lake District* to find the correct answer.

This stunning part of _____ is breathtaking to see.

There are 16 _____ in the Lake District.

It's extremely popular with tourists, having over 15 million _____ per year.

It's even _____ by the government, to preserve its beauty.

The largest lake in England can be found in the Lake District: Lake _____.

Look back at paragraphs three and four in *The Lake District* to find the correct answer.

The park is also mountainous, and many people visit the area to rock climb or stroll along the _____ landscape.

The town of Seathwaite has the highest rate of _____ in the whole of England.

Scafell Pike stands _____ at 978 m above sea level.

Look back at *The Lake District* to find the correct answer.

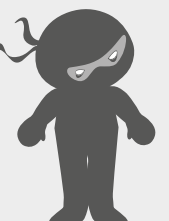
The Lakes is an ideal place for an action-packed _____, even if you don't fancy mountain-climbing.

Beatrix Potter enjoyed the scenery and wildlife of the Lakes so much that she included it in her _____ Peter Rabbit stories.

You could also try _____ or sailing across the lakes themselves.

Visitors to the Lakes bring in a lot of extra money to the area - in 2017, it totalled 2.9 _____ pounds!

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

Lake District	largest lake in England
Lake Windermere	England's highest mountain
Scafell Pike	the Lakes
Seathwaite	highest rate of rainfall

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

visitors per year	978 m
above sea level	18 km
largest lake	355 cm per year
rate of rainfall	over 15 million

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

William Wordsworth	Peter Rabbit
Beatrix Potter	I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
orienteering	scramble down into rivers
gorge walking	hiking race


MULTIPLE CHOICE


Circle the correct answer to the following questions.

How many people visit the Lake District every year?

over 13 million

14 million

over 15 million

16 million

What did the word 'mere' mean in the Middle Ages?

fresh

pure

water

clear

Why do people take on the challenge of Scafell Pike?

to enjoy the amazing sight

to go orienteering

to go gorge walking

to try mountain-climbing

How long is Lake Windermere?

18 mm

18 cm

18 m

18 km

Who was inspired by the views of the Lakes?

Harry Potter

Peter Rabbit

William Shakespeare

Beatrix Potter

Which town has the highest rate of rainfall in the whole of England?

Windermere

Seathwaite

Cumbria

Ullswater

Which animals might you see if you visit the Lakes?

horses

grey squirrels

red squirrels

hares

Which year did visitors to the Lakes bring in 2.9 billion pounds to the area?

2015

2016

2017

2018


TRUE OR FALSE


Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false*.

The Lake District has over 14 million visitors per year.

True False

The Lake District is in north-east England.

True False

There are 17 lakes in the Lake District.

True False

'Mere' meant pure.

True False

The largest lake is called Ullswater.

True False

The Lake District is protected by the Lake District Police.

True False

Seathwaite has the highest rate of rainfall in the whole of England.

True False

Scafell Pike is over 1000 m above sea level.

True False

Wild mountain ponies can be found in the Lake District.

True False

The Lake District is England's second largest national park.

True False

Beatrix Potter included the Lakes in the Peter Rabbit stories.

True False

Lake Windermere is the smallest lake in England.

True False

2.9 billion pounds were brought in by visitors in 2017.

True False

People enjoy boat rides over Lake Windermere.

True False

You can go gorge walking in the Lakes.

True False