

The Hedgehog's Balloon

Percy the park keeper looked up from his work and gazed in wonder. "Two red ones... a blue one... there's a yellow one... and another blue one..."

Percy was counting balloons.

"I wonder where they're coming from," he said to himself.

"Somebody must have had a party."

He put down his trowel and wiped his hands.

"Well, if nobody wants them," he said, "I think I'll help myself."

Percy chased after the balloons as they floated past him on the breeze. It didn't take him long to collect as many as he could carry. He began to walk back towards his hut, whistling happily.

Suddenly, Percy stopped. He could hear a faint sound coming from a tree stump nearby. It was not a happy sound.

"Someone's crying," said Percy.

"Oh dear." He let go of his balloons and hurried over to the stump.

Sitting on the tree stump, and looking very upset, was a hedgehog. Two mice were doing their best to comfort him.

"Goodness me," said Percy. "Whatever is the matter?"

"It's all these balloons," said the hedgehog.

Then, in between sniffs and sobs, he explained to Percy how he had always loved balloons. The trouble was that he could never have them because...

The Hedgehog's Balloon by Nick Butterworth

Questions

1 Which word has a similar meaning to 'gazed'? Circle **one** answer.

sang stared shouted smiled [1 mark]

2 How many **yellow** balloons did Percy count? Circle **one** answer.

five three one two four [1 mark]

3 What did Percy do as he walked back to his hut? Circle **one** answer.

skip sing shout whistle [1 mark]

4 'Suddenly, Percy stopped. He could hear a faint sound coming from a tree stump nearby.'

Circle the word that has a similar meaning to 'faint'.

noisy quiet scary funny [1 mark]

5 What was the hedgehog sitting on? Tick **one** box.

a tree stump a bench the grass a balloon [1 mark]

6 What do the words 'sniffs' and 'sobs' tell you about what the hedgehog was doing?

[1 mark]

7 Put these events from the story in order. One has been done for you.

[1 mark]

Percy chased after the balloons.	
Percy was counting balloons.	1
Percy heard a faint sound coming from a tree stump.	
The hedgehog explained to Percy how he had always loved balloons.	
Sitting on the tree stump, and looking very upset, was a hedgehog.	

8 The last sentence in the story is 'The trouble was that he could never have them because...'

Why do you think the hedgehog couldn't have balloons?

[2 marks]

Teaching assessment

- 1 Pupils should circle the word **stared**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1a)
- 2 Pupils should circle **one**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 3 Pupils should circle **whistle**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 4 Pupils should circle **quiet**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1a)
- 5 Pupils should tick **a tree stump**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 6 **Expected standard:** Pupils should explain that the words '*sniffs*' and '*sobs*' show that the hedgehog was crying. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1d)
- 7 **Expected standard:**

Percy chased after the balloons.	2
Percy was counting balloons.	1
Percy heard a faint sound coming from a tree stump.	3
The hedgehog explained to Percy how he had always loved balloons.	5
Sitting on the tree stump, and looking very upset, was a hedgehog.	4

1 mark for all correct (Content Domain 1c)

- 8 **Expected standard:** Pupils should predict that the hedgehog couldn't have balloons because of his spikes. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1e)

Extension: Some pupils may be able to explain that the hedgehog's spikes would be sharp and so he couldn't have balloons because he would pop them.

1 additional mark (Content Domain 1e)

Red Foxes: Nocturnal Predators

What is a red fox?

A red fox is a small **mammal** with long legs and a bushy tail.

It has a long **snout** and pointed ears.

You might wonder why you rarely see red foxes during the day.

This is because they are **nocturnal**.

What does nocturnal mean?

Nocturnal animals are awake at night.

Animals that are nocturnal sleep during the day.

Many different animals are nocturnal.

Bats, owls, hedgehogs, and mice are nocturnal.

Where do red foxes live?

Red foxes live in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

They can be found in forests, fields, mountains, and deserts.

Red foxes can even be found living near people.

They live in large gardens and near places where people throw away rubbish.

What do red foxes eat?

Red foxes are good hunters.

They eat small animals, such as rabbits, mice, and some birds.

Red foxes will also eat some plants and insects.

Foxes living near people will eat rubbish too.

Red Foxes: Nocturnal Predators by Rebecca Rissman

Questions

① What is the title of this text? [1 mark]

② A red fox has 'a bushy tail'. Circle the word that has a similar meaning to 'bushy'.

thin **leafy** **short** **fluffy** [1 mark]

③ A red fox has 'a long snout'. Circle the word that has a similar meaning to 'snout'.

nose **back** **head** **tummy** [1 mark]

④ Why wouldn't you expect to see a fox in the daytime? Tick **one** box.

They are nocturnal.

They are hard to see in sunlight.

Other animals attack them. [1 mark]

⑤ Why would it be a good idea to keep your pet rabbit inside if red foxes live in your garden? Circle **one** answer. [1 mark]

Because rabbits like to be warm and snug. **To protect it from red foxes.**

Because rabbits don't like the garden. **To stop the red foxes playing with it.**

⑥ Put each section from the text in order. One has been done for you. [1 mark]

What does nocturnal mean?	
What do red foxes eat?	
What is a red fox?	1
Where do red foxes live?	

⑦ Tick the boxes where red foxes live. One has been done for you.

North America **Australasia** **Europe**

Africa **Antarctica** **Asia** [1 mark]

⑧ **A.** What can people do to stop red foxes living in their gardens?

B. What makes you think this? [2 marks]

Teaching assessment

- 1 Pupils should write **Red Foxes: Nocturnal Predators**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 2 Pupils should circle the word **fluffy**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1a)
- 3 Pupils should circle the word **nose**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1a)
- 4 Pupils should tick **They are nocturnal**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 5 Pupils should circle **To protect it from red foxes**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1d)

6 **Expected standard:**

What does nocturnal mean?	2
What do red foxes eat?	4
What is a red fox?	1
Where do red foxes live?	3

1 mark for all correct (Content Domain 1c)

7 **Expected standard:**

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| North America <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Australasia <input type="checkbox"/> | Europe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Africa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Antarctica <input type="checkbox"/> | Asia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark for all correct (Content Domain 1b)

8 **A. Expected standard:** Pupils should infer that people should make sure their rubbish is put in bins with the lids on so that foxes cannot get to it if they don't want foxes living in their garden. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1d)

B. Extension: Some pupils may be able to explain that they think this because the text says foxes live near places where people throw rubbish away and that foxes will eat rubbish. **1 additional mark** (Content Domain 1d)