

Name: Date:.....

April Fools' Day comprehension

Have you ever wondered where April Fools' Day comes from? Read on to find out more!

April Fools' Day takes place on 1st April every year. In the 16th century, France celebrated the New Year on April 1st. In 1562, the pope changed the calendar and the New Year began on January 1st. Lots of people didn't know about the calendar change and still celebrated the New Year on the 1st of April. These people were thought to be unintelligent and people called them April Fools, playing tricks on them. This is where April Fools' Day comes from.

It is important to make sure that the trick that you play on people is safe, otherwise someone could get hurt! Here are some safe and funny tricks that people play on each other:

- Supergluing coins to the pavement
- Putting fake bugs on furniture and floors
- Placing a toy snake in someone's bed
- Putting googly eyes on food in the fridge
- Swap faces on family photographs

Fun Facts

- One year, Burger King announced they were bringing out a Whopper for left-handed people!
- In France, April 1st is called "Poisson d'Avril", which means April Fish. French children trick their parents by sticking paper fish to their backs.
- In 2008, the BBC showed a video clip of flying penguins and said it was from their new TV series called "Miracles of Evolution."

Comprehension questions

1. In what year did the BBC trick their viewers by showing a clip of penguins flying?
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2. Name three ways in which people can trick others for April Fools' Day.
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3. In what year did the pope change the calendar?
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4. How do French children play tricks on their parents?
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5. What must you make sure the trick is before you play it on someone?
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April Fools' Day jokes

Match up the jokes with their answers. Then see if you can write your own below!

How does a vampire start a letter?
Why can't Elsa have a balloon?
What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?
How can you tell a vampire has a cold?
What do you call a ghost's one true love?
What did the nose say to the finger?
What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?
Where do rabbits go after they get married?
What did one egg say to the other?
What do you call a dog magician?
What kind of hair does the ocean have?

Wavy.
His ghoul-friend.
A labracadabrador.
Tomb it may concern...
Because she will let it go.
You crack me up.
Stop picking on me.
A dino-snore.
He starts coffin.
On a bunny-moon.
That hit the spot!

My own joke

.....

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Class debate- Should April Fools' Day Tricks Be Banned?

Some people think that April Fools' Day tricks should be banned. Add reasons for and against to the tables below and then decide which side you will take for your class debate.

Reasons for banning April Fools' tricks	Reasons against banning April Fools' tricks

The side I have chosen to take is:

This is because:

.....

.....

.....

What you will need:

Diagram

Instructions:

1.
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2.
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3.
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4.
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5.
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6.
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7.
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Instruction writing prompt sheet

Imperative (bossy) verbs	Adverbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put • Place • Grab • Hide • Throw • Stick • Cut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully • Slowly • Gently • Easily • Quickly • Evenly • Firmly
Prepositions	Time connectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under • Over • Next to • Beside • On top of • Through • In 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First of all • Next • Then • Afterwards • Firstly • Secondly • Finally



Teaching notes

April Fools' Day comprehension answers

A quick comprehension which discusses where April Fools comes from, some ideas for tricks and reminders about safety.

Answers:

1. 2008

2. Any two from the list below:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| a Supergluing coins to the pavement | b Putting fake bugs on furniture and floors | c Placing a toy snake in someone's bed |
| d Putting googly eyes on food in the fridge | e Swap faces on family photographs | |

3. 1562

4. By sticking paper fish to their backs.

5. You must make sure the trick is safe.

Curriculum links:

- discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- understand what they read, in books they can read independently

April Fools' Day jokes

Curriculum links:

- develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read
- reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes

Introduce April Fools' Day to the children. *What do they know about it already? When is it? Have they ever played any tricks on anyone?*

Children should work in pairs to match up the jokes with their answers. Use a timer and see which group can get all of the answers the quickest.

Answers

How does a vampire start a letter?	Tomb it may concern.
Why can't Elsa have a balloon?	Because she will 'let it go'.
What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?	A dino-snore.
How can you tell a vampire has a cold?	He starts coffin.
What do you call a ghost's one true love?	His ghoul friend.
What did the nose say to the finger?	Stop picking on me.
What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?	That hits the spot!
Where do rabbits go after they get married?	On a bunny-moon.
What did one egg say to the other?	You crack me up.
What do you call a dog magician?	A labracadabrador
What kind of hair does the ocean have?	Wavy.

Class debate: Should April Fools' Day tricks be banned?

Curriculum links:

- read their own writing aloud to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear
- to talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views
- to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events
- that their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and to try to see things from their points of view

Discuss why some people may not like April Fools' tricks. *When can people go too far?* Discuss with the class about safety and making sure the trick is fun, not something that could hurt or upset someone.

Introduce the following question to the class: *Should April Fools' tricks be banned?*

Children then discuss with partners and share ideas with the class. Children then fill in the worksheet, jotting down their ideas and ultimately choose a side. This should result in an interesting and lively class debate - perfect for ticking off evidence of coverage of British Values.

April Fools' Day trick instructions

Curriculum links:

- discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
- in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings]
- using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause

Children should work with a partner to come up with their own April Fools' Day trick to play on someone. If this is done in advance, the resources needed could be gathered and children could have a go at making their trick. This would then help them with their instruction writing.

Children could pull apart examples of instructions and identify the features within them. A prompt sheet is provided for those children who need a reminder of adverbs, time connectives, prepositions and imperative verbs needed for a set of instructions.

Afterwards, ask children to swap instructions with someone else and see if they can successfully follow their instructions accurately. Children can then evaluate their peers' work and suggest ways to improve their instructions, to make them easier to follow.