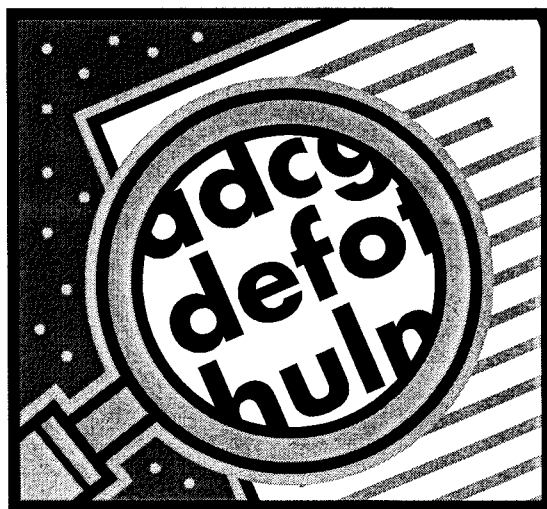


Year 6

Reading Tests 1 - 6



This pack contains reading tests 1 - 6:

1. Invasion?
2. The Laser Gun
3. The Lottery
4. The Boot Sale
5. The Dull Evening
6. The Rescue

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Reading Test 1 - Invasion?

The huge, cavernous jaws of the monster snapped shut, barely missing the two children. It was obvious that with the next angry snap the children were going to suffer an horrific fate!

"That's rubbish," said Mum, flicking the video off by remote.

"Mum," cried Sally, "it was just getting to the good bit."

It was no use, Mum wouldn't be swayed.

"Come on," said Sally, sulkily, "let's go out." The two children put on their coats and left.

"I wish real life was as exciting as videos," said Sally.

Just then, a van went past with a loudspeaker mounted on its roof. The announcer's calm, tinny voice was repeating the same message over and over again.

"Attention, would you please return to your homes, switch on your radio, and await further announcements. Attention, would..."



"Awesome," said John.

"I wonder what it's about?" shouted Sally excitedly. Both children turned and ran home.

"*Mum, Mum*, have you heard . . . ?" they shouted before the door had even opened.

"Heard what?" she said, taking no notice of their excited state and the fact that they had been out for all of 30 seconds.

"It's on the radio!" said John.

"What's on the radio?" asked Mum.

But Sally was already in the front room, fiddling with the tuner.

"Tune it to Radio 4," said John, "that has all the important stuff."

"Radio 1, more like," replied Sally.

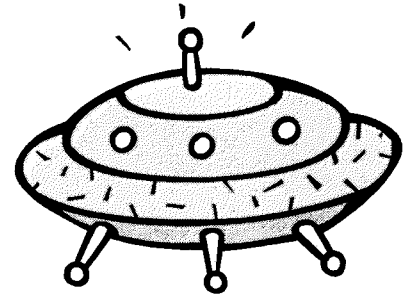
Their squabbling was interrupted by the serious tones of an official Government spokesperson.

"We have just been notified that an alien force is heading for Earth and is expected to arrive shortly. We have no idea whether this force is friendly or hostile. Please remain calm and do not panic. We will keep you informed when we make contact. Stay indoors."

"Blimey!" said Mum.

"WOW!" said Sally.

"Awesome!" said John.



Before they could make any further comments, they were interrupted by the Government announcer once again.

"We now have further details of the alien craft. They appear to consist of two domes attached to each other. One small one and a much larger one. They are coloured bright red and appear to have round, black, solar panels on the larger dome. Each spacecraft appears armed with six protruding weapons. We will keep you informed as we learn more."

Mum shrieked, "This is just *awful*, we might all be vaporised in our homes. I must phone Aunt Sarah."

Mum picked up the phone and a voice said, "Please do not use the telephone, these are restricted to emergency use only."

Sheepishly, Mum replaced the phone; a cold sweat appeared on her brow.

Sally and John switched on the TV, only to read, "All programmes have been suspended for the duration of the National Emergency." Sally and John looked nervously at each other. What they had originally thought was exciting had turned into something much more frightening.

Another loudspeaker van passed by in the street; "Please do not use water, electricity or gas unless essential. Turn all lights and heating off."

Mum turned off the switches and the house was plunged into darkness. It was fortunate she had bought new batteries for the radio today. "But I wish I'd bought

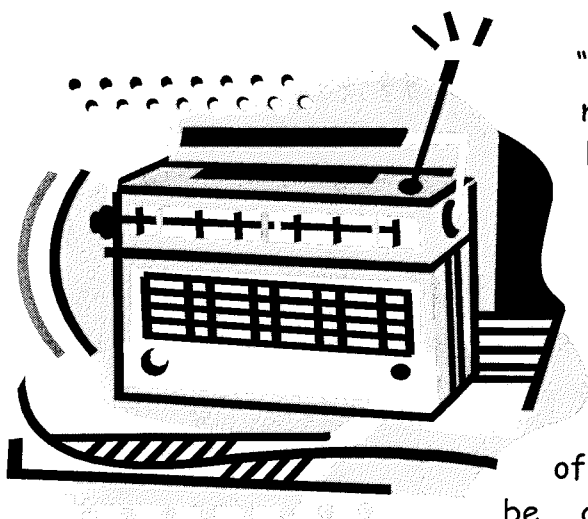
some emergency candles," she said to herself. The radio just kept making a horrible crackling sound.

The dark house grew cold. The three of them wrapped a blanket around themselves and sat in front of the radio, which apart from an irritating crackle, had been quiet for half-an-hour.

"What's going on?" said Mum, irritably, "they said they'd keep us informed!"

"I never thought waiting for the end would be so boring," wailed Sally.

Mum, Sally and John huddled together. Mum stifled a small sob. The radio continued to crackle.



"Turn the radio off," said Mum, "it's getting on my nerves." John turned the radio off. They looked at each other in silence for 3 minutes. The tension then got too much for them!

"Turn the radio back on," said Mum in her 'I've just about had enough' voice.

The announcer had obviously come to the end of another bulletin and was continuing, "You can be assured that those responsible will be reprimanded."

"What's that?" said John. "It doesn't sound the same as the last announcements."

"Turn it up!" said Sally.

The announcer continued...

"The Chief Astronomer has already tendered his resignation. In a statement prepared earlier, the Chief Astronomer said, 'It was unforgivable of me to allow those ladybirds to settle on the lens of the observatory telescope and cause all this trouble'."



Reading Test Questions 1 - Invasion?

1. Sally and John had just gone out to play when...

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| It started raining | Their Mum called them back | They changed their mind and went home | A van with a loudspeaker told them to go home |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|

1 mark

2. They were also told to...

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Switch on the radio | Listen to the TV | Watch the news | Keep the house quiet |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|

1 mark

3. The Government announcement told them that...

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aliens had arrived on the planet | Aliens were heading for Earth | Aliens had just left Earth | The aliens were hostile |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|

1 mark

4. Their Mum tried to ring Aunt Sarah but was told...

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| It was an emergency | To use her mobile | Phone calls were restricted to emergencies | There were no phone lines left |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|

1 mark

5. The emergency had been caused by...

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| The Government | A beetle on the lens of the telescope | The resignation of the Chief Astronomer | Ladybirds on the lens of the observatory telescope |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|

1 mark

6. What do you think is the purpose of the first paragraph in the story?

2 marks

7. Near the beginning of the story, Sally feels that life is too boring.
Find and copy a quote which tells you this.

1 mark

8. What advice did the radio announcement give to the public?

1 mark

9. What did Mum wish that she had bought?

1 mark

10. How did the 'alien invasion' change daily life?

3 marks

11. Events from the story 'Invasion?' are listed below. Number each event to show the order in which they happen. The first one has been done for you.

	A resignation is announced
	Sally, John and Mum turn the radio on
1	Sally and John are told to stop watching the video
	Mum tries to use the phone
	The 'alien craft' is described

2 marks

12. How did the children's view about being involved in a real life adventure change during the course of the story?

1 mark

13. In the story, who...

• a) stifled a sob?	
• b) resigned?	
• c) was bored?	
• d) suggested Radio 4?	

2 marks

14. Why, as she sat in front of the radio, was Mum irritable?

1 mark

15. Find words in the story that mean:

• a) necessary, vital (Page 2)	
• b) giving up a job (Page 3)	
• c) being answerable for something (Page 3)	
• d) the length of time something lasts (Page 2)	

2 marks

16. What did the 'spacecraft' turn out to be?

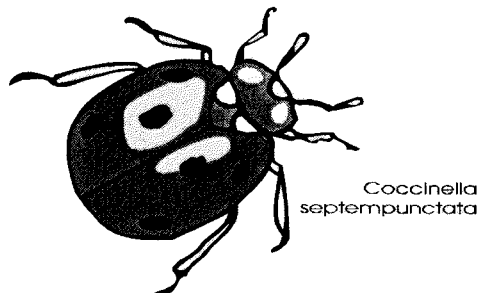
1 mark

17. In what way did the ladybirds appear to be aliens/threatening?

1 mark

18. Why does the title of the story include a question mark?

2 marks



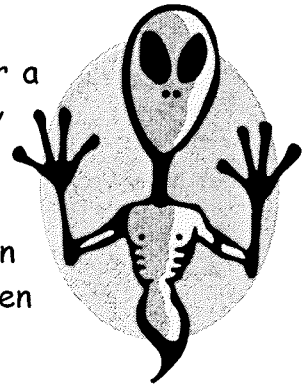
Maximum
25 marks

Reading Test Extra - UFOs

Something Out There

America had its first official sightings of UFOs on 24th June 1947, when Mr Kenneth Arnold spotted them flying in formation over the Rocky Mountains. He reported seeing nine gleaming, round discs, "skipping like saucers across the water".

An enthralled public welcomed the idea of aliens 'popping in for a visit', and the 'flying saucers' captured their imagination. They continue to do the same for us in the 21st century.



It was the start of a boom time for spacecraft sightings, even though it appeared that the aliens claimed a 'victim' just seven months later.

Kentucky Sighting

On 7th January 1948, hundreds of people saw a huge, flat, round object in the sky above Kentucky, USA. The US Air Force dispatched three P-51 Mustangs to investigate it. Thomas Mantell radioed back the information that it "appeared to be metallic", and gave chase. As he reached 9,000 metres, ground control abruptly lost contact with him.

His totally destroyed aircraft was found later the same day and the newspapers reported that he had been abducted by the alien craft.

Invasion?

In Washington, USA, on 19th July 1952, on a summer's evening, citizens of the US capital city witnessed five strange lights which skilfully manoeuvred for several hours around the White House, the city and its surrounding countryside.

A week later, even more returned. Up to twelve lights were reported, and two F94 jets were sent to intercept them, but the pilots were unable to find anything.

Aliens Down Under

In Queensland, Australia, on 19th January 1966, George Pedley was driving his tractor across his neighbour's farmland when a 'spaceship' rose out of Horseshoe Lagoon, a swamp, about 25 metres ahead of him.

He was able to get a close look at it and described a ship approximately eight metres wide and three metres high, blue-grey in colour. He reported:

"It spun at a terrific rate as it rose vertically to about 60 feet (18m), then made a shallow dive and rose again sharply. Travelling at a fantastic speed ... it was out of sight in seconds."

Closer inspection of the UFO's landing area revealed a depressed, circular area, nine metres across, and the reeds it had crushed "swirled around in a clockwise manner".

There were also three large holes, assumed to be landing indentations, and two other sites were later discovered a little further away.

Experts officially explained the phenomenon as a result of bad weather, severe turbulence caused by thunderstorms. It had been a fine day on 19th January!

Unfriendly Aliens

During the night of 12th September 1956, a group of youngsters living in Flatwoods, West Virginia, USA, saw what they took to be a meteor land on top of a nearby hill.

The small party set off to investigate, along with a neighbour and her two sons, and a National Guardsman.

When they reached the site, they found a globe as large as a house, which made a throbbing, hissing sound. One of the boys had a torch and he shone the light on what he thought was an animal in a tree. It turned out to be nothing of the sort!

All the witnesses said that they saw a huge figure, about four metres high, that floated slowly towards them. Terrified by its "blood red face" and "glowing, greenish-orange eyes", they all bolted for home.

The only evidence in the morning was a circle of flattened grass, two skid marks and a strange, lingering smell.

UFOs in Space

Space is where you would expect UFOs to be, but have astronauts ever seen them?

It would seem from the amount of sightings on Earth that the Universe should be full of alien spacecraft, but, so far, our astronauts have seen no conclusive evidence.

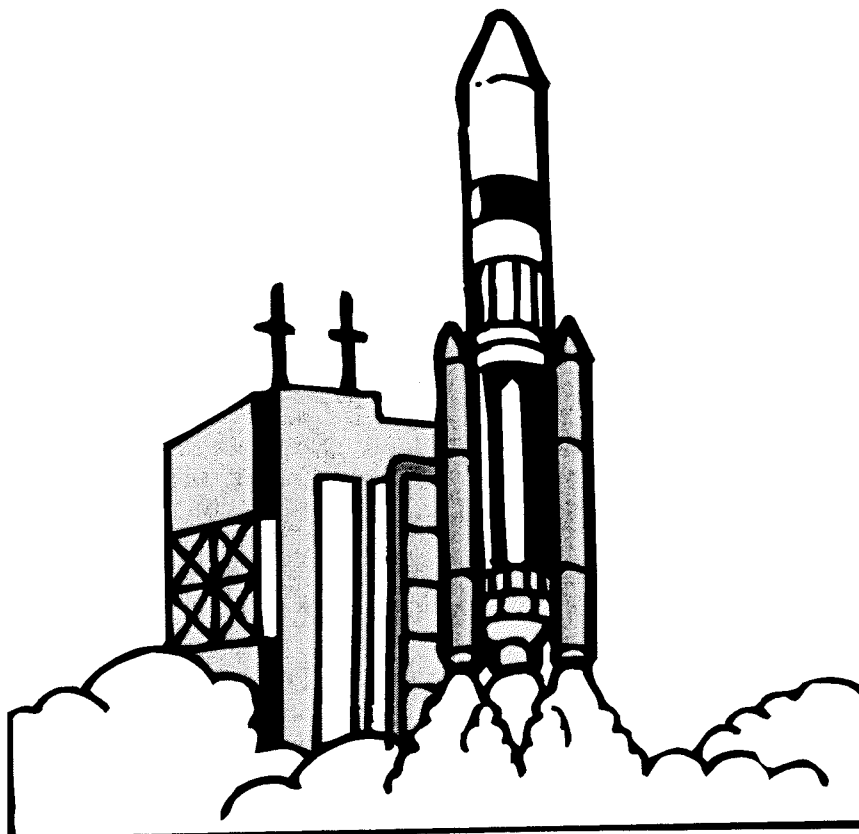
There have certainly been reports of UFOs, but they have generally proved to be sightings of debris. The orbit around Earth's atmosphere has become a floating junkyard as jettisoned rockets, abandoned satellites and spacecraft rubbish jostle around in space together.

Space projects often demand complete secrecy, and so the Americans may have identified an unknown craft as an alien vessel when, in fact, it was merely a new Russian spacecraft and, perhaps, vice versa.

The American Apollo missions are the only ones so far that seem to have had unexplained encounters. Neil Armstrong described an 'L-shaped' object travelling in the same direction as the Apollo 11 craft as it headed towards the Moon. It was too far away for clear identification, and at first the crew thought it was their own cast-off booster rockets, but ground control informed them that the object was 10,000 kilometres away!

During the flight of Apollo 12, the crew reported that they were accompanied by a flashing object for a while, before it flew away at high speed.

There seem to have been no further reports or sightings of any significance during the last decade. Perhaps there is nothing out there after all, or maybe the authorities are keeping a very big secret!



Reading Test Extra - Questions - UFOs

1. Where did Kenneth Arnold see flying saucers?

1 mark

2. What suggests that people may have seen UFOs before Arnold's report?

1 mark

3. Why were the UFOs called 'flying saucers'?

1 mark

4. Fill in the missing details in the table below.

Location	Year	Date	People involved
USA - Rocky Mountains			Kenneth Arnold
	1948	7 th January	
Australia - Queensland		19 th January	

2 marks

5. What theory did the media offer for Thomas Mantell's disappearance?

1 mark

6. The section 'Kentucky Sighting' (Page 4) tells you...

What will be in the next section	About how aircraft are destroyed	About action by the US Air Force	About an incident in Australia
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1 mark

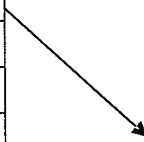
7. What is meant by the phrase 'a boom time for spacecraft sightings'? (Page 4)

1 mark

8. Find two clues from 'Something Out There' (Page 4) that tell you people were excited about UFOs.

2 marks

9. Match these words from the text to their correct meanings. One has been done for you.

• enthralled (Page 4)		An extraordinary happening
• abducted (Page 4)		Violent movement (as of wind)
• phenomenon (Page 5)		Slow to leave
• turbulence (Page 5)		To be fascinated
• lingering (Page 5)		Kidnapped

2 marks

10. What evidence was there, apart from eyewitness reports, to show that something had been in Horseshoe Lagoon?

2 marks

11. Find a quotation from the text that:

a) gives a pilot's description of an UFO (Page 4)

b) tells you what happened to Thomas Mantell's aircraft (Page 4)

c) suggests that not all UFOs are what you think (Page 6)

d) gives an eyewitness description of the speed at which one of these sightings was supposed to have travelled (Page 5)

4 marks

12. What is meant by the term 'vice versa'?

1 mark

13. Initially, what did the group from Flatwoods think had landed nearby?

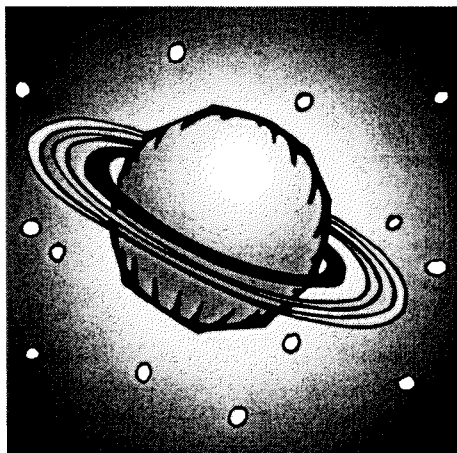
1 mark

14. What can be mistaken for UFOs in space?

1 mark

15. What further evidence from astronauts suggests that there could actually be 'something out there'?

2 marks



Maximum
23 marks