

## English Activities 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Answer the questions on a sheet/in your spare copy (make sure to use full answers!)

### The Dolphins



Read the following story and answer the questions in your copybook.

It was a beautiful, warm evening at sea. The ship glided through calm water on its way to France. David and I leaned on the deck railing, gazing out at the incredible golden sunset.



Suddenly, David saw something in the water and pointed at it. There, just a few metres away from the side of the ship, was a dolphin. It jumped out of the water and dived back into the waves. Then we spotted another three of the beautiful creatures doing exactly the same thing. These were followed by five others a little further away.

The pod of dolphins followed the ship for about five minutes. Then they disappeared. It had been a wonderful experience for us.

1. Where was the ship going?
2. What was the weather like?
3. What were the people in the story doing?
4. Who spotted something?
5. What did that person notice?
6. What were the dolphins doing?
7. How many dolphins were in the pod?
8. For how long did the dolphins follow the ship?



Write out the sentences and fill in the blanks



## Similes

A **simile** compares one thing to another using the words **as** or **like**.

Examples: As busy **as** a bee. I slept **like** a log.

dog brave glove happy slippery quick cold  
sweet mad light wise slow old strong

A. Choose a suitable word from the box to complete the following similes.

1. As \_\_\_\_\_ as lightning.

2. As \_\_\_\_\_ as ice.

3. As \_\_\_\_\_ as an eel.

4. As \_\_\_\_\_ as Larry.

5. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a snail.

6. As \_\_\_\_\_ as the hills.

7. As \_\_\_\_\_ as honey.

8. As \_\_\_\_\_ as an ox.

9. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a feather.

10. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a hatter.

11. Fits like a \_\_\_\_\_.

12. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a lion.

13. As \_\_\_\_\_ as an owl.

14. Fight like cat and \_\_\_\_\_.



An ox



An owl

B. The similes in part A are very common. Use your imagination to think of new similes to describe the following.



**Note:** They can be longer than just a word or two.

1. As exhausted as \_\_\_\_\_

2. As shy as \_\_\_\_\_

3. As impossible as \_\_\_\_\_

4. As hyper as \_\_\_\_\_

5. As colourful as \_\_\_\_\_

Write out the words and the sentences:

## Compound Words



**Compound words** are words that are made up of two smaller words.

Example: **foot** and **ball** together make **football**.

**A. Match words in column A to words in column B to make compound words.**

Column A	Column B	Compound words
1. every	a. shake	1.
2. in	b. boat	2.
3. hand	c. where	3.
4. skate	d. proof	4.
5. life	e. cake	5.
6. after	f. mother	6.
7. water	g. noon	7.
8. grand	h. print	8.
9. pan	i. board	9.
10. finger	j. side	10.

**B. Write sentences to show the meaning of the following compound words.**

1. lukewarm: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. widespread: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. meantime: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. scapegoat: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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In your copybook, write four short paragraphs based on the pictures below. Remember the rules!



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Read aloud and answer the questions aloud:

# Rip

**R**ip wasn't Jim's real name, but that is what everyone has called him since that famous game of Hide and Seek three years ago.

Jim had found the perfect hiding place under a pile of hay in the big old barn. He could hear Sally calling out, 'I can see you! Come on out.' He knew it was just a trick to make him come out. He was right because after a few minutes searching in the barn, she wandered off to search somewhere else.

It was cosy and warm in the hay and Jim nodded off. When he awoke, the sun had come out and bright beams were shining in the open barn door. Sally still hadn't found him. He was beginning to hope that she would soon because he was feeling quite hungry.

Then he heard his mother's voice. She seemed to be crying. Suddenly, a Garda walked into the barn.

'Jim!' he called out in a big deep voice.

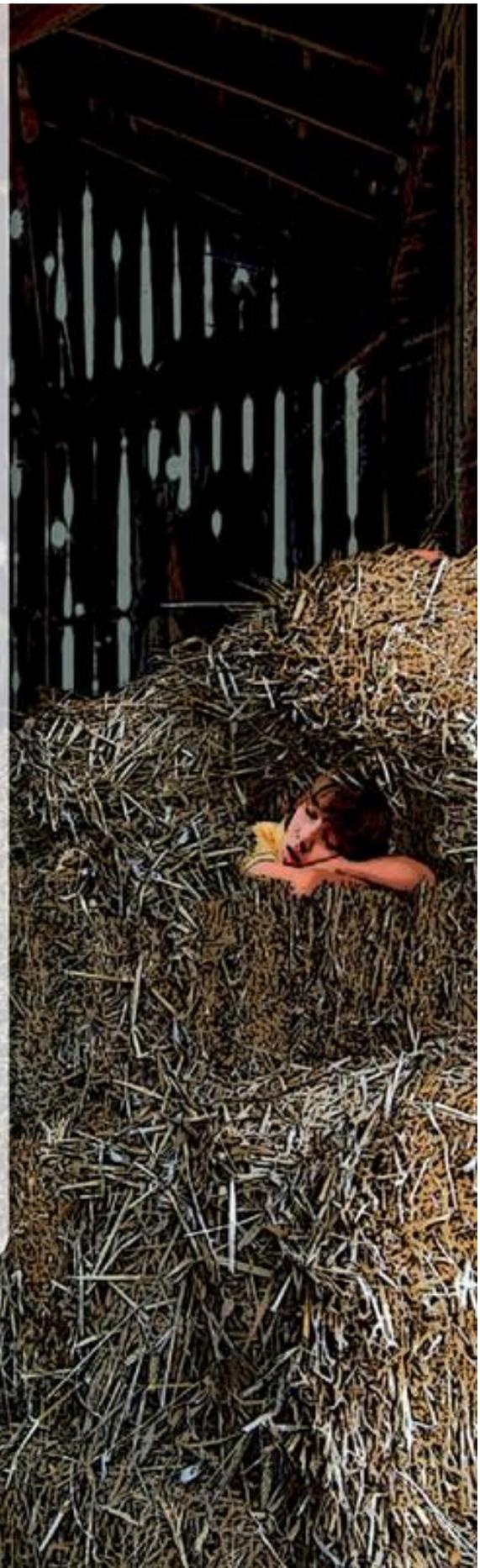
Jim stood up and shook the hay off himself.

'Yes?' he asked. The Garda's mouth fell open. Jim's mother came rushing into the barn, grabbed poor Jim and nearly hugged the life out of him. It turned out that Jim had slept in the barn all night! Everyone had been beside themselves with worry. And he thought that he had only nodded off for a few minutes!

Now everyone calls him Rip, after Rip Van Winkle who fell asleep on a mountain for 20 years. ■

### CHECK-UP

- 1 By what name does everyone call Jim?
- 2 Where did he hide?
- 3 Who was looking for him during the game?
- 4 For how long did Jim think he had slept?
- 5 Is Rip a good nickname for Jim? Explain.



## English Activities 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Read aloud and answer the questions aloud:

# China

China is the third largest country in the world after Russia and Canada. However, it has by far the biggest population. Almost 1.3 billion people live in China (1 billion is 1,000 million). The capital of China is Beijing. In the centre of Beijing is the Forbidden City, where the Emperors of China lived for 500 years. Most Chinese people speak Mandarin.

China is so big that it has different types of weather depending on the region. The weather is very cold in the north and very hot in the south of the country. There are huge deserts in Western China. The Gobi Desert, which is the world's fifth largest desert, is found in this region. The Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world (Mount Everest is in the Himalayas), run along the Chinese border.

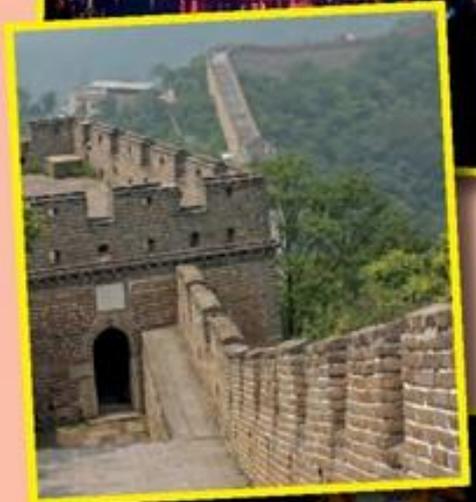
Feeding a population as large as the one in China is a big job. Rice is eaten at almost every meal. China is also the top fish-eating country in the world. Chinese food is usually made with beautiful spices and is popular all over the world.

The New Year is the most important Chinese holiday. Unlike our New Year, the Chinese New Year can fall on different dates between late January and mid-February, depending on when the New Moon shines. The celebrations last for 15 days!

Chinese people wear red clothes when they celebrate. They give each other money in red envelopes because red is considered lucky. They also like to celebrate with lots of fireworks.

Tea is an important drink in China. Pouring tea for someone else is a sign of respect. Tea ceremonies are an important ritual in China.

Chinese writing is quite different to what is used in Ireland. There are many different characters in their alphabet, so learning to read and write is not easy. ■



### CHECK-UP

- 1 What are the three largest countries in the world?
- 2 Which country has the biggest population?
- 3 What language do most Chinese people speak?
- 4 What is the capital of China?
- 5 Name the highest mountain range in the world.

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### Writing Activities

Feel free to pick and choose whichever activity you would like to try and you can also try them more than once with different words or characters etc.

#### **Word Ban!**

This activity will help you come up with new and interesting words when you're writing a story.

1. Come up with a list of ten words based on a theme, like Easter, summer or school.
2. Now write a short story based on that theme – but you are not allowed to use any of the words on the list of ten that you've come up with. If a story is too tricky you could try sentences instead.

#### **Letter Ban!**

1. Ask someone to choose a letter from the alphabet.
2. Now you have to try writing sentences (that make sense!) without using that letter or and words that have that letter in it. For example, "I went to the shop to buy sweets." has no letter "a".

#### **Word Net**

1. Write down (or ask someone at home to write down) 10 random words.
2. Now come up with a short story that has all 10 of these words included.

#### **Carry On The Story**

1. Choose words (or ask someone to give you the words) to fill in the blanks in the passage below. Then carry on the story!

_____	and	_____	couldn't believe they had found themselves in the
(Boys' Name)		(Girl's Name)	
_____	.	Their pet	_____
(Place)		(Animal)	(Pet's Name)
couldn't believe it either! What would they do now? Just then something amazing happened.....			

#### **Giving Directions**

1. Write a set of **instructions** for:
  - a) how to play your favourite game.
  - b) how to make toast, a sandwich and a cup of hot chocolate.

Remember for instructional writing we start each sentence with a verb (doing word) e.g. turn, go, stop, cut.