



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Part One: Match the following words with their meanings.

fast-flowing **elderly** **swept away**

1. old (*adjective*):
2. when the water in a river moves quickly (*phrase*):
3. when somebody or something is moved quickly through a river or ocean by the water (*phrase*):

Use these pictures to answer questions 4 to 6.



4. What is **fast flowing**?
5. What is being **swept away**?
6. The pictures above are about today's article. *What is happening? What do you think happens next?*

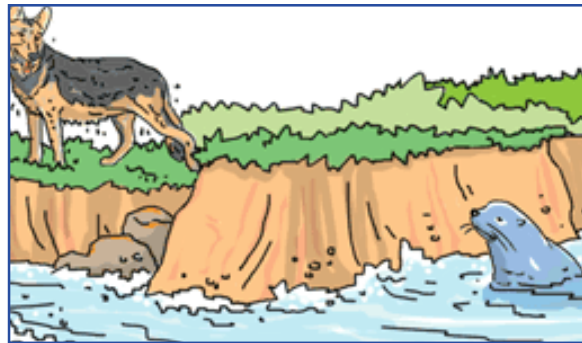
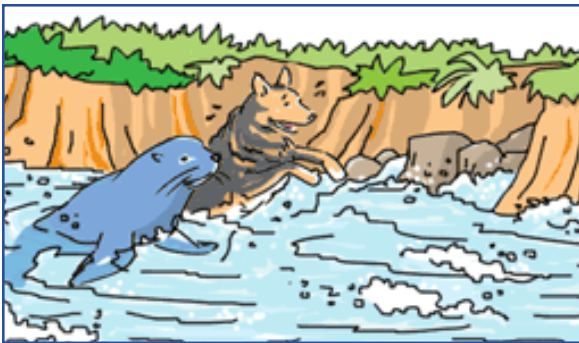
Talk about your ideas with your group.

Part Two: Match the following words with their meanings.

push **seal** **bank** **save**

1. an animal with short fur that lives in or near the water; it eats fish (*noun*): _____
2. to help somebody or something who is in danger (*verb*): _____
3. to move somebody or something away from you (*verb*): _____
4. the side of a river (*noun*): _____

Use these pictures to answer questions 5 to 7.



5. What saved the dog?
6. How did it save the dog?
7. Look at the pictures again. *What happened? Are you surprised? Why do you think the seal saved the dog?*

Reading Activities

A: Sequencing

Part 1: Below is the first sentence from today's article but the words are not in the correct order. Work with a partner and put the words into the correct order. (The first part is done for you as an example.)

- swept away by
- an elderly dog
- after it was
- a fast flowing river
- in northern England
- 1 A seal saved

Part 2: Now answer the questions.

1. What was swept away?
2. What did the seal save?
3. Where did it happen?

Hero Seal Saves Dog

LONDON Thurs June 20 (Reuters) - A seal saved an elderly dog after it was swept away by a fast-flowing river in northern England.

The dog, who appeared to be **injured** before he went into the water, ran into the River Tees and tried to swim to the opposite bank - but the current got the better of him. Suddenly, a seal appeared and gently pushed the dog to the bank.

"I've never seen anything like it and I don't think I ever

will," **eyewitness** Chris Hinds told Reuters on Wednesday. "This seal just came out of nowhere."

Hinds took care of the dog until emergency services arrived after Tuesday's rescue. No owner has been found and the dog is being looked after by the RSPCA animal **charity**.

Seals are not known for their friendliness to dogs but they are curious animals and the seal could have been just playing.

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Glossary: **injured** - someone is hurt **eyewitness** - somebody who sees something happen **charity** - a group of people who collect money to help people (or animals) who need it

B: Comprehension

Read today's article and answer the following questions.

1. What did the dog try to do?
2. Why couldn't the dog swim to the opposite bank?
3. What did the seal do?
4. Has the dog's owner been found?
5. Who is looking after the dog?
6. Are seals usually friendly to dogs?

C: Word Find

Find the words in the article that match the meanings below. (Hint: You can find these words in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the article.)

Meanings

1. looked after someone or something
2. when you save someone or something
3. a person who owns an animal
4. the act of being kind and pleasant to something or someone
5. to be interested in many things

Words

D: Reading for Detail

Now look at the lines from today's article and choose the best answers.

"...but the current got the better of him."

- current** means...
 - something you eat.
 - fast-moving water.
- got the better of him** means...
 - the river stopped the dog from swimming across the river.
 - the seal stopped the dog from swimming across the river.
- him** means...
 - the seal.
 - the dog.
 - Chris Hinds.
- "I've never seen anything like it and I don't think I ever will,"** means...
 - Chris Hinds thought a seal saving a dog was something that often happens.
 - Chris Hinds thought a seal saving a dog was something that does not happen often.
- "This seal just came out of nowhere."** means...
 - Chris Hinds didn't see where the seal came from.
 - Chris Hinds saw where the seal came from.

E: Thinking Carefully

Work in groups and discuss the questions below.

- Why do you think the seal saved the dog? Do you think the seal was just curious and may have been playing?
- Do you know of any other true stories similar to this story?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

In today's article there were these words:

A seal saved an elderly dog after it was swept away by a fast-flowing river in northern England.

This sentence can be also written:

After the elderly dog was swept away by a fast-flowing river in northern England, a seal saved it.

The word **'after'** can be used in sentences when there are two actions in the past; one action followed by another action. The part that begins with **'after'** shows the first action. **'After'** can start the sentence, or it can be in the middle of the sentence. If **'after'** starts the sentence, the clause must be followed by a comma.

Rewrite each sentence below so that the words are in a different order but the meaning of the sentence is the same. (The first one is done for you as an example.)

- I had breakfast, then I went to work. **Answer:** *After I had breakfast, I went to work.*
- I went to a morning meeting, then I had lunch. *After...* (you continue)
- I finished work, then I went to a party.
- I went to the party, and then I went to a restaurant.
- I went to the restaurant, and then I caught a taxi home.
- I caught a taxi home, then I went to bed.



B: Word Find Puzzle

Find words from today's article in the puzzle below. Words can go down, across, diagonally and even backwards!

E	P	R	E	N	W	O	D	K	K
E	Y	U	S	Q	S	O	N	Y	S
L	Z	E	S	D	G	A	L	P	U
D	Z	L	W	H	B	D	B	V	O
E	B	W	Y	I	N	J	V	I	I
R	B	K	E	E	T	S	G	I	R
L	B	V	I	Q	P	N	E	P	U
Y	A	R	X	K	V	E	E	A	C
S	F	R	E	S	C	U	E	S	L
K	K	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	S

Good luck!

C: Pair Discussion

Work in pairs and discuss the questions below.

1. Have you ever seen a **seal**? Where did you see it?

2. Have you ever **saved** anything? What happened?

3. What things do you **push**?

4. What things do people **take care of**?

5. Are you an **owner** of an animal? What sort of animal?

6. What animals are **friendly**?

7. What animals are **curious**?

TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Notes

If possible, hand out **Part One** first without **Part Two** so that students are not able to look ahead to see what happens in today's article.

Question 6 in **Part One** and Question 7 in **Part Two** are prediction type activities, so do not indicate to students whether they are right or wrong. They will find out when they read the article in the Reading section.

A: Vocabulary - Answers

Part One: 1. elderly, 2. fast flowing, 3. swept away, 4. the river, 5. the dog, 6. Answers will vary.

Part Two: 1. seal, 2. save, 3. push, 4. bank, 5. a seal, 6. By pushing the dog to the bank., 7. Answers will vary.

Reading Activities

A: Sequencing - Answers

Part 1: The correct order is:

- 4 swept away by
- 2 an elderly dog
- 3 after it was
- 5 a fast flowing river
- 6 in northern England.
- 1 A seal saved

Part 2:

1. an elderly dog
2. an elderly dog
3. in a fast flowing river in northern England

B: Comprehension - Answers

1. He tried to swim across a river.
2. Because the current swept him away.
3. The seal gently pushed the dog to the opposite bank.
4. No
5. The RSPCA
6. No

C: Word Find - Notes

You may want to tell students that the words are in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the article.

C: Word Find - Answers

1. took care of
2. rescue
3. owner
4. friendliness
5. curious

D: Reading for Detail - Answers

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. a

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Notes

(You may like to go over this rule about commas with your students.)

Extra information about commas:

If a **dependent clause** begins a sentence, it must be followed by a comma. (A dependent clause is a clause that cannot stand by itself.) (e.g. After I had breakfast,.... or If it rains tomorrow, etc.)

An **independent clause** can stand by itself. (e.g. I went to work. or She is very shy. etc.) If an independent clause begins a sentence, there is no comma.

So:

After I had breakfast, I went to work.

(Dependent clause followed by independent clause)

-> Comma is needed

I had breakfast after I went to work.

(Independent clause followed by dependent clause)

-> Comma is unnecessary

A: Language - Answers

1. After I had breakfast, I went to work.
I went to work after I had breakfast.
2. After I went to a morning meeting, I had lunch.
I had lunch after I went to a morning meeting.
3. I went to a party after I finished work.
After I finished work, I went to a party.
4. After the party, I went to a restaurant.
I went to a restaurant after the party.
5. I caught a taxi home after I went to the restaurant.
After I went to the restaurant, I caught a taxi home.
6. I went to bed after I caught a taxi home.
After I caught a taxi home, I went to bed.

B: Word Find Puzzle - Notes

To add more excitement to this activity, you could put students in pairs and race to see who can find all of the words first.

You may like to give students this list of the words to look for:

**elderly charity eyewitness seal save push
bank dog rescue owner friendly curious**

B: Word Find Puzzle - Answers

