

The Hidden Caves of Ember Island



Leo tightened the straps of his rucksack and squinted at the mysterious map in his hands. The paper was yellowed with age, and its edges were torn, but the red X in the corner was still clear. According to the old legend, the X marked the hidden treasure of Ember Island.

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" asked Mia, his best friend, brushing sand from her shoes. "The waves are strong, and the forest looks dangerous."

"That's what makes it an adventure," Leo replied, his eyes gleaming with excitement.

The children leapt from their small wooden boat onto the sandy shore. Behind them, the sea roared like a wild beast, tossing the boat up and down as though it wanted to swallow it whole. Ahead of them, the island's jungle stretched out, dark, tangled, and humming with unknown sounds. Birds screeched overhead, as if warning them to turn back, and crabs scuttled quickly across the rocks.

Leo led the way, holding the fragile map tightly. They pushed through thick vines, their feet sinking into the damp earth, and ducked under branches that clawed at their clothes. The air grew hotter and stickier with each step. Suddenly, they reached a rocky cliff face. On the stone, strange carvings showed spirals, arrows, and the outline of a dragon with its mouth wide open.



"Do you think it's a clue?" Mia whispered, her eyes wide.

Before Leo could answer, a deep rumble echoed from within the cliff. The ground shuddered beneath their feet, and with a loud creak, a narrow passage slowly opened in the rock. A cool draught of air drifted out, carrying the smell of earth, moss, and mystery.

Leo grinned. "The treasure must be inside. Come on!"

Mia hesitated for only a moment before following him into the darkness. The tunnel walls glittered faintly as though tiny stars were trapped in the stone. Water dripped from the ceiling, echoing in the silence. After a few steps, they reached a fork in the passage. One path sloped downward into shadows, while the other curved steeply upwards.

Leo glanced at the map again. "The dragon's mouth... it points left," he muttered.

They followed the left-hand path, the air growing cooler as they went. At last, they stumbled into a wide cavern. Torches, long extinguished, lined the walls, and in the centre stood a stone pedestal. On it rested a small chest, its golden surface glimmering faintly in the dim light.

Leo's heart pounded. They had found it. But just as he reached out, the cavern filled with a low growl, and two fiery eyes flickered open in the shadows...

Writing Task

Year 4 Home Writing Task: A Journey into the Storm



Write an adventure story about travelling through a powerful storm to reach a new destination.



Your story should include:

- A description of the stormy setting (what you can see, hear, feel)
- At least two characters
- A problem caused by the storm
- An ending (safe escape, or a cliffhanger...)

Step 1: Warm-up (10 minutes)

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| Practise a few sentences before you start your story. | |
| 1. Write three sentences describing stormy weather. | <i>The wind howled through the trees.</i> |
| 2. Write three sentences that show a character is brave. | <i>He clenched his fists and stepped forward.</i> |
| 3. Write three sentences that show danger is near. | <i>A sudden crash of thunder made her jump.</i> |

Step 2: Planning (10 minutes)

Use these questions to plan your story:

- Who are your characters? (friends, a family, explorers, sailors...)
- Where are they? (on a ship, in the mountains, on a journey...)
- What happens in the storm? (lightning, flooding, trees falling, shipwreck...)
- What is the problem? (they get lost, trapped, or nearly injured...)
- How will your story end? (safe escape, rescued, or a cliffhanger).

You could draw a quick story map or jot down bullet points.

History Task - **Home Learning Task: Build Your Own Prehistoric Village**

Your Mission

Imagine you are living in the Stone Age, Bronze Age, or Iron Age. Your task is to design and create your own prehistoric village! You will think about where people lived, what they ate, and how they stayed safe.

Step 1 –Have a think...(5 minutes)

1. How did people get their food in the Stone Age?
2. What kind of homes do you think they lived in?
3. How do you think life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

Step 2 – Research/Plan (10–15 minutes)

Find out or think about:

- Homes: Stone huts, caves, roundhouses. What were they made of?
- Food: Did they farm, hunt, or gather?
- Tools & Weapons: Stone, bronze, or iron tools for cutting, hunting, or farming.
- Protection: How did they defend themselves from animals or enemies?
- Daily Life: How did they cook, make clothes, or travel?

Step 3 – Design Your Village (30 minutes)

On a sheet of paper, draw your prehistoric village.

Include:

- Homes and shelters
- Fields, rivers, or food sources
- People doing daily tasks (hunting, farming, cooking)
- Tools or weapons they might use
- Animals they might see around them

Add labels or a key to show what everything is...

Step 4 – Reflection (5–10 minutes)

Write 3–4 sentences:

- What period did you choose: Stone, Bronze, or Iron Age?
- What is the most important part of your village?
- How do you think life was different from today?

Arithmetic Practice

Please make sure that you set out your work neatly and show your working out.

A – Warming Up...

1. $24 + 13 =$
2. $67 - 25 =$
3. $9 \times 3 =$
4. $56 \div 7 =$
5. $134 + 42 =$
6. $201 - 79 =$

C – Getting Trickier...

13. $48 \times 6 =$
14. $144 \div 12 =$
15. $1,257 + 968 =$
16. $2,004 - 1,356 =$
17. $725 \div 5 =$
18. $38 \times 9 =$

B – Keep going...

7. $345 + 126 =$
8. $582 - 248 =$
9. $23 \times 4 =$
10. $96 \div 8 =$
11. $3,452 + 2,129 =$
12. $4,000 - 2,345 =$

D – More of a Challenge...

19. $4,567 + 3,489 =$
20. $9,000 - 7,348 =$
21. $312 \times 7 =$
22. $2,856 \div 12 =$
23. $6,432 + 5,789 - 3,215 =$
24. $(45 \times 6) + (84 \div 7) =$