

## King Eider Homework Autumn 1 2015

### Fun Facts: Did you know?

Moats around castles prevented invaders from tunnelling under the castle walls. They also reduced the risk of fire. Castle battlements consisted of raised sections called 'merlons' (behind which defenders could shelter) and gaps called 'crenels' (through which they could fire missiles). It's harder for attackers to make round towers collapse as they have no corners! The toilets in castles were just holes in the floor. Waste products simply fell down chutes and straight into the moat. Yuk! Spiral staircases in castles were always built in a clockwise direction. Because most people are right-handed, this clever detail meant attackers going up the staircase would have to use their left hand to defend themselves, giving a clear advantage to the descender of the stairs! The Wombles were furry, pointy-nosed imaginary creatures who lived in burrows on Wimbledon Common. Their environmentally-friendly motto was 'Make good use of bad rubbish'! The Eiffel Tower is one of the most visited monuments in the world. Millions of people climb to the top every year! The Blackpool Tower was inspired by the Eiffel Tower. The tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai at an incredible 829.8m high! Wow! It takes 35 minutes to travel by train through the Channel Tunnel from Folkestone in Kent to Coquelles in Pas-de-Calais. The soil that was dug out to create the English half of the Channel tunnel was deposited on the Dover coast to create Samphire Hoe, a park and popular fishing spot. France used its leftover soil to create a new hill! Arch bridges have been a popular design for 3000 years. They are very strong because the



weight of anything crossing is evenly distributed to the supports at each side. The Akashi Kaikyo Suspension Bridge in Japan has the longest central span in the world and took two million workers ten years to construct! The Tees Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough has a travelling car or 'gondola' which can move across the river in 90 seconds. The gondola can carry 200 people or nine cars at a time. Over 21,000km long, the Great Wall of China is the longest structure ever built by humans! According to legend, a helpful dragon identified the path for the wall to follow. The roof of the Sydney Opera House in Australia was designed to look like boat sails. Stonehenge is a mysterious arrangement of ancient stones thought to have been built 5000 years ago! Nobody knows who constructed it.

### Ideas for Homework (choose a different idea each week)

- Now you've learned about Brunel, find out about other famous engineers. Search the web and use non-fiction books to find out about their life and work. Draw a picture to show one of their most famous achievements and think about why their work was so important.
- Play a tumbling tower game such as Jenga with your family. What are the best ways of keeping the tower upright? See if you can take some action shots or videos of the tower falling!
- Go on a bridge hunt with your grown-ups around the local area, taking photographs to show your class. What types of bridge have you seen? Choose the most interesting bridge and see what you can discover about it online or at the local library?
- Make a detailed diagram of a castle, labelling interesting features which might be found inside or out. Perhaps you could find out about 'murder holes', 'garderobes' or 'loopholes'?
- Make your own information book about castles, bridges or tunnels. Include downloaded images as well as your own drawings and diagrams. What fascinating facts can you find out to amaze your family, friends and teacher?
- Design and create a model of a famous structure from around the world, using junk materials found at home. Will you choose London Bridge, the Leaning Tower of Pisa or perhaps the Statue of Liberty? Find a photograph of your chosen landmark to use as inspiration.
- Find, on a world map or globe, all the famous landmarks you would like to visit. Which continents are they in? How would you get there? Talk to your grown-ups to explain your choices. Make a digital display showing images of your favourite places and giving information about each country or city.
- Design a fantastic new landmark for your local area! What materials would you use and what special features would it have? Think about how to make it stand out from other landmarks in the world: you'd want lots of people to come and visit! Plot your landmark on a map of your local area. Present your ideas to your class and perhaps take a vote for the winning design!
- Look at websites telling the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. Draw a storyboard with six or eight sections. Add captions and images which could be used to help you create a short stop motion film. Carry on and make the film if you have time!

