

Useful words

island

turf

persuade

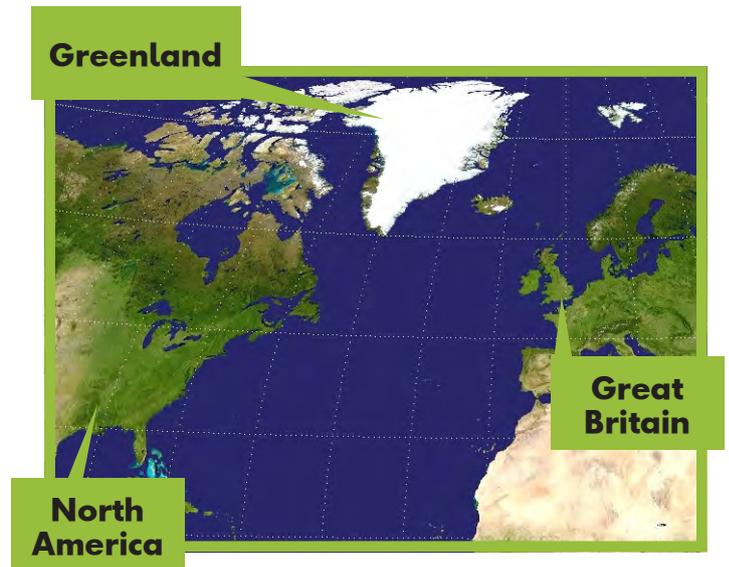
belongings

Greenland

The Land of Ice

Greenland is a huge island in the far, far north of the world. The weather there is very harsh and cold. Even the 'hottest' summer day on Greenland is like a cool winter's day here in England.

In the summer months, the sun never sets; it is light all through the night.



A map showing Greenland

- 1 *The weather there is very harsh and cold.*

In this sentence, *harsh* means:

Tick **one**.

wet

tough

rocky

easy

- 2 When does the sun never set?





The warmest part of the island is on the south coast and that is where most Greenlanders live.

However, it is still a very hard place to live because of the cold.

3 What are the people who live in Greenland called?



4 Why do people find it hard to live in Greenland?



Erik the RED



Over the years, different groups of people have tried to live in Greenland, but most found it too difficult.

One man who did live there, and one of the most famous Greenlanders, was 'Erik the Red'. Erik's name might have come from the colour of his hair and beard, or possibly because of his bad temper.

5 ...one of the most famous Greenlanders...

What does the word *famous* mean?

6 Give **one** reason why Erik was known as *Erik the Red*.





About 1000 years ago, Erik was sent away from his home in Iceland.

He sailed away from this small ice-covered island to a great big ice-covered island. This island had no name yet and no one lived there, so Erik made it his home.

7 How do you know that Erik had done something wrong when he lived in Iceland?



8 Why did Greenland not have a name until Erik arrived?

Tick **one**.

it was covered with ice

it was 1000 years ago

no one lived there

it was so big



The old stories of Iceland say that Erik became bored and lonely and wanted to persuade other people to come and live on this freezing-cold island with him.

Erik had an idea.

He called the island 'Greenland' and pretended that it was lovely, warm and ... green.

His trick worked. When the people from Iceland heard about this perfect place called 'Greenland', many of them wanted to join Erik. About 300 of them packed up their belongings and set off to join him.



9 Why did Erik want people to join him in Greenland?

Tick **one**.

he was freezing

it was the perfect place

it was warm and green

he was bored and
lonely

10 Why did people from Iceland want to join Erik in Greenland?



Although life was hard, these people lived on Greenland for many years and it became their home.

They built houses that were snug and strong from stone, wood and turf. They planted crops and kept cows, goats and sheep which they had brought with them all the way from Iceland.

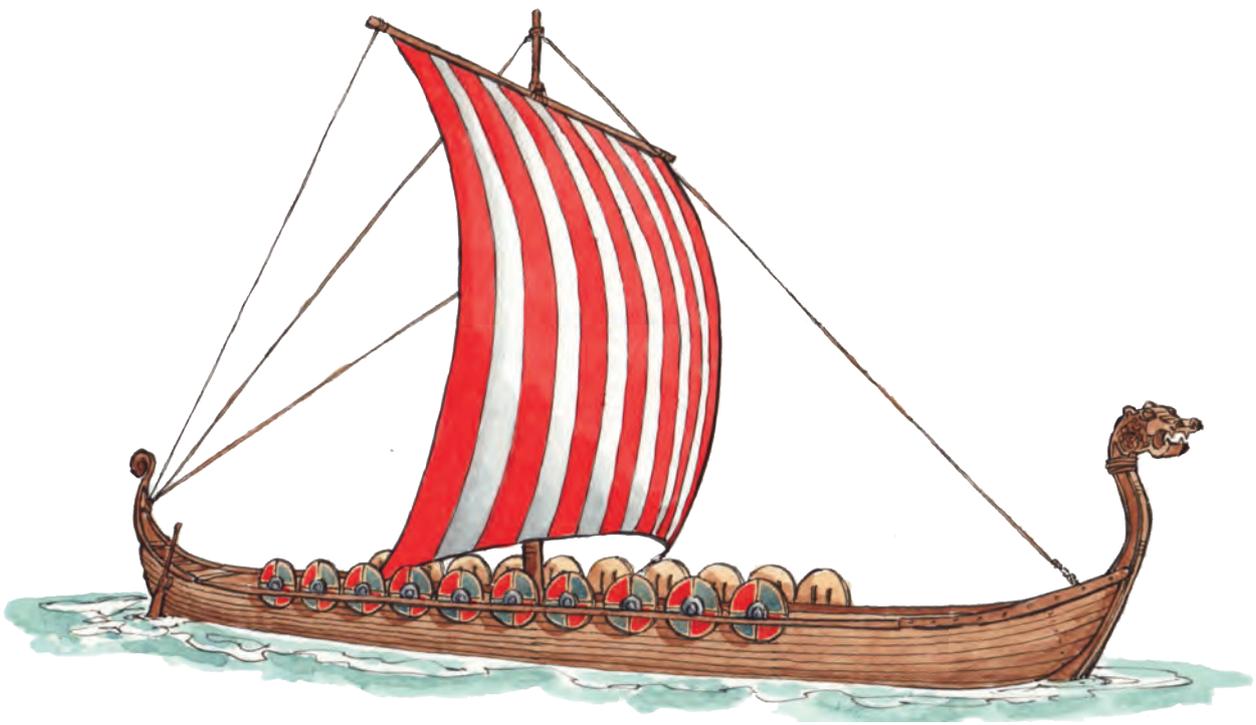
11 Which word tells you that the houses were warm and cosy?

12 The houses were built from:

Tick **two**.

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| sand | <input type="checkbox"/> | bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| stone | <input type="checkbox"/> | wood | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ice | <input type="checkbox"/> | wool | <input type="checkbox"/> |





However, 500 years later, there was nothing left of Erik and his friends in Greenland. What happened to them is still a mystery.

- 13 What word does the writer use to tell us that no one knows what happened to Erik and his friends?

- 14 Think about all you have read.

What do you think is most likely to have happened to Erik and his friends and **why**?



Where Go the Boats?

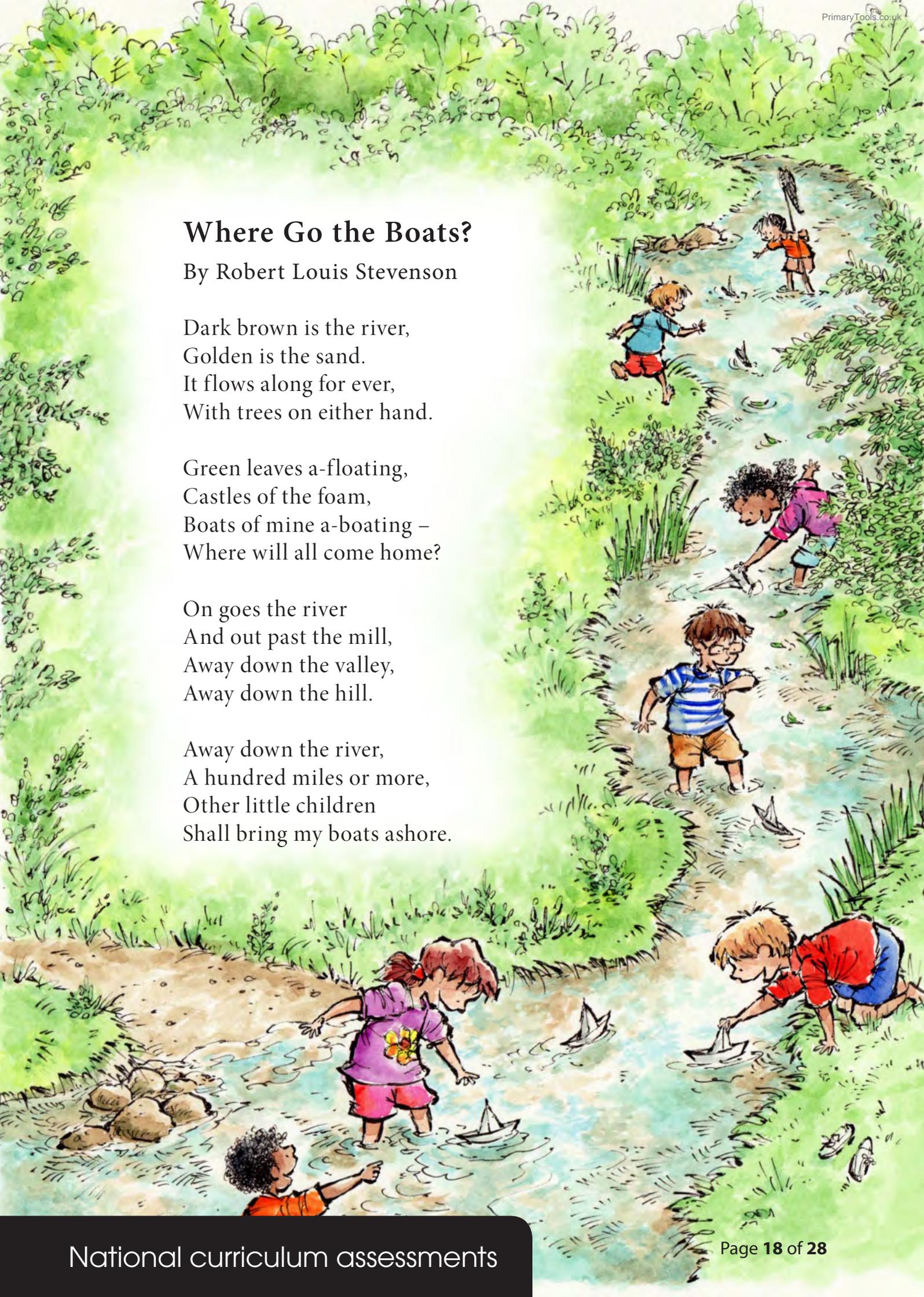
By Robert Louis Stevenson

Dark brown is the river,
Golden is the sand.
It flows along for ever,
With trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,
Castles of the foam,
Boats of mine a-boating –
Where will all come home?

On goes the river
And out past the mill,
Away down the valley,
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,
A hundred miles or more,
Other little children
Shall bring my boats ashore.



1 Draw lines to match the rhyming words below.

hill

hand

sand

home

more

mill

foam

ashore

2 What do the words *on either hand* tell you about the trees?

Tick **one**.

They look like they
have hands.

They are flowing
down the river.

They are both golden
and brown.

They are on both
sides of the river.

3 Look at the first two verses.

Find and **copy** the line that tells you that the poet is not sure where the boats will end up.



4 **Find** and **copy two** lines from the poem that make the river sound very long.

1. _____

2. _____



5 Who does the poet think will find his boats?



6 What would be another good title for the poem?

Tick **one**.

Home Time

Sandy Banks

River Journey

Valleys and Hills



7 Why does Robert Louis Stevenson use a question for the title of this poem?



8 Number the sentences below from **1** to **4** to show the order in which they happen.

Number **1** has been done for you.

The boats are picked up by children.

The river goes through a valley.

The boats are put in the river.

The river runs down a hill.

