

ANDREW
JENNINGS

AGES
9-10

COMPREHENSION NINJA



COMPREHENSION NINJA WORKBOOK



Learning at Home

Non-Fiction comprehension activities
to support the National Curriculum

BLOOMSBURY

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NINJA
WORKBOOK**

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INTRODUCTION

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Comprehension Ninja series and beyond. Your subject knowledge, skills and experience have
been essential in developing the highest quality non-fiction texts, that are engaging, inspiring
and informative for the reader.

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: fair trade, European culture, the Solar system, the British Empire, Australia
and Banksy.**

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 FAIR TRADE

What is fair trade?

To understand the meaning of fair trade, we can look at each word: 'fair' means 'equal and without discrimination' and 'trade' is the action of buying and selling goods. By putting them together, we can begin to understand that fair trade is about ensuring everyone in the world is treated in the same way when it comes to buying and selling goods. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case.

Why do we need to address fair trade?

Fair trade focuses on producers in 'developing' countries: countries with economies that are weaker than average and have a high need to sell their products. Historically, farmers in developing countries haven't been paid the same as those in developed countries.

As a consequence, farmers don't always make enough money to live – even though they have worked day and night to produce a high-quality product. Large companies exploit farmers' and workers' need to sell, making a huge profit and passing none of it to their suppliers.

What does fair trade achieve?

The fair trade movement aims to ensure that producers are paid a price that is never below the world value of their product. This should allow producers to keep their businesses running.

In this way, fair trade aims to enable even the poorest farmers to feed their families, drink clean water, clothe their children and buy medicines when needed. This may allow them to develop their businesses and their communities, too.

As of 2019, more than 1.66 million farmers and workers are fair trade certified, and there are 1,411 certified producers in 73 countries across the world. In 2016, \$158.3 million was paid to these fair trade producers.

The fair trade of coffee

One of the fair trade movement's priorities is the trade of coffee. Coffee is one of the world's most popular drinks, and its sale is extremely profitable. The cost of producing it is low, and the price of coffee to customers is high.

Coffee is made from small beans that are roasted and ground down into a powder or granules. The beans are actually berries – they come from trees called 'coffea'. It's only after they're dried that they're called beans.

The origins of coffee can be traced back centuries to ancient coffea forests in Ethiopia. Legend says the goat herder Kaldi first discovered their potential after noticing that his goats became energetic after eating coffea berries. Monasteries started making them into a drink that kept the monks alert during evening prayer. From there, word moved east and coffee became popular across the globe.

Nearly all of the world's coffee is now grown in a region called the 'coffee belt', which is close to the equator. It includes India and Indonesia, and much of Africa and South America. Soil there is rich in nutrients, and the climate is warm and wet – perfect for growing coffea plants. Many countries in the coffee belt are classed as 'developing' countries.

Nowadays, small farms produce 80 per cent of the world's coffee, and it's estimated that 125 million people rely on the coffee trade for their livelihoods. Without the simple coffee bean, millions of people would be without work.

How can we support fair trade?

The most important thing you and your family can do is to buy fair trade products. Keep an eye out for the Fairtrade Foundation's circular green, black and blue logo on packaging. It can be seen on lots of products, including coffee. This logo informs the consumer that the producer of the product is guaranteed to receive a fair price.



FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

To understand the meaning of fair trade, we can look at each word: 'fair' means 'equal and without _____' and 'trade' is the action of buying and selling goods.

By putting them together, we can begin to understand that fair trade is about ensuring everyone in the world is _____ in the same way when it comes to buying and selling goods.

Fair trade focuses on producers in '_____ ' countries.

As a _____, farmers don't always make enough money to live – even though they have worked day and night to produce a high-quality product.

Large companies _____ farmers' and workers' need to sell, making a huge profit and passing none of it to their suppliers.

The fair trade movement aims to ensure that _____ are paid a price that is never below the world value of their product.

This should allow producers to keep their _____ running.

In this way, fair trade aims to enable even the poorest farmers to feed their families, drink _____ water, clothe their children and buy medicines when needed.

The beans are actually berries – they come from trees called '_____':

Legend says the goat herder _____ first discovered their potential after noticing that his goats became energetic after eating coffea berries.

_____ started making them into a drink that kept the monks alert during evening prayer.

Soil there is rich in nutrients, and the _____ is warm and wet.

Nowadays, small farms produce _____ of the world's coffee.

Without the simple coffee bean, _____ of people would be without work.

The most important thing you and your family can do is to buy _____ products.

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

fair trade focuses on	•
number of certified producers	•
goat herder	•
close to the equator	•

farmers don't have enough	•
large companies	•
coffee growing region	•
fair trade ensures	•

paid to fair trade producers	•
Fairtrade Foundation logo	•
coffee	•
coffea	•

trade means	•
Fairtrade Foundation logo	•
fair means	•
fair trade countries	•

1.66 million	•
energetic goats ate	•
small farms produce	•
farmers use money for	•

Kaldi	•
'developing' countries	•
coffee belt	•
1,411	•

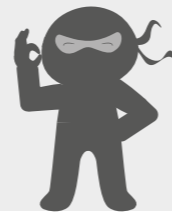
exploit farmers	•
the coffee belt	•
everyone treated the same	•
money	•

guarantee the producer has been paid a fair price	•
a tree	•
a very popular drink	•
\$158.3 million	•

equal and without discrimination	•
73	•
buying and selling goods	•
green, black and blue	•

coffea berries	•
clothes, food and medicines	•
fair trade certified farmers and workers	•
80 per cent of the world's coffee	•

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

What does the word 'fair' mean?

everyone is equal	everyone is different	everyone is treated the same	everyone knows the same
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What does the word 'trade' mean?

buying and selling goods	a market	the same products	giving away your product
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Where is most coffee produced?

India, Indonesia, Africa and South America	Japan	London, England	North America
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What is coffee made from?

a cactus	a flower	an animal	a berry
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Before fair trade, farmers were being...

harmed	exploited	cared for	bullied
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Fair trade was introduced to ensure profits were shared with...

producers	sellers	large companies	investors
-----------	---------	-----------------	-----------

What are coffee beans turned into?

liquid	berries	powder or granules	tea
--------	---------	--------------------	-----

What is the name of the plant that produces coffee?

cofea	coffee	cofea	cofee
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What is the name of the region that produces most of the world's coffee?

the coffee centre	the coffee equator	the coffee lands	the coffee belt
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What shape is the Fairtrade Foundation's logo?

a square	a triangle	a hexagon	a circle
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TRUE OR FALSE



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

Fair means to be treated equally.

True False

Trade means the action of buying and selling.

True False

It is always the case that people are treated in the same way.

True False

Poor and rich countries' farmers will be paid the same.

True False

Fair trade focuses on producers in 'developed' countries.

True False

Fair trade protects farmers from being exploited.

True False

Fair trade aims to help even the poorest farmers.

True False

Large companies pass their profits on to their supplier.

True False

Fair trade allows farmers to feed and clothe their families.

True False

Fair trade allows farmers to sell their businesses.

True False

Coffee is one of the world's most popular drinks.

True False

Coffee is produced from a leaf.

True False

Coffee comes from a tree called coffea.

True False

Nearly all of the world's coffee is grown in factories.

True False

The coffee belt is close to the equator.

True False

Coffee became popular across the globe when word moved west.

True False

Small farms produce 100 per cent of the world's coffee.

True False

Monasteries made a drink with the berries of the coffea tree.

True False

Kodi the cow herder discovered the coffee bean.

True False

The Fairtrade Foundation logo is on all products.

True False