

Headline Hunter: The Newspaper Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key features of a newspaper report, including the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why) and formal reporting style.

Max the monkey has been busy reporting on the events at the local forest fete! However, his notes are all jumbled up. Use your knowledge of newspaper writing to reconstruct his report. Match the formal journalistic phrases to the correct sections of a newspaper article, and then answer the questions to complete the report.

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Witness Statement · 5 Ws · Formal tone · Sub-heading · Caption · Chronological

1. Max needs a catchy headline for his story about a giant pumpkin grown by the forest gardeners. Write a punchy, alliterative headline that would grab a reader's attention. (2 marks)

2. In the 'Orientation' (first paragraph), you must include the 5 Ws. Explain why it is essential for a journalist to include these facts immediately. (3 marks)

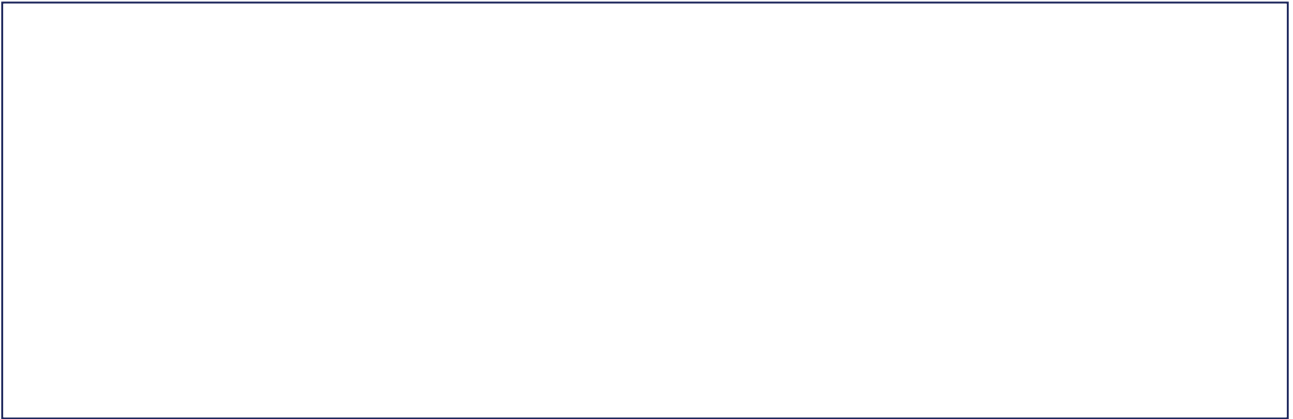
3. Max interviewed a gardener who said, 'I've never seen such a magnificent vegetable in all my years!' Rewrite this quote in the third person to suit a formal newspaper report. (2 marks)

4. Newspapers often use sub-headings to break up the text. Create a sub-heading for a paragraph explaining how the pumpkin was transported to the fete. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the language used in a personal diary entry versus a newspaper report. Why is the 'voice' of the writer different in each? (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If a newspaper report contained only opinions and no facts, why would it fail to be a credible source of information? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a newspaper layout showing where the headline, an action photograph, the main columns of text, and the caption should be placed on a page.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist. Write a short, formal newspaper article (100 words) about a mysterious event involving Kit the fox finding a hidden map in the library. Use at least two pieces of direct speech and one formal witness statement.