

FURTHER TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Text level

Reading comprehension

- ▶ This unit contains two very different forms of text: an information text, and text containing argument and persuasive writing. After necessary explanation, ask children to find examples of the features of each type of text and discuss them.

Information texts: written in the third person, often in fairly impersonal style; use of the present tense; lots of facts and detail; use of 'technical' terms specific to subject; use of diagrams or illustrations; clearly structured paragraphs.

Persuasive texts: use of statistics or facts; powerful and persuasive language; the expression of personal beliefs and opinions; the use of rhetorical questions; the use of exaggeration; the use of bias.

Writing composition

- ▶ Discuss the importance of listening to a range of views. Ask children to write the arguments for and against wearing school uniform.

Sentence level

Grammatical awareness

- ▶ Use the sentences in the information text to investigate word order, by examining how far the order of the words in the sentences can be changed. Which words are essential to meaning? Which can be deleted without affecting the meaning?

Sentence construction and punctuation

- ▶ Commas are used in the information text for separating clauses and to separate items in a list. Find examples of both in the text. Draw attention to the use of brackets for providing additional information or explanation, and the use of a hyphen for joining together two words, especially when used as adjectives, as in white-tipped.

Word level

Spelling

- ▶ Select a number of tricky words from the unit. Write these on the board. Ask children to suggest ways of remembering their spellings.

Vocabulary extension

- ▶ Ask children to make up their own definitions for words taken from the passage and to check these against their meanings in dictionaries.

ANSWERS

Thinking back

Facts about the Red Fox

Length: 120 cm Height: 40 cm Weight: 10 kg

Distinctive features: dog-like appearance, pointed ears, narrow muzzle, bushy, white-tipped tail, reddish brown colour, white chest and stomach

Name of home: den

Food eaten: rodents, larger animals, fruit

Usual habitat: places where there is plenty of cover

Thinking about it

- 1 It appeared in a newspaper or magazine, because it appears on the 'Editor's Page'.
- 2 (open answer)
- 3 They are all about whether foxes are pests or not and whether they should be hunted.
- 4 (open answer)
- 5 The letters in favour of fox-hunting are the first and third letters.
- 6 Mrs Duckworth and Mr Harris are against fox-hunting.
- 7 (open answer) 8 (open answer)

Thinking it through

- 1 (open answer)
- 2 The letter by Mr Kirkham uses facts and figures as persuasion.
- 3 Views in favour of fox-hunting: foxes are a pest; they steal chickens and raid dustbins; they serve no useful purpose; there are too many foxes; hunting provides a means of sport; it is not unnecessarily cruel.
Views against fox-hunting: all life should be protected; nature has its own way of controlling population; it is cruel.

➡ Copymaster For and Against

This copymaster encourages children to consider the pros and cons of having a pet dog and then to state their own views in a structured manner.