

The Explorer's Diary: Punctuation Practice

Learning objective: To use a range of punctuation marks (commas, semicolons, colons, and dashes) to add detail and clarity to a recount.

Join Leo the Lion on an expedition! Your task is to write a diary entry about a day spent exploring the Great Canopy. Use the prompt boxes below to describe your journey. Remember to use commas in lists, colons to introduce lists or definitions, semicolons to join related clauses, and dashes for emphasis or extra information.

Word bank: expedition · majestic · breathtaking · manoeuvre · astonishing · wilderness · navigation

1. The Morning Start: Describe the gear you packed for the adventure. Use a colon to introduce your list of at least three essential items. (3 marks)

2. The Journey: Describe the terrain you travelled through. Use a semicolon to join two related sentences describing the environment. (3 marks)

3. A Sudden Discovery: Describe something surprising you found in the forest. Use a dash to add a sudden, dramatic thought or extra detail to your sentence. (3 marks)

4. The Animal Encounter: Write a sentence describing a creature you saw. Use a pair of commas to add a non-relative clause (extra information) about the animal. (2 marks)

5. Reflecting on the Day: Summarise how you felt at the end of the expedition. Ensure you use at least one piece of advanced punctuation correctly. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Review your diary entry. Can you swap one of your commas for a semicolon, or add a dash to make your writing more descriptive?