

A Fable

A fable is a story that has a rule of behaviour that we should or should not follow.

This rule is called the moral of the story.

The Milkmaid and Her Pail



Every day a farmer's daughter had the chore of milking the cows. One day when the pail was full, she balanced the pail on her head as usual and set off for the dairy. As she strode along she began to daydream about the future.

"The milk in this pail will provide me with enough cream, which I will churn into butter. This butter I will sell at the market and with the money I will get, I will buy lots of eggs. When these eggs are hatched I will have my own chickens, and quite soon I will manage my own poultry farm. Then with the profits that I get when I sell the eggs and some of the fowls, I will buy myself a beautiful new outfit, which I shall wear to the country fair. At the fair all the young men will admire me and ask me on dates. But I shall have nothing to do with them. I shall toss my head ..."

And she did.

Absorbed in her fantasies she forgot all about the pail on her head. The pail slipped off her head and all the milk was spilt. All her dreams vanished in an instant and the farmer's daughter was back exactly where she had started ... except, of course, there was no milk in the pail.



Answer these questions about the fable *The Milkmaid and Her Pail*.

① What was the milkmaid's task?

② How did she carry the milk pail to the dairy?

③ What did she plan to do after she sold the butter?

④ Why did the pail fall off the milkmaid's head?

⑤ What is the lesson to be learnt in the fable? Tick the correct alternative.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

It's no use crying over spilt milk.

⑥ One version of this fable concludes with "... and all her fine castles in the air vanished in a moment". Which word in the last paragraph of the fable refers to "castles in the air"?

⑦ Find the word in the fable that means:

a task _____ b disappeared _____

c idolise _____ d hens _____

e gains _____ f engrossed _____

g purchase _____ h precisely _____

Moving on



Make up some excuses written by the milkmaid as to why she dropped the pail of milk. Try to make these humorous.

Famous Headlines

These headlines might have appeared in the newspapers, even if newspapers had not been invented when these things happened.

Titanic Sinks in Atlantic: Iceberg Claims Many Victims

QUEEN CLEOPATRA SUICIDES BY
SNAKE BITE AFTER ROMAN ARMY
DEFEATS EGYPTIAN FORCES

**New Rock 'N' Roll Craze
Sweeps Across Country**

**Kingsford-Smith and Ulm Cross Pacific in 83
Hours: Brisbane Crowd Goes Wild
State Government Gives 5000 Pounds Reward**

**Strange Paintings Found in
Cave by Three Boys: Paintings
Thought to be 17 000 Years Old**

Captain Cook Killed in Sandwich
Islands. World Mourns Loss of
Great Pacific Ocean Explorer

**Engine-driven Kite Flies for First Time: Wright
Brothers Craft in Air for 59 Seconds at 852 Feet**

**Sydney Town Low on Food:
Colony May Fail**

**BREAKTHROUGH! NUCLEAR SUB NAUTILUS
SURFACES AT NORTH POLE**

Write the headlines that would have appeared above these stories.

① _____
Brisbane, Saturday. Huge crowds greeted the arrival of Captain Charles Kingsford-Smith and Charles Ulm after their record-breaking flight across the Pacific.

② _____
Sydney, Friday. Governor Phillip has warned the colony that it will need to ration food carefully if it is to survive the recent crop failure.

③ _____
Los Angeles, Monday. Police are worried about the latest dance craze, which is resulting in teenagers dancing wildly in the streets.

④ _____
Lascaux, France, Tuesday. A stray dog, which found its way into an opening in the ground, has led three boys to a dazzling gallery of cave paintings that have been held secret under the earth for the past 17 000 years.

⑤ _____
London, Monday. The Cunard Line has released the shocking news that the mighty liner *Titanic* has sunk with great loss of life after striking an iceberg and sinking in the mid-Atlantic.

How much do the headlines tell us?

⑥ What was new about the Wright Brothers' kite? _____

⑦ Why do you think Cleopatra took her own life? _____

⑧ What would *Nautilus* have broken through to get to the North Pole?

⑨ Where did Kingsford-Smith and Ulm first land their plane on Australian soil?

⑩ Why was Captain Cook in Hawaii? _____



Make up your own headlines for a famous event from the past. How would you headline stories about:

- 1 Robin Hood's escape from the clutches of the Sheriff of Nottingham?
- 2 the first crossing of Australia by Burke and Wills?
- 3 Margaret Court becoming the first Australian woman to win at Wimbledon?

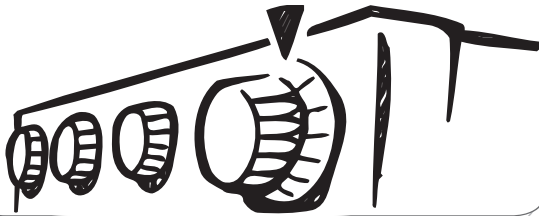
Ham and Pineapple Pizza

Ingredients

2 cups of self-raising flour	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of tomato paste	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt
2 cups of grated cheese	30 g of butter (chopped)	1 sliced tomato
1 cup of milk	1 cup of ham (finely chopped)	1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
1 cup of pineapple pieces		

Method

Step 1 Pre-heat oven to 220°C (425°F).



Step 2 Sift flour and salt into a mixing bowl. Rub butter into flour with tips of fingers.



Step 3 Add milk and mix. Knead into a soft dough. Add more milk if required.



Step 4 Roll dough onto a large pizza tray.



Step 5 Brush the oil onto the dough. Spread the tomato paste over the dough.



Step 6 Sprinkle the cheese over the paste. Place tomato slices on top.



Step 7 Top with ham and pineapple.



Step 8 Bake in oven for 20–25 minutes. Serve hot.



Note: Other toppings can be used; for example: mushrooms, bacon, green peppers, onions. Use your imagination.

WARNING: THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD ONLY BE DONE UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.

How well could you make a ham and pineapple pizza?

- ① What type of flour is used?

- ② How much tomato paste is used to make the pizza?

- ③ Which ingredients are dairy foods?

- ④ Why is the flour sifted?

- ⑤ With which ingredient is the flour sifted?

- ⑥ How is the butter added to the flour?

- ⑦ If the dough is difficult to knead, what should you do?

- ⑧ What would you use to roll out the dough?

- ⑨ What is the pizza cooked on?

- ⑩ What are the last two ingredients to be added?

- ⑪ In which step are the tomato slices added?

- ⑫ Why do you think the oven is pre-heated?

- ⑬ What do °C and °F mean?

- ⑭ What other toppings would you have on your pizza?

What was that word?

- ⑮ Find words in the recipe that mean:
- a squeeze _____ b hacked _____ c needed _____
- d sweep _____ e shredded _____ f cook _____

Moving on



- 1 Write out the recipe for one of your favourite foods. Combine your grade recipes into a Grade Recipe Book.
- 2 Try making the pizza in the recipe.

Weird and Wonderful

There are only three species of monotremes in the world – the long-beaked echidna and its cousin, the short-beaked echidna, and the platypus. Two of these are native to Australia and the other, the long-beaked echidna, is a resident of Papua New Guinea. These weird but wonderful creatures have the same characteristics as mammals in that they are warm-blooded, have a hair covering and suckle their young on milk. Because they lay eggs, they are classified differently from other mammals.

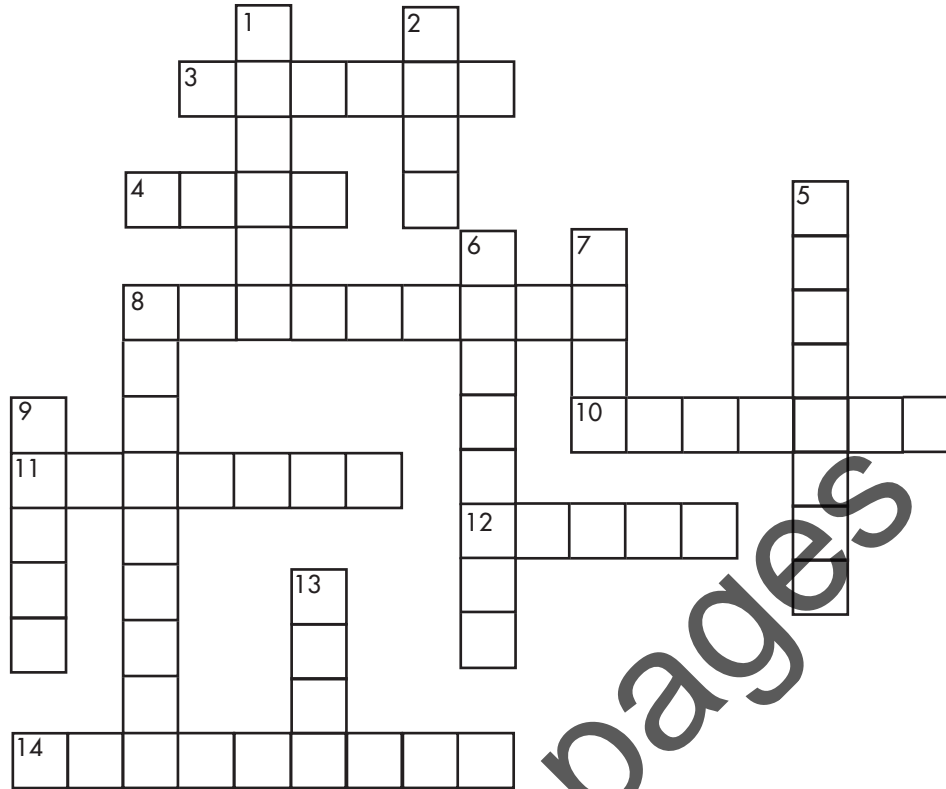


An extraordinary animal is the platypus, which features on our 20-cent coin. This duck-billed creature had scientists baffled when it was first discovered in 1797. It suckles its young as mammals do, lays eggs like a bird, has a head like a duck, a fur coat, sharp-clawed webbed feet and a flat tail like a beaver. The male platypus also has spurs on its hind legs that contain venom. Its webbed feet help make it a very good swimmer, as well as being very useful when digging in the banks of rivers and lakes. This timid creature builds its nest in a very intricate burrow system in the banks of the rivers and lakes it frequents. It is in this burrow that the two eggs are laid that are incubated by the female. Being amphibian, it is able to live on the land as well as in the water. While swimming, a flap of skin closes over its eyes and ears. The platypus uses its sensitive bill to seek out the worms, shrimps, snails and water insects it lives on.



The reverse side of our five-cent coin shows an echidna curled up into a ball. The echidna does this when it is threatened, and its spiny coat acts as its protection when it burrows down out of reach. Referred to as the 'Spiny Anteater', the echidna, which is toothless, uses its long, sticky tongue to penetrate ant and termite nests, which it breaks open with its strong claws. Growing to about the same length as the platypus, 60 to 70 centimetres, it can weigh up to seven kilograms. Like the platypus, the echidna has a spur on each of its ankles, but these are non-venomous. The echidna doesn't have a fixed abode but rather shelters wherever it can find a place – under bushes, in hollow logs and in caves. Only one soft-shelled egg is laid and the young is suckled inside the mother's pouch. When born, it does not have spines and is carried in the pouch until the growing quills become too uncomfortable for the mother. This occurs at about three months of age.

The answers to the crossword are all in the extract 'Weird and Wonderful'.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 3 The platypus lays its eggs in a _____.
- 4 Nourishment for the young of the platypus and echidna.
- 8 The echidna and platypus are native to this country.
- 10 Term given to an animal that is warm-blooded, has hair and produces milk.
- 11 This monotreme has no regular home.
- 12 Baby echidnas are carried in this.
- 14 An egg-laying mammal.
- 1 A synonym for 'spines'.
- 2 Which type of beaked echidna can be found in Papua New Guinea?
- 5 The echidna is sometimes called this.
- 6 Had early scientists confused.
- 7 Mammals are _____-blooded.
- 8 Able to live on land and in water.
- 9 A poisonous secretion.
- 13 Contains venom on a male platypus.

Moving on



Using plasticine, playdough or clay, make a model of either the platypus or the echidna. Make an information card to go with it.

