

The Daily Forest Gazette: A Mystery in the Meadow

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the key features of a newspaper report, including headlines, subheadings, and the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why).

Read the newspaper report carefully. Use your detective skills to identify how the reporter conveys information to the reader.

In a surprising turn of events yesterday afternoon, the Great Oak Meadow was transformed into a shimmering spectacle. At approximately 3:00 pm, residents discovered that all the local daisies had turned a vibrant shade of indigo. Max the monkey, who was busy calculating the probability of such an occurrence, was the first to report the phenomenon. 'I have measured every petal, and the colour shift is mathematically perfect,' Max explained, scratching his chin in bewilderment.

Nova the owl, an expert in nocturnal natural history, suggests that a rare atmospheric reaction may be responsible. However, many of the woodland creatures remain sceptical, whispering theories about hidden garden magic. Local officials have cordoned off the area to prevent damage to the unusual blooms while scientists from the neighbouring valley arrive to investigate. Zara the zebra has already begun sketching the indigo flowers, noting the intricate patterns created by the strange pigment. As the sun sets, the meadow continues to glow with an eerie, beautiful light. The community eagerly awaits a full explanation, but for now, the indigo daisies remain the most talked-about mystery in the forest's history.

Word bank: Headline · Journalist · Report · Inverted pyramid · Quote · Caption

1. Who was the first person to report the phenomenon, and what was he doing at the time? (2 marks)

2. At what time did the residents first discover the colour change? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the local officials decided to cordon off the meadow? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that the woodland creatures are curious about the event? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the mystery of the indigo daisies will be solved quickly? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the Great Oak Meadow with the indigo daisies. Include Max the monkey with his notebook and Zara the zebra sketching the flowers.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a journalist for the Gazette. Write a short, follow-up newspaper article (80–100 words) describing what happens when the scientists arrive. Include a catchy headline, a quote from Nova the owl, and an explanation of why this discovery is significant for the forest.