

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 1

English reading

Paper 1: reading prompt and answer booklet

First name	
Middle name	
Last name	

Total marks	
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One of Our Tigers is Missing!

Ted and Ava loved tigers. They had lots of books about tigers and they loved to read about them and talk about them.

On their birthday, Gran gave them tickets to the safari park. "You can go and see the tigers," she said.

"Tigers are the best," said Ava.



Practice questions

a Ava and Ted thought tigers were...

Tick **one**.

boring.

☐

interesting.

☐

scary.

☐

funny.

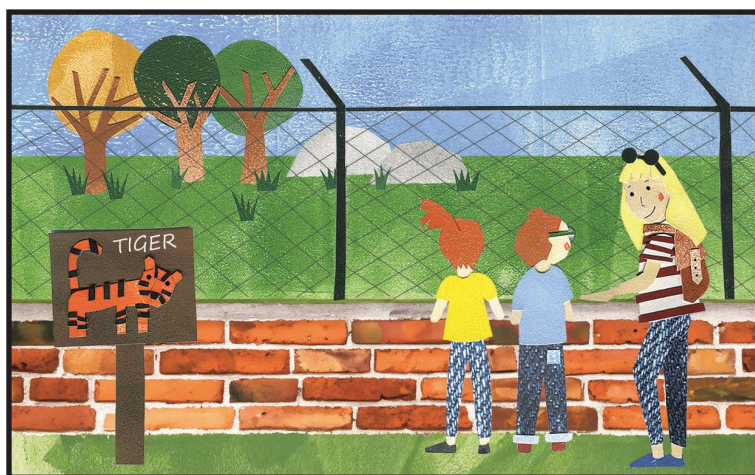
☐

b Who gave Ted and Ava tickets to the safari park?

The next day, they went to the safari park. The tigers were in a big enclosure. It had a wire fence all around it.

“The animals have plenty of room to run around,” said Mum.

“Tigers need a lot of space,” said Ava. “They run very fast.”



1 What was the fence around the enclosure made from?



1 mark

2 Who went with Ted and Ava to the safari park?



1 mark

Just then, they saw a park ranger.

“We’re looking for a tiger,” said the ranger.

“She’s been missing for two days. We’re worried that she may have cut her leg.”

“Don’t worry,” said Ava. “A tiger’s lick can heal cuts.”

“You know a lot about tigers,” said the ranger. “I could do with some help. My name is Andy.”



3 How long had the tiger been lost?



1 mark

4 How can a tiger help itself if it has a cut leg?



1 mark

Everyone got into Andy's jeep.

"The tiger might have escaped," said Ted. "Have you looked for footprints in the rest of the park?"

"Yes," said Andy. "We don't think she's escaped."

"Tigers drink a lot," said Ava.

"Have you looked by the pond?"

"No," said Andy. "That's a good idea."



5 What did Ted think had happened to the tiger?



1 mark

6 How did Ted think they might find the tiger?



1 mark

Please turn over to the next page.

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They could see the pond on the other side of the fence. There was no sign of the missing tiger.

Suddenly, Ava had an idea.

“Female tigers hide in the shade when they have cubs,” she said.

“We should look near the trees,” said Ted.

**7**

There was no sign of the missing tiger.

This means...

Tick **one**.

visitors pointed to the tiger.

☐

the tiger was near the pond.

☐

the tiger was not far away.

☐

they could not find the tiger.

☐

1 mark

8

When tigers have cubs, they...

Tick **one**.

stay near a pond.

☐climb high up in
the trees.☐

stay out of sight.

☐

try to escape.

☐

1 mark

Everyone looked carefully for the tiger. Ava spotted something moving.
 “Look,” she cried, pointing to some long grass. “I think it’s a tiger.”

“It is a tiger!” said Andy. “And she has three cubs with her.
 Thanks for your help. When you grow up, you’ll be good rangers.”



9

“Look,” she cried...

The word *cried* tells us Ava was...

Tick **one**.

sad.

☐

cross.

☐

excited.

☐

disappointed.

☐


1 mark

10

Andy thought Ted and Ava should...

Tick **one**.

become vets.

☐

become park rangers.

☐

go on safari.

☐

find more tigers.

☐


1 mark

**Please do not start answering the questions on
the next text until you are told to do so.**

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Useful word

predators

Swans



Swans are large birds that can walk, swim and fly. You will find them near ponds or rivers. Here are some things you may not know about these amazing animals.

Practice questions

c

How do swans move?

Write **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

d

You will find them near ponds or rivers.

This tells you that swans live near...

Tick **one**.

water.

☐

trees.

☐

hills.

☐

fields.

☐



A special bird

People think swans look beautiful because of their soft, white feathers. They are graceful birds that glide smoothly through the water. Swans are sometimes known as royal birds because, for hundreds of years, only kings or queens could keep them.

11 People think swans are beautiful because of the way they...

Tick **one**.

eat.

☐

look.

☐

sound.

☐

live.

☐

1 mark

12 In the past, who were the only people allowed to own swans?



1 mark

Please turn over to the next page.

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Building a home

Swans gather plants and twigs together and use them to create a nest by the edge of the water. This is where they look after their eggs. Male and female swans take turns to sit on the eggs to keep them warm until they hatch.

13

Swans gather plants and twigs together...

The word *gather* means...

Tick **one**.

break.

☐

collect.

☐

dangle.

☐

tie.

☐

1 mark

14 How do swans look after their eggs?

Tick **one**.

They make sure the eggs stay warm.

☐

They roll them around the nest.

☐

They leave them by the edge of the water.

☐

They cover them with sticks and grass.

☐

1 mark



Protective swans

Some swans can become fierce if people or other animals such as dogs come too near their nests. They rise up on their legs and spread their wings to make themselves seem bigger. They even hiss, grunt and snort loudly!

15

What might a swan do if someone came towards its nest?

Tick **one**.

fly away from them

☐

carry their eggs away

☐

hide from them

☐

scare them away

☐

1 mark

16 How does a swan make itself seem bigger?

Write **one** way.



1 mark



Baby swans

Baby swans are born with grey feathers and are called cygnets. Their feathers later turn white like their parents'. Cygnets can swim from the day they are born. However, they can get around more quickly when they ride on their parents' backs. After six to nine months, the cygnets are old enough to leave their parents.

17 What are cygnets?



1 mark

18 Why do swans carry cygnets on their backs?



1 mark



Feeding habits

Swans find most of their food under water. They use their long necks to reach down to the bottom of the water to find plants, fish, frogs and worms to eat. They eat a lot, so you will often see them feeding.

A swan can swallow food with its head under water. It still needs to look up regularly to breathe and to watch for predators though.

19 How does having a long neck help swans?



1 mark

20 Why do swans often need to lift their heads out of the water when they are feeding?

Write **one** reason.



1 mark

End of test



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