

# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Tour de France

The Tour de France is the world's most famous (and arguably the hardest) cycling race. It takes place every year and lasts for three weeks, covering more than 3,500km.

### History of the Race

During the late 19th century, cycling became a very popular hobby for many people. As time went on, organised bike racing was introduced and professional cycling became very big in France. Sports newspapers such as 'Le Vélo' reported on cycling stories, which helped to promote races.

It was the journalist Géo Lefèvre that had the idea of organising a big bike race through France. On 6th July 1903, 60 cyclists set off from the Au Reveil Matin Café in the suburbs of Paris. They covered 2,428km in a circular route, through six stages. Eighteen days later, 21 of the original 60 cyclists made it back to the finish line in Paris. The winner was Maurice Garin and Le Tour de France was born. The race has taken place every year since then, except during war time. As the tour became more and more popular, the course lengthened and more challenging mountain climbs were introduced.



### Did you know?

- Over 150 countries broadcast the race all over the world.
- The youngest ever winner was Henri Comet - he was 19 years old.
- Bradley Wiggins became the first British rider to win the Tour de France in 2012, which was followed by a second British winner, Chris Froome, in 2013.

### The Route and Race Today

Each year, the tour begins in a different country. The route of the race also changes every year, but usually finishes at the Champs-Élysées in Paris. Every day is a new stage of the race and winners of each stage are awarded with different coloured jerseys. The white jersey is given to the best rider under 26 years of age, the red polka dot jersey is for the best climber and is referred to as 'King of the Mountains', the green jersey is awarded to the best sprinter and the yellow jersey is for the leader of the race. The overall winner of the Tour de France is the cyclist that has ridden the full route in the quickest time. During the race the riders are only given two rest days.

# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Questions About Tour de France

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. When was the first ever Tour de France?

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2. How many cyclists made it to the finish line of the first race?

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3. What was the name of the first ever winner of the Tour de France?

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4. What happens to the starting point of the race every year?

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5. What is the nickname given to the winner of the red polka dot jersey?

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6. Compare the significance of the green jersey with the white jersey.

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7. Why do you think different coloured jerseys are given to the winners of each stage?

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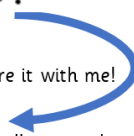
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# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Pet Care of a Dog

Dogs are hugely popular pets. In fact, there are eight and a half million dogs being kept as pets in the UK alone.

They are known as 'man's best friend', but how should dogs be cared for and what do we actually know about them?



### Food and drink

Dogs need a well-balanced diet of meat and plant-based foods. They need one meal a day, unless the vet gives different advice for your type of dog. Their teeth are well-developed, with sharp teeth for tearing meat and molars for grinding other foods.

They must be able to get to clean, fresh water at all times, or else they would become very poorly.

### Environment

Dogs need a comfortable, clean and quiet environment to sleep, undisturbed.

Dogs need a place where they can go if they are frightened. They have different personalities, and rescue dogs might have had bad experiences, so some get scared more easily than others.



### Did You Know?

Dogs descend from the wolf!



# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Pet Care of a Dog

### Dog behaviour

Dogs are intelligent, playful animals, and need to be exercised and have toys to play with. There are 400 different breeds of dog, and each breed has different traits particular to its breed. Some are bred to be small and fast, to find rabbits down their burrows; others are big and strong, bred for pulling things. From herding to hunting, retrieving and tracking, dogs have instincts, meaning they need to be able to play, fetch, run and jump to stay happy and healthy.



### Did You Know?

Dogs can hear sounds four times quieter than humans can hear!

### Changes in behaviour

A dog which is licking their lips with their ears back, and not looking at you, might be feeling worried.

A dog which is lying down, cowering with their ears flat, showing their teeth and their tail down between their legs, could be feeling unhappy or angry.



### Training a dog

Dogs need to be given treats when they have done something well. They should not be shouted at, as they won't understand this behaviour. They need regular, clear instructions.



# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Pet Care of a Dog

### Dangers to dogs

Dogs are curious, and need to be watched to make sure they are safe at all times. Some items are poisonous to dogs:

- Foods like chocolate, onions, raisins, grapes and sultanas are very poisonous for dogs, causing them to become very ill if they eat them.
- Slug and rat poison can make dogs very ill and can even result in death!



### Helpful dogs

Some dogs can be trained to be assistance dogs. They are trained to help disabled people around the house and with their shopping, and dogs that can find explosives, drugs and even detect illnesses like cancer.



# Year 3 Reading Activities

1. How do we know dogs are a popular pet in the UK?

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2. Describe what and how you would feed a dog.

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3. Name two factors which might contribute to why some dogs might get scared.

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4. What might a dachshund have the right characteristics for, and why?

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5. Imagine you are a vet. An owner brings their dog in and says the dog keeps looking around, lies down a lot and is licking its lips more than usual. What might be wrong with it and how do you know?

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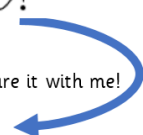
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# Year 3 Reading Activities

6. Which two points in the section Training a Dog do you think are the most important, and why?

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7. What word has the author used which means that dogs are interested in things?

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8. Why should you not feed a dog chocolate buttons?

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9. How could a dog help a person in a wheelchair in their home?

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10. Instead of this text being called "Pet Care for Dogs", think of a different title.

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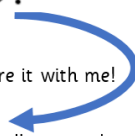
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# Year 3 Reading Activities

## Fossils

Fossils are shapes of dead animals and plants that lived millions of years ago made in rock. Usually when something dies it is eaten or decays and disappears. However, when an animal or plant dies and gets covered over, it can stay there and over time, become a fossil.

### Dinosaurs

Fossils are really important in understanding what has happened a long time ago. Without them we would not even know that dinosaurs existed! People who study fossils are called palaeontologists and these are the people who have found out what we now know about dinosaurs. However, this only started 200 years ago, so we've only known about dinosaurs for 200 years!



### Did you know?

- 'Sue' is the nickname given to the most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex specimen ever found.
- The word 'fossil' comes from an old word 'fossilis', meaning 'dug up'.
- Fossils are only found in sedimentary rock.
- The fossils in the pictures are called ammonites. It is the town symbol for Whitby in North Yorkshire. Whitby is good for fossil hunting and long ago, people thought that the ammonites were snakes turned to stone by St. Hilda!

### How a Fossil is Made

When some plants or animals die, their body sinks into mud or is buried by sand. This often happens at the bottom of the sea and stops it from rotting or being eaten by other animals. Whilst it is underground, water and minerals seep into the bones and where the bones and body used to be, to make a hard shape. This is squashed under more layers of sand, mud and eventually rock over many, many millions of years.



# Year 3 Reading Activities

1. What does a palaeontologist study?

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2. What is the nickname of the best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton?

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3. What sort of rock are fossils found in?

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4. Which town has an ammonite fossil as their symbol?

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5. Why have we only got fossils to find out about dinosaurs?

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6. What does the Latin word 'fossilis' mean?

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7. How come the fossilised animals or plants haven't been eaten by other animals?

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8. Why did the author use an exclamation mark at the end of the Fossil Facts section?

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9. Why aren't there any fossils of cats that lived twenty years ago?

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10. Do you think the ammonites in the pictures look like snakes? Why?

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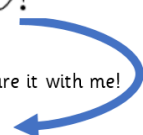
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# Year 3 Reading Activities

## The London Marathon

### What Is a 'Marathon'?

The marathon race comes from a Greek legend that tells of a soldier who was sent from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens with news that Greece had beaten the Persian army. It is said that the soldier ran the entire distance without stopping, bursting into the assembly with his good news before collapsing and dying.

### What Is the London Marathon?

The London Marathon is a long-distance running race. Runners from around the world come to take part in the race, which is well known for the historic route around London and the carnival atmosphere of the thousands of spectators. The London Marathon course is 26 miles and 385 yards long and takes runners past many famous sites in London, for example, the Cutty Sark.



### When Was the First London Marathon?

The first London Marathon took place on 29th March, 1981. It was the idea of John Disley and Chris Brasher, who had recently taken part in the New York Marathon. They were keen to create a London Marathon that would show off the famous sites in the city and prove that Britain was best when it came to organising major events. The first London Marathon was a huge hit! 20,000 people entered and 7,747 runners took to the start line with thousands more filling the streets of London to cheer them on.



# Year 3 Reading Activities

## The London Marathon

### Who Can Take Part in the London Marathon?

- Elite runners (the best, fastest runners in the world)
- Club and fun runners
- Wheelchair and Paralympic runners

Many people choose to run for a charity and raise money for a good cause. More than three quarters of the competitors now run for a charity. Sometimes, they run the course in fancy dress.

### The London Marathon: Facts and Figures

- Major Tim Peake ran the London Marathon on board the International Space Station!
- The fastest man to run the London Marathon was Eliud Kipchoge from Kenya in a time of 2:03.05.
- The fastest woman was Paula Radcliffe of Great Britain in a time of 2:15.25.
- The fastest marathon runner dressed as a plant was Lee Goodwin with a time of 3:02.43.
- The slowest London marathon was run by Lloyd Scott, who wore a deep-sea diving suit and finished the marathon in five days, eight hours, twenty-nine minutes and forty-six seconds! (The organisers have since set a 24-hour time limit in which to complete the London Marathon.)



# Year 3 Reading Activities

1. In your own words, explain where the term 'marathon' comes from.  

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2. What is the London Marathon?  

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3. Why might people be keen to take part in the London Marathon?  

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4. When was the first London Marathon?  

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5. Which event inspired John Disley and Chris Brasher to create the London Marathon?  

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6. Why did they want to create a London Marathon?  

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7. How do you know the London Marathon was a hit?  

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8. What is the largest group of runners at the London Marathon?  

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9. Why do you think people choose to raise money for a good cause?  

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10. Why was it unusual for Major Tim Peake to run the London Marathon?  

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# Year 3 Reading Activities

## BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015 and in the months before take-off, they trained intensively for their trip. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the highlight of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station. Whilst away from home, Tim also ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times in 186 days, the crew returned home to Earth via a Soyuz capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour (25 times the speed of sound). The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany where he is recovering and adjusting to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.



*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

In a recent press conference, Peake commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim expressed how much he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

His service to science has earned him an honour from the Queen. Peake was made a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. In response, Tim said, 'I am only one privileged person in a complex team of technicians, scientists, engineers, educators, trainers and flight directors, all working in pursuit of one of the greatest scientific and technical challenges of our time – exploring our solar system for the benefit of people on Earth. This award is for them.'

Photo courtesy of NASA HQ PHOTO 180101r.com - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# Year 3 Reading Activities

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?

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2. Write down **two** jobs Tim had to do on the mission.

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3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?

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4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?

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5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?

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6. Why do you think Tim dedicated his special honour to the entire team?

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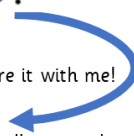
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# Year 3 Reading Activities

7. Give **two** reasons why space travel is important.

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8. Why has a picture and caption been added to the report?

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