
ALIEN MONEY

Zander was hard at work growing food for himself and his neighbors. The food was floating, and as he walked by he looked at each plant, pointed his laser at it, and the laser gave the plant what it needed. That was the easy part. The hard part was how much walking he had to do!

He heard a knock at his door. It was his neighbor Jules. She was holding some cleaning products.

“Hi, Zander. I just finished making some cleaning products. Do you need any?” she asked.

“Hi, Jules. I do. Can I get some cleaning spray? I can give you 4 breakfast plants for a bottle.”

Jules said, “I have enough breakfast plants for this week. How about 4 lunch plants?”

“They need a couple more hours to grow before I can give them to you. Is that OK?” asked Zander.

“I think that’s OK. It’s not too far of a walk for you, right?”

“I will bring them by when they’re done growing, I promise,” Zander said. Jules knew she could trust Zander, so she left the cleaning spray with him and went home.

When Zander came by later with the plants, he started talking with Jules. “I wish there was an easier way to get and give our items. Trading isn’t always easy. Sometimes I don’t have enough plants ready to trade, or sometimes it’s hard to agree with someone how many plants I need to trade for their item.” Jules agreed. They went home thinking and wishing for a way to make their lives easier.



Alien Money.

Who was Zander growing food for?

What did he point at the plant?

What was hard about growing the food?

Who knocked at the door?

Why did Jules come over?

What did Zander offer for the cleaning spay?

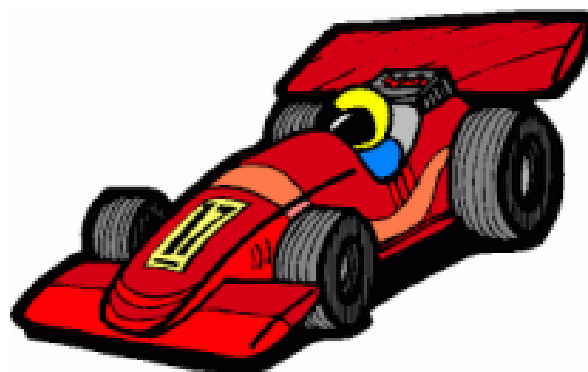
Why did Jules not accept the breakfast plants?

Why couldn't Zander give her the breakfast plants straight away?

Why isn't the trading always easy?

RACE CARS

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! The race cars were all practicing for the big race tomorrow. Around and around and around the track they went. They practiced weaving in and out of cones, going around the curves, and starting right when the green light went on. Blue Race car and Red Race car were best friends, so they practiced together all day.



That night, they were in the garage resting up for the big race tomorrow. Red Race car couldn't sleep, though.

"Blue Race car? Are you asleep?" Red Race car asked.

"No. I'm feeling nervous for the race tomorrow. How are you feeling?" Blue Race car answered.

"I'm feeling nervous, too. What can we do? We need to feel rested for the race tomorrow!" said Red Race car.

"Hmmm... we could try taking deep breaths. Ready? We'll breathe in and count to three. Then we'll keep the breath in for three seconds. Last, we'll slowly let all of our breath out. We might have to do that a lot of times before we feel better. Let's try!" Blue Race car said.

They took some slow, deep breaths together. After a few minutes, both race cars started to feel calm, and drifted off to sleep. They both dreamed about all the fun they'd have at the race.

Race cars.

When is the big race?

What skills did they practise?

What cars were best friends?

Why did blue race car and red race car practise together?

Why couldn't red race car sleep?

Who did red race car ask for help?

How did they relax before the race?

What is another word for nervous?

What did they dream of?

GUITAR OR BALLET

Emma loves to listen to her brother Jake play his guitar. He is 15 years old and has been playing since he was 5 years old. He practices every day, and he is really good. He plays country music and rock and roll.

Emma likes the country songs best. She really likes watching Jake strum the chords and hearing the country sounds that he creates. Emma wants to take lessons so she can play as well as Jake does. "Mom, can I take guitar lessons?" Emma asks.

Her mom replies, "It takes a lot of hard work to play the songs that Jake plays; are you sure you have enough time to put into practicing?"

Thinking about all of her favorite activities, Emma isn't sure. She loves her ballet classes, her art classes and her chess club. Emma realizes that if she wants to play guitar, she will probably have to give up another activity to make time for practicing. She does not know which activity she would give up because they all mean so much to her.

Emma decides that she will just keep enjoying her brother's guitar playing for now.



Guitar or ballet?

What does Emma love?

How old is Jake?

When does Jake practise?

What music does Jake play?

Why does Emma want to learn to play?

Why was Emma's mum unsure she could do it?

What other classes and activities does Emma do?

How does Emma feel about maybe having to give up another activity?

Why doesn't Emma play guitar?

A Big, White Hen

There was once a big, white hen that had twelve little chickens. They were very small, and the old hen took good care of them. She found food for them in the daytime and at night kept them under her wings.

One day, this old hen took her chickens down to a small brook. She thought some fresh air and the water would do them good.

When they got to the brook, they walked on the bank a little while. It was very pretty on the other side of the brook, and the old hen thought she would take her children over there.

There was a large stone in the brook; she thought it would be easy for them to jump to that stone and from it to the other side.

So she jumped to the stone and told the children to come after her. For the first time, she found that they would not obey her.

She flapped her wings, and cried, "Come here, all of you! Jump upon this stone as I did. We can then jump to the other side. Come now!"

"O Mother! We can't, we can't, we can't!" said all the little chickens.

"Yes you can if you try," said the old hen. "Just flap your wings as I did, and you can jump over."

"I am flapping my wings," said Chippy, who stood by himself, "but I can't jump any better than I could before."

A big, white hen.

How many chickens did the hen have?

Why did the hen take good care of them?

How did the hen take care of them?

Why did she take them to the small brook?

How was the brook described?

Why didn't the chickens obey their mother hen?

What did the mother hen want her chicks to do?

What is a brook?

Do you think the chicks can do it? Why?

THE CLEAN PARK

Tyler asked his mom if he could ride his bike to the park. "As long as you wear your helmet when you are riding," she said.



When Tyler got to the park it was filled with people holding garbage bags. A lot of his friends were there and so were some of his teachers. His friend Bella said, "Everyone is pitching in and cleaning the park today." She asked Tyler if he would help. Tyler said, "Sure," and asked for a garbage bag.

There was garbage everywhere. Tyler picked up candy wrappers, juice pouches, newspapers and apple cores. It was really gross. After an hour, he had filled three garbage bags. His friends filled a lot of garbage bags too.

When everyone was finished, one of the teachers loaded the filled garbage bags into his pick-up truck to take them to the dump. The park looked great. They put up signs around the park that read, "Please place garbage in garbage cans and help keep the park clean."

The teachers bought pizza and lemonade for everyone who helped clean the park. After they ate, Tyler and his friends made sure to put their garbage into the garbage cans.

The clean park.

Where did Tyler want to go?

What was the one rule Tyler's mum said he should follow?

What were the people doing?

Why were there so many people at the park?

List some things he picked up.

How many bags did he fill in one hour?

Where did they take the garbage bags?

What reward did they get for doing the job?

Why did they put up signs?

Percussion Instruments

People and cultures all around the world have been making music using all kinds of musical instruments. Percussion instruments are played by some kind of hitting, striking or rattling.



Drums are one kind of percussion instrument. Drum players in many cultures beat on drums with just their hands. A conga drum is one kind of drum played with the hands. Other kinds of drums are played using some kind of drum stick. The giant tympani drums that sit on a stand add a rumbling sound to an orchestra. Some drum sets come with cymbals. Cymbals are two metal disks that clang together.

The triangle adds a tiny sound. The triangle is a metal instrument that is struck with a little hammer called a beater. Some percussion instruments like maracas or a tambourine are rattled and make sound when they are shaken.

A piano is a percussion instrument because players strike the keys with their fingers. The keys cause hammers inside the piano to strike the metal strings inside that make the sounds.

Percussion instruments.

How do people make music?

How are percussion instruments played? What action is used?

What is an example of a percussion instrument?

List examples of drums.

What is a cymbal?

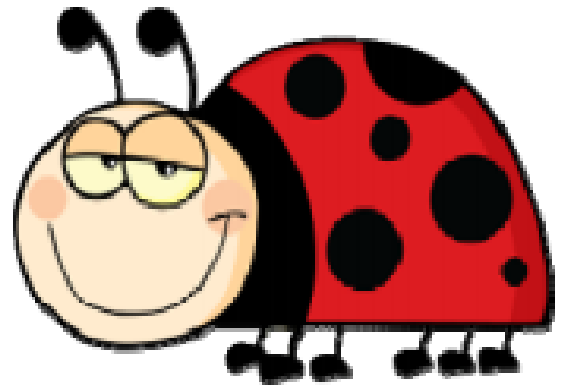
What material is a triangle made out of?

What is a triangle struck with?

How do maracas or tambourines work or make a sound?

How do pianos work?

About Insects



Insects are everywhere and they live in all kinds of places. Ants are some insects that live under the ground. Grasshoppers live above the ground in fields. Some kinds of beetles live on or near water but other kinds of beetles live in tree bark. Bees build a hive where they live. Some insects like cockroaches are pests that live in homes and apartments.

All insects have six legs. Spiders are not insects because they have eight legs.

The body of an insect has three parts. The first part is the insect's head. Like the head of other creatures, an insect's head is the location of its eyes and mouth. An insect's mouth is specially designed for the kind of food it eats. Instead of ears insects have two antennae that stick out in front.

The middle part of an insect is called the thorax. Wings and legs are part of the thorax. The back end of an insect is called the abdomen. An insect's stomach is in the abdomen.

About Insects.

List some insects mentioned in the extract.

Where do ants live?

What animal lives above the ground in fields?

Why are cockroaches pests?

How many legs do insects have?

How many body parts do insects have?

Why do insects not have ears?

What is a thorax?

Where is the insect's stomach?
