

Look Closer 

FirstNews • Issue 733 • 3 – 9 July 2020

TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

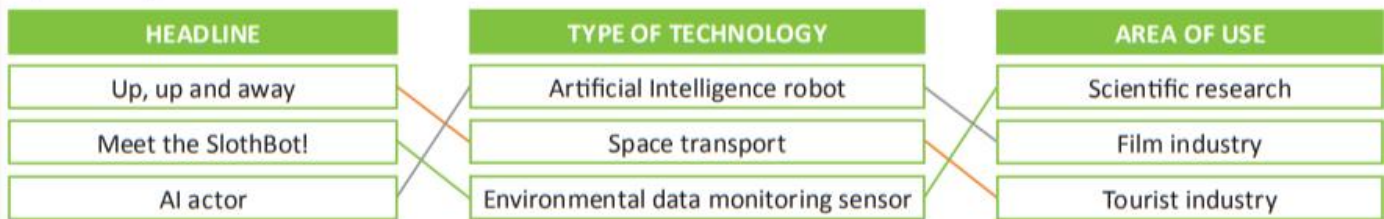
TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

1. Match the news story to the type of new technology that is being reported in the news story, and the area it is being used in.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information
(NC 2a)

Expected response



■ Look at the article 'Up, up and away'.

2. Complete the fact file about the day trip to the stars:

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected responses

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Space capsule name | Neptune |
| Destination | Outer edges of the atmosphere |
| Length of flight | Six hours |
| Cost of trip | £100,000 |
| Number of people the capsule can hold | Eight passengers plus crew |
| Company planning these tourist trips | Space Perspective |

3. Describe the two different views that tourists will have when they reach the highest point of their trip.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected responses

1. They can look back at the Earth.
2. They can also look out into dark space and the millions of stars there.

4. The image shows an artist's impression of the Neptune capsule in which the tourists will sit. Explain what is above the capsule and the job it is doing.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

– Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text-based inference)

Expected response

- A balloon that lifts the capsule up to the top of the atmosphere.

Developed response

- The balloon is the size of a football pitch and is filled with hydrogen, which is lighter than air, so enables the capsule to float up to the top of the atmosphere.

5. Trips in Neptune will be both exclusive and inclusive. Can you explain why?

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context (NC 2a)

Expected responses

- They will be exclusive as only very rich people will be able to afford the tickets, which are around £100,000.

- However, no special training or suits are needed, so older people or people with health problems won't be excluded from taking part.

■ **Look at the article 'Meet the SlothBot!'**

6a. What data will the SlothBot be used to collect?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Temperature, weather and carbon dioxide.

6b. What is the job of the outer casing of the SlothBot?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- To protect the machinery inside.

Developed response

- The casing is strong so that the bot can be left in place for months at a time to record data.

7. Why do you think scientists have named the robot 'SlothBot'?

READING SKILL – Recognising effect of language choices (NC 2f & 3)

Expected response

- Because it is an amalgamation of the words, 'sloth' and 'robot'. It is a robot that is like a sloth. Its appearance is similar with its big eyes and it also moves very slowly, just like a sloth.

Developed response

- It also sounds good as it uses the same 'o' sound in both 'sloth' and 'bot'.

■ **Look at the article 'A.I. actor'.**

8. Why do you think the film-makers decided to build a robot to play this character, rather than use CGI or an actor?

What do you think the pros and cons were?

READING SKILL – Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text-based inference)

Expected response

- To make it as realistic as possible, so the AI robot character in the film really behaves as AI would. It would have been really challenging as this is the first time this has been done.

Developed response

- Perhaps the film-makers decided to work with the Japanese scientists in order to understand how AI works. They may have had to change the storyline as Erica developed, but they now have a better understanding and might make a better film because of it.

9. In the film, Erica the AI woman escapes from the lab that created her. Predict what might happen next.

READING SKILL – Make justified predictions (NC 2d)

Personal creative responses

■ **Consider all the articles.**

10. Two of these stories involve robots. The SlothBot is used for scientific research and Erica is an AI actor. If you could create a robot, what would your robot be used for?

READING SKILL: Develop personal ideas from reading news stories (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Personal, creative responses

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Shape/appearance: | |
| Purpose: | |
| Special skill: | |