

Mastering Nouns and Verbs with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and apply collective nouns and powerful verbs within descriptive sentences.

Read each task carefully. Max the monkey needs help with his maths-based logic puzzles, and Zara the zebra wants you to add more colour to your writing using precise verbs.

Word bank: flock · colony · shimmered · galloped · constellation · scampered · orchestra · meandered

1. Max is organising his collection of items. Identify the collective noun in this sentence: 'A flock of birds flew over the savanna.' Explain why the word 'flock' is used instead of just saying 'birds'. (2 marks)

2. Zara wants to make her writing more vivid. Rewrite the following sentence by replacing the dull verb 'walked' with a more descriptive one from the word bank: 'The zebra walked across the grass.' Justify why your chosen verb creates a better image for the reader. (2 marks)

3. Categorise the following words into 'Noun' or 'Verb': Telescope, calculate, planet, orbit, discovery, investigate. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the nouns 'orchestra' and 'colony'. In what ways are they similar in how they function in a sentence? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you replaced a concrete noun, like 'the lion', with a collective noun, like 'the pride'? Explain the difference in the mental image created. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max and Zara. In your drawing, label three nouns you have included and write one sentence below the picture that uses an exciting verb to describe what they are doing.



Extension challenge: Write a short, three-sentence paragraph about a stargazing trip with Nova the owl. You must include at least two collective nouns and two high-level verbs from the word bank. Challenge: Can you add a prepositional phrase to one of your sentences to show exactly where Nova is located?