



LOOK CLOSER CRAZY BUT TRUE

BALLOON ADVENTURE

A YOUNG boy's helium balloon has travelled all the way from England to America!

Cole Bell released the balloon from Tyne and Wear on his birthday on 16 July, with a note attached. It's a tradition he's carried out every year, but he's never discovered where the balloons end up. That was until this year when he received a postcard back – all the way from Las Vegas!

Cole's birthday balloon managed to travel a whopping 5,000 miles across the Atlantic, without popping! A couple called Chase and Bernie sent him a note to say they'd found it while out walking their dog. Cole received the postcard on 1 October – just over two months after the balloon first hit the skies!



SMALLEST PUMPKINS

WITH Halloween just around the corner, we couldn't resist showing you these teeny tiny pumpkins!



Miniland at LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is now home to the world's smallest pumpkin patch!

The unique Halloween harvest scene features more than 200 teeny 3cm tall pumpkins, including specially carved jack-o'-lanterns by famous miniature artist Hedley Wiggan.

The tiny jack-o'-lanterns are decorated with Minifigure monster faces and took Wiggan more than 60 hours to carve, using tiny specially modified tools like pins and scalpels.

The spooky scene also features hay bales and mini LEGO® recreations of tractors, farmers and scarecrows.

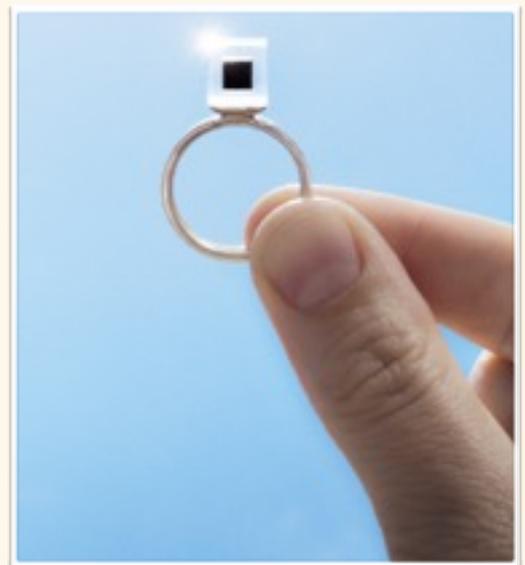


RARE JEWELS

YOU'VE heard of rings featuring diamonds or rubies, but how about toxic smog?

A Dutch artist called Daan Roosegaarde has come up with a unique new jewellery range, made using smog from China. The artist and his team have created the world's largest smog vacuum cleaner (in the form of a tower) which removes pollution from the air. The team then compress the toxic smog particles and pop it into rings, cubes and cufflinks. They're not just nice pieces of jewellery though, they help to clean China's environment! Did you know that China is one of the world's most polluted countries in the world?

Find out more about the jewellery project at:
www.studioroosegaarde.net.





CRAZY BUT TRUE

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Match the people in the news to the correct description.

PERSON	DESCRIPTION
Daan Roosegaarde	a 9-year-old boy from Tyne and Wear
Cole Bell	two Americans who discovered a balloon message
Hedley Wiggan	a Dutch artist making smog jewellery
Chase and Bernie	a famous artist who creates miniature art

LOOK AT THE ARTICLE 'BALLOON ADVENTURE'.

2) What does Cole Bell do every year on his birthday?

3) Explain why Cole must have been extremely surprised by the post he received on the 1st October.

LOOK AT THE ARTICLE 'SMALLEST PUMPKINS'.

4) What is the name for a carved pumpkin with a light inside?

5) Describe in detail the new scene which has opened at Miniland in Legoland.

6) What do you think would have made Hedley Wiggan's job a very challenging task?

7) The article tells you that Wiggan carved the pumpkins using **"specially modified tools"**.

What do the words *specially modified* tell you about the tools?

LOOK AT THE ARTICLE 'RARE JEWELS'.

8) How does artist Daan Roosegaarde make the 'jewels' for his rings?

9) Why do you think this artist has chosen to put smog inside his jewellery? (You aren't told the answer in the text, say what you think.)

CONSIDER ALL THE ARTICLES.

10) Why do you think these three articles were put in the 'Crazy But True' section of the newspaper, rather than pages such as Big News or World News for example?



CRAZY BUT TRUE

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Daan Roosegaarde
Cole Bell
Hedley Wiggan
Chase and Bernie

DESCRIPTION
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two Americans who discovered a balloon message
a Dutch artist making smog jewellery
a famous artist who creates miniature art

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CRAZY BUT TRUE

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

A) MORE CRAZY BUT TRUE

Have a look through a copy of this week's *First News*. Can you spot any other articles which you think are crazy, but true?

- For each one, write down the headline and explain why you think the article would work well on the Crazy But True page.
- If you were to publish the article on this page, would you want to change the headline? See if you can think of a new, crazier headline for each story.

B) RESEARCH: JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Can you find out the story behind jack-o'-lanterns?

- Where did the tradition of carving pumpkins come from?
- What used to be another name for spooky lights?

C) CREATE: JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Design a face for a jack-o'-lantern.

- If you're not interested in Halloween, it doesn't have to be a spooky face, it could be anything!
- But remember, it has to be easy to carve. Check this by shading the areas you would cut out of your design.

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CRAZY BUT TRUE

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS

News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage children, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom.

The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for a wide range of reading skills to be practised each week. These skills should fit within most schools' reading and literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a STARTING POINT response that pupils could give. Further suggestions then give a fuller, more DEVELOPED RESPONSE that students will work towards to reach and exceed the floor standards required at the end of primary school. For a list of these reading skills used to reference questions, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

Answers

Answers

1) Match the people in the news to the correct description.

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Correctly identified information:

Daan Roosegaarde	a Dutch artist making smog jewellery
Cole Bell	a 9-year-old boy from Tyne and Wear
Hedley Wiggan	a famous artist who creates miniature art
Chase and Bernie	two Americans who discovered a balloon message

Look at the article 'Balloon adventure'.

2) What does Cole Bell do every year on his birthday?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- releases a balloon

Correctly identified information:

- He releases a helium balloon with a note and his address attached to it.

3) Explain why Cole must have been extremely surprised by the post he received on the 1st October.

READING SKILL: Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8 / SATs CD 2d(ii) / AF3)

Starting point:

- The balloon had travelled all the way to Las Vegas!

Developed response:

- Not only did he get a reply to his balloon message for the first time ever, but the balloon had travelled 5,000 miles across the Atlantic to Las Vegas!

Look at the article 'Smallest pumpkins'.

4) What is the name for a carved pumpkin with a light inside?

READING SKILL: Understand vocabulary in context

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2a)

- jack-o'-lantern

5) Describe in detail the new scene which has opened at Miniland in Legoland.

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- It's a mini Halloween scene with tiny pumpkins.
- There are 200 pumpkins and Lego models.

Correctly identified information:

- It's a Halloween and harvest scene which includes 200 miniature pumpkins carved with Minifigure faces, plus hay bales, Lego tractors, farmers and scarecrows.

6) What do you think would have made Hedley Wiggan's job a very challenging task?

READING SKILL: Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8 / SATs CD 2d(ii) / AF3)

Starting point:

- It must have been really hard to carve the tiny pumpkins with those faces.
- The pumpkins were only 3cm tall!

Developed response:

- It must have been extremely hard to carve the Lego faces on to pumpkins which were only 3cm tall without pieces breaking off.
- Plus, the artist had 200 to make which took 60 hours and must have been quite exhausting.

7) The article tells you that Wiggan carved the pumpkins using "**specialty modified tools**". What do the words *specialty modified* tell you about the tools?

READING SKILL: Recognising effect of language choices

(NC 2f & 3 / SATs CD 2g / AF5&6)

Starting point:

- They were changed.

Developed response:

- The tools were changed specially to suit this particular job.

Look at the article 'Rare jewels'.

8) How does artist Daan Roosegaarde make the 'jewels' for his rings?

READING SKILL: Find and explain information

(NC 2a / SATs CD 2b(i & ii) / AF2)

Starting point:

- He fills them with smog.
He gets smog from a vacuum cleaner.

Correctly identified information:

- He removes smog from the air in China with a 'smog vacuum cleaner'.
- Then he compresses it and puts the smog particles into cubes and other jewellery shapes.

9) Why do you think this artist has chosen to put smog inside his jewellery? (You aren't told the answer in the text, say what you think.)

READING SKILL: Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text based inference)

(NC 6,7 & 8 / SATs CD - not tested)

Starting point:

- It's a new, fun thing to do.
- It might make him money.

Developed response:

- It makes people think about air pollution and the smog in China.
- It's a very unusual and interesting thing to do. It gets attention from the newspapers and might raise money for the artist, or possibly for environmental causes.
- It makes you think about what is valuable. Why not have smog on a ring instead of a diamond?!

10) Why do you think these three articles were put in the 'Crazy But True' section of the newspaper, rather than pages such as Big News or World News for example?

READING SKILL: Make comparisons between texts

(NC 1e & 1f / SATs CD 2h / AF7)

Starting point:

- They are all funny and a bit crazy so they belong on this page.
- The stories are crazy, and true!
- They aren't all about stories around the world, so they can't go there.

Developed response:

- I think they were put here because all the stories are very unusual in some way, but they are all real news stories!
- These news stories are quite funny and light-hearted. They aren't very serious news stories so wouldn't fit in Big News or World News.