

This text is adapted from the original text on the Natural History Museum website (www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only).

I Want to be ... a Palaeontologist

palaeontologist: pay-lee-on-tol-o-jist



What made you want to be a palaeontologist?

Some of my earliest memories are of visiting the Natural History Museum with my mum and younger brother. I still have a dinosaur postcard from a visit when I was four! In the last year of my degree at university I studied basic palaeontology, and got really into it.

What advice would you give anyone wanting to be a palaeontologist?

You need to study science at school. For many jobs, you will have to be a student until you're about 25 or even older! Go fossil collecting, but make sure you do it legally and safely, and go with someone who knows the site well.

You can volunteer in museums, but remember that not all palaeontologists work in museums. Many collect and study fossils in their spare time, not as a paid job.

What's the best thing about being a palaeontologist?

I meet interesting people from around the world, and help them to use the museum's collections for their research. Talking about my work to adults and children visiting the Museum is also great fun.

What's the worst thing about being a palaeontologist?

The worst thing is if a fragile specimen gets broken. I also hate having to move heavy specimens. The pterosaurs that I work with are not too bad but some of the dinosaur specimens are difficult to move.

What would you do if you weren't a palaeontologist?

If my hobbies are anything to go by, I should have been a motorcycle mechanic or a tattooist, but I would also like to work in wildlife conservation or animal welfare.

This is an interview with Lorna Steel who is a palaeontologist - this means that she studies fossils. Lorna works at the Natural History Museum in London, where she helps to look after the collections of fossils. Lorna's work focuses on flying reptiles known as pterosaurs [te/row/sors].



Glossary

fossil - the remains of an animal or plant that has been in the ground for a very long time and is hardened in rock

palaeontologist – a person who studies fossils

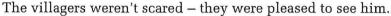
specimen – an animal or plant (including a fossil) that is studied or put on show, e.g. in a museum



This text is from Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron by Tony Bradman.

Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron

It was a lovely morning, and the sun shone on Mr Giant as he walked into the village to do his weekly shopping. He was careful where he put his boots, of course. But he needn't have worried.



"Hey there, Mr Giant!" people called out happily. "How are things?"

"Er ... couldn't be better, thanks," said Mr Giant with a shy smile.

In fact, he could hardly believe how well things were going for him these days. He still had occasional nightmares about Jack, and hoped he would never, ever meet him again.

But he was also grateful to the little rascal – Jack had made him think about the kind of life he was living.

The truth was that up there in his castle, Mr Giant had been rather bored and lonely. He'd had no hobbies or interests, and no friends. Everybody had always run off screaming as soon as they heard him start to growl, "Fee, fi, fo, fum..."

A week in the Fairy Tale Clinic For Recovering Villains had made all the difference. He had learnt that he could change if he wanted to, and Mr Giant had promised himself he would give up being nasty and violent ... for ever.

He decided to leave his castle, and moved to a lovely village on the far side of the Forest. Mr Giant settled down to live a peaceful, happy life. The villagers were nice to him right from the start, and he soon made plenty of friends.

He joined the Village Social Club...

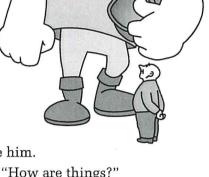
...and took up stamp collecting.

Now the only problems he had were small ones. His cottage was a bit cramped, and he didn't think he would ever get used to eating such tiny portions of food...

Today Mr Giant soon finished his shopping and set off for home. But suddenly he heard shouting, and went back to find out what was happening. He stopped behind an enormous old oak tree and peered out.

A short, plump man with a mean face was standing on one of the benches outside the village tavern. He was shouting at a group of villagers, who were being pushed around by a band of tough-looking soldiers.

"I'm Baron Beastly, your new lord and master," the short man yelled. "And I'm doubling ... no, tripling your taxes. You have till next week to pay me."



Name:		Class:	Date:	
	Mr Giant an	d the Be	eastly Baron	
1	Why was Mr Giant careful w	where he put his bo	ots?	AF3
2	What does Mr Giant think of He has nightmares about He feels grateful and wou He doesn't like him much He thinks he is a horrible	him nearly every Ild like to thank h but is thankful th	day. \square im in person. \square ney met. \square	AF3
3	a) What was Mr Giant's life He felt peaceful and happ He had nothing to do. He didn't have any friend He had lots of hobbies. He felt a bit cramped. b) How has his life changed answer as fully as you ca	s.	the village ? Explain your	AF2
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4	Why did Mr Gi		Clinic for Recovering Villains.	AF3			
5	Now the only	y problems he had wer	e small ones.				
	a) What were	Mr Giant's problems? W	rite two .				
	1						
	2	AF2					
	b) Why has th	AF5					
6	Think about N the following done for you	words could be used to	nd Baron Beastly. Tick to show whic describe which character. One has b	h of peen			
		Mr Giant (now)	Baron Beastly				
	shy						
	nasty						
	small						
	loud			AF3			
	gentle			2 marks			

Name:		Class:	Date:		
	I want to	be a P	alaeontolo	gist	
1	Draw lines to match to Use the first paragraph	_	with their meaning in the help you.	ne text.	
	Word		Meaning in text		
	(palaeontologist)	a fossil tl	hat is studied or put o	n show	
	(pterosaur)	(a pe	rson who studies foss	ils	GOLE.
	(specimen)	(a flying reptile		AF2
2	5		the Natural History Muses, using the text to help y		
					AF3
3	We know from the text about what Lorna's job		aeontologist. What else o things.	do we learn	
	1				
	2				AF2 2 marks
4	What advice does Lorna Tick two .	a give to someone v	who wants to be a palae	ontologist?	
	You need to travel are It is important to stud First, you must find p It does not matter ho Go fossil collecting be	dy science at scho aid work in a mus w long you study	eum.		AF2
	ars UK Ltd 2014 You may photocopy th			37	/ 5 Total for this page

5	Look at Lorna's answer to What's the worst thing about being a palaeontologist? Find and copy a phrase of two words which shows that objects in the museum are delicate and should be handled carefully.	1 mark	\ F3
6	The pterosaurs that I work with are not too bad		
	What does Lorna mean? Tick one .		
	The pterosaurs are the most fragile specimens. The pterosaurs are the most difficult things to move. The pterosaurs are not as heavy as other specimens. The pterosaurs are not the worst thing about the job.	1 mark	\ F3
7	Look at the paragraph beginning: <i>If my hobbies are anything to go by</i>		
	Using the text, what do you think Lorna's hobbies might be? Write one.	1 mark	AF2
8	palaeontologist: pay-lee-on-tol-o-gist		
	How does this box help the reader?	1 mark	\F4
	Where might you find this interview with Lorna? Tick one .		
7	in a fiction book in a dictionary in a magazine in a diary	1 mark	10 test

Summer test 1: Part A-Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron

	Part A: Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron	AF	Mark	Extra information
1	Award 1 mark for references to Mr Giant not wanting to hurt or	3	1	
	scare anyone, or damage anything, e.g.:			
	• So he didn't step on anyone.			
	So he didn't scare people away.			
2	He doesn't like him much but is thankful they met.	3	1	
3	a) Award 1 mark for both answers (and no others) ticked.	2	1	
	He had nothing to do.			
	He didn't have any friends.			
	b) Award 1 mark for each of the following changes/differences	2	2	
	mentioned, up to a maximum of 2 marks:			
	 He is much happier./He has a happy life./He can't believe how 			
	well things are going.			
	People are pleased to see him now/don't run away screaming./			
	People are nice to him.			
	 He has plenty of friends./He is not lonely. He has hobbies./He does stamp collecting/has joined the social 			
	elub.			
	He is nice now./He is not nasty anymore.			
	Also award 2 marks for one of the above points with development/			
	support from the text, e.g. He is not bored anymore because he has started stamp collecting.			
_		2	1	Do not assessed assessed for a recovery that are involved to
4	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following reasons for Mr Giant's stay in the clinic:	3	1	Do not award marks for answers that are irrelevant or repeat the text, e.g.:
	He wanted to change.			He wanted to make all the difference.
	He wanted to stop being nasty/violent.			He had learnt that he could change.
	* **			_
	Also award 1 mark for references to Mr Giant learning <i>how</i> to change, e.g.:			
	• So he could learn how to change.			
5	a) Award 1 mark for both of the following problems identified:	2	1	
"	His home/cottage was too small/cramped.	_	·	
	• The food portions were small/he didn't have enough to eat.			
	b) Award 1 mark for reference to the fact that both problems are	5	1	b) Do not award marks for answers which simply
	to do with things being too small, or for answers that show	3	'	reiterate that the problems were small, e.g.:
	understanding of the joke that he is a giant in a village where			Because they were small problems./The only
	everything is designed for people much smaller than he is, e.g.:			problems he had were small ones.
	Because his house was too small and so were his dinners.			
	• Because both problems were things that were too small for him.			
	Because he is so big it means everything is too small for him.			
6	Mr Giant (now) Baron Beastly	3	2	Award 2 marks for all four correct.
	shy 🗸			Award 1 mark for two or three correct.
	nasty			
	small ✓ (given)			
	lound 🗸			
	gentle 🗸			

Summer test 1: Part B – I Want to be...a Palaeontologist

	Part B: I want to bea Palaeontologist	AF	Mark	Extra information
1	Word Meaning in text	2	1	Award 1 mark for all correctly matched.
	palaeontologist a fossil that is studied or put on show pterosaur a person who studies fossils specimen a flying reptile			
2	 Award 1 mark for answers that refer to Lorna's enjoyment and also give evidence to support this. Evidence may include: Keeping the postcard. She still remembers it./The visits are some of her earliest memories. She gives it as a reason for wanting to be a palaeontologist. Example answers: 	3	1	Do not award marks for a simple reference to Lorna's enjoyment, e.g. <i>She liked it a lot</i> .
	 She liked it because she kept the postcard since she was four. She enjoyed it and remembers it now. It's one of the things that made her want to do her job. (Enjoyment is implied.) 			
3	Award 1 mark for each of the following points about Lorna's job, up to a maximum of 2 marks: • She works at the Natural History Museum/in a museum. • She looks after the fossil collection/the fossils. • She focuses on/works mainly with flying reptiles/pterosaurs. • She meets people from around the world. • She talks to adults and children about her work. • She has to move heavy specimens.	2	2	Do not award marks for: She studies fossils./She is a palaeontologist.
4	It is important to study science at school. Go fossil collecting but do it safely.	2	1	Award 1 mark for both answers (and no others) ticked.
5	(a) fragile specimen (gets broken)	3	1	
6	The pterosaurs are not as heavy as other specimens.	3	1	
7	Award 1 mark for either of the following hobbies identified: • motorbikes/motorcycles/mechanics/fixing motorbikes • tattoos	2	1	Do not award marks for reference to: • Wildlife conservation • Animal welfare
8	Award 1 mark for reference to the fact that the box tells you how to say/pronounce the word.	4	1	
9	in a magazine 🗸	6	1	

This text is from Alex the Walking Accident by Ian Whybrow.

Alex the Walking Accident

Alex Dent and accidents seemed to go together. That was why he wasn't having much luck asking for a new bike.

"No, you've already got a bike," said Mum. She was always in a mood at breakfast. *Bang* went her cup on to her saucer.

Alex didn't give up. "Yes, but I need more gears."

Now it was Mr Dent's turn. "You heard what your mum said. Forget it," he growled. "You know we haven't got the money to go buying you new bikes!"

There was a pile of letters beside his plate. He ripped one open. "Blast!" he roared. "There goes another job! I spent all that time designing office buildings for the Council and now they don't want them!"

"Don't worry, Charles, you're a *brilliant* architect," said Mrs Dent. "Things are bound to pick up soon." She tried to sound cheery but she didn't look it.

James, Alex's baby brother, was reaching down from his high chair towards Pud the cat. The cat was ignoring him. Alex meant to help. He tried to give Pud a little push towards James with his foot. Somehow he missed and trod on his tail.

"Yeeeeow!" went the cat and nearly scared the wits out of James.

"Waaah!" howled James.

"Alex!" shouted Mum and Dad together.

Alex kept going anyway. "All my friends say my bike's rubbish. It hasn't even got disc-brakes!"

He made a flapping movement with his hand to show how bad that was. Disaster.

Mr Dent's cornflakes were swimming in milk. On top he had plopped a great dollop of strawberry yoghurt. His spoon was in his bowl, with the handle resting on the side. So, when Alex's hand flapped out:

- 1. It knocked against the cornflakes box.
- 2. The box fell sideways and knocked over Dad's glass of orange juice.
- 3. The juice dived into Dad's lap SPLOSH!
- 4. The glass fell at exactly the right angle to hit the handle of his spoon TWANG!
- 5. Up went the spoon like a seesaw with a baby elephant on one end.
- 6. Suddenly soggy cornflakes and pink gunk started raining on everybody.
- 7. James threw his plate and hit Alex right on the ear BONK!

[&]quot;Axi Nutty Bye! Axi Nutty Bye!" screamed little James.

[&]quot;Quite right! Alex is a very naughty boy!" agreed Mr Dent.



This text is from Making Friends with Frankenstein by Colin McNaughton.

The Shady Character

There's a shady character following me! Who can the shady character be?

He silently slithers, Dresses in black. He's normally hiding Behind my back! The strange thing is, When the sun isn't out The shady character's never about! When it's raining or snowing Or cloudy or grey, The shady character stays away! But he comes back at night As I walk down the street. Sometimes long: sometimes short: Sometimes under my feet! Passing from streetlight to streetlight I find He's sometimes in front of me. Sometimes behind!

There's a shady character Following me. Who can the shady Character be?



shady - in the shade or full of shade shady - dishonest

Name:	Class:		Date:		
	Alex the Walkin	g Accid	lent		
1	Why did Mum's cup bang on to her so Alex knocked it out of her hand. She was feeling cross with Alex. The cat yelped and made her jump James gave it a little push.				AF3
2	What does Alex think is wrong with h	nis bike? Write o	ne thing.		AF2
3	Tick to show whether the following sof them.	sentences are ab	out Mum, D	ad or Both	
		Mum	Dad	Both	
	says they don't have enough money for a new bike				
	tries to sound happy but isn't rea	lly			
	shouts at Alex when he makes James cry				AF2
4	Look at these lines from the story. Fir angry Mr Dent is feeling.	nd and copy one	e word that	shows how	
he roa	Now it was Mr Dent's turn. "You he owled. "You know we haven't got the There was a pile of letters beside his ared. "There goes another job! I spent e Council and now they don't want the	money to go buy plate. He ripped all that time des	ying you new l one open. "	bikes!" Blast!"	
					AF3
					Total for this page

(5)	Disaster.	
	What was the disaster and why did it happen?	
		AF3
<u>(6)</u>	SPLOSH! TWANG! BONK!	
	Why has the writer used these words? Tick one .	
	They show the reader in what order things went wrong.	
	They describe the big mess the soggy cornflakes made.	
	They explain how Alex was hit on the ear with a plate.	AF5
	They help the reader imagine the sounds of the accident.	1 mark
7	"Quite right! Alex is a very naughty boy!" agreed Mr Dent.	
	Has Alex really been a naughty boy? Explain your answer as fully as you can,	
	using the whole story to help you.	
		AF6
		Zillaks
	Number these events in the order in which they happen in the story.	
(8)	The first one has been done for you.	
	Alex treads on the cat's tail.	
	Dad opens one of his letters.	
	Dad's glass of juice spills over.	
	1 Mum tells Alex he can't have a new bike.	AF4
	James throws his plate and it hits Alex.	1 mark

Name:		Class:	Date:	n geri Kupak
L	The Shady Cl	haracte	r	CONTRACTOR
1	a) Look at the first line of the	e poem. Who or v	what is the <i>shady character</i> ?	AF3
	b) What does the poet think He thinks: the shady character is invis		ck one .	
	someone is hiding from hir somebody is following him the shady character is never	m.		AF2
2	Draw lines to match the de character.	scription with wh	nat it tells us about the shady	
	Description		What it tells us	
	silently slithers		it is dark	
	dresses in black		(it changes size and shape)	
	sometimes long: sometimes	nes short	(it makes no noise	AF2
3	The poem says that sometime	es the shady char	acter is not there.	
	a) When is it not there?			AF2
	b) Why is it not there?			AF3
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4	The poem mentions some of the places the shady character can be found. Which of these are mentioned? Tick two . under his feet	AF2
5	There's a shady character following me! Who can the shady character be? The poet repeats these two lines at the end of the poem. Why? Tick one. to show that the shady character is asking a question to show that the poem has answered the question to show that he still doesn't really know the answer to show that the shady character never goes away	AF6
6	Think about the rhyme in the poem. Which of the following sentences is true ? Tick one . There are no rhyming words in the poem. Only the first four lines contain rhyming words. There is some rhyme but no clear pattern. The last word of every other line rhymes.	AF4
7	The poet makes the shady character seem a bit scary. How does he do this? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the poem to help you.	AF6

Summer test 2: Part A – Alex the Walking Accident

	Part A: Alex the Walking Accident			AF	Mark	Extra information	
1	She was feeling cross with Alex.				3	1	
2	 Award 1 mark for any of the following point It needs more gears. It doesn't have disc brakes. His friends say it's rubbish. 	It doesn't have disc brakes.				1	
3		Mum	Dad	Both	2	1	Award 1 mark for all three correctly ticked.
	says they don't have enough money for a new bike		✓				
	tries to sound happy but isn't really	✓					
	shouts at Alex when he makes James cry			✓			
4	Award 1 mark for either of the following wo • (he) growled • (Blast! he) roared Also award 1 mark for: Blast!	rds:			3	1	
	 Award 2 marks for answers that identify what the disaster was (the chain of events/huge mess) and refer to Alex's actions (flapping his hand) causing this, e.g.: The disaster was that Alex flapped his hand and the cornflake box knocked into the juice and there was mess everywhere. Alex waved his hand around and then loads of things started to go wrong. Award 1 mark for answers that refer either to the disaster or to what Alex did, e.g.: Alex flapped his hand. Alex made a big mess of the breakfast. 			3	2		
6	They help the reader imagine the sounds of t	he accio	lent.	✓	5	1	
				6	2		
8	 Alex treads on the cat's tail. Dad opens one of his letters. Dad's glass of juice spills over. Mum tells Alex he can't have a new bike James throws his plate and it hits Alex. 	<u>.</u>			4	1	Award 1 mark for all sentences correctly numbered.

Summer test 2: Part B – The Shady Character

	Part B: The Shady Character	AF	Mark	Extra information
1	a) Award 1 mark for reference to the person's shadow.	3	1	
	b) somebody is following him.	2	1	
2	Description What it tells us	2	1	Award 1 mark for all correctly matched.
	silently slithers it is dark			
	dresses in black it changes size and shape			
	sometimes long: sometimes short it makes no noise			
3	a) Award 1 mark for answers that recognise when the shady	2	1	Do not award marks for: It is not there in the
	character is not there, e.g.: It is not there when the sun isn't out/ when it's raining/when it's snowing/when it's cloudy/when it's			daytime.
	grey/when there is no sun/light.			
	b) Award 1 mark for answers that show understanding of why the			
	shady character is not there, i.e.: It is not there because there is	3	1	
	no source of light/no sun/no streetlights.			
4	under his feet	2	1	Award 1 mark for both answers (and no others)
	behind his back			ticked.
5	to show that he still doesn't really know the answer	6	1	
6	There is some rhyme but no clear pattern.	4	1	
7	Award 2 marks for answers that cover two of the points below, or	6	2	
	cover one point plus development/evidence from poem:Use of the word 'shady'.			
	 Describes it as dark/black. 			
	Says it comes back at night.			
	Says it follows the poet/hides from the poet.			
	Makes it sound like a nasty creature.			
	Example 2-mark answers:			
	 It says the character is shady and also that it follows him around. 			
	 It comes back at night and often scary things are around at 			
	night.			
	 It makes it sound like something horrible when it says it slithers. 			
	Award 1 mark for any one of the above points, e.g.: It follows him			
	around everywhere.			