
Task: **write** a fact file



12. WRITE A FACT FILE

Research a wild urban animal of your choice and write a short fact file (80–100 words) about it. Consider the following questions:

- What's the animal's natural habitat (i.e. where does it live in the wild)? Which city or cities can it be found in?
- How has it adapted to life in the city? Where does it sleep? What does it eat? Have any of its habits changed as a result of moving to the city?
- What problems, if any, does the animal cause? What are some possible solutions?

FAMOUS DOGS

Everyone loves dogs. We love watching them in films and reading about them in books. Here are some dogs that are famous all over the world. Do you know why they are famous?

Greyfriars Bobby

Bobby was a real dog. He lived in the 1850s in Edinburgh, in Scotland. His story is very sad. Bobby's owner was John Gray and for two years they went everywhere together. In 1858 Gray died. For the next fourteen years Bobby sat on his grave. He only left for his food or when it got very cold in the winter. Today there is a statue of the little dog near John Gray's grave.



Laika

A lot of people know about this dog, but they don't know her name. In 1957 Laika went 2,000 miles into space. Russian scientists found Laika in the streets in Moscow. She didn't have a home. They trained her to travel into space. Sadly, Laika died. But we learned a lot about space travel because of this dog.



Lassie

Lassie is probably the most famous dog in film. There are more than ten films and many TV series about her. Lassie is beautiful and clever. She always helps her owners when they're in trouble. The first Lassie film was in 1943 but they are still making Lassie films today. Of course, it's not the same dog actor! A dog called Pal played Lassie in the first film. Many dogs from Pal's family are in later films.



Gromit

Gromit is one of the world's funniest dogs. Gromit can't talk but he's very clever. He's good at inventing machines. He does a lot of exciting things with his owner, Wallace. Gromit is one of the best-loved stars in the UK today.



Can you think of a famous dog in your country? Why is it famous?



What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
real grave statue space scientist travel (n/v) TV series

Australia

Population

The Australian mainland is the largest island in the world. 24 million people live in Australia, almost all of them near the coast.

Language

English is the official language in Australia, and the most widely spoken.

Landmarks

Uluru, the world's largest monolith, is in the centre of the country. It is famous for its bright red sandstone and is considered sacred by the Aboriginal people. Other famous landmarks include Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Sydney Harbour



Geography

The dry, hot centre of Australia is known as the Outback.

Tasmania, an island 240 km (150 miles) south of the mainland is mountainous and densely forested.

Australia is home to animals such as the koala, the tasmanian devil and of course the kangaroo.



Cities

Canberra is the capital city of Australia, and has a population of about 400,000. Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide are all larger than Canberra!

Sport

In 2018 Australia will host the Commonwealth Games for the fifth time. Popular sports in Australia include cricket, rugby and Australian rules football.

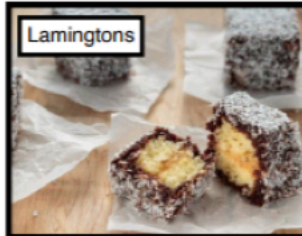
Economy

The currency is the Australian dollar. Most of the country's wealth comes from its large service sector including education, tourism and financial services. Gold and diamonds are also mined there.

Food

Damper is a traditional soda bread baked in the coals of a campfire. Australia has its own "National Cake"; lamingtons are sponge cakes with jam in middle, coated with chocolate and coconut.

Lamingtons



FACT FILE

Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso is one of the world's most important artists. He was alive from 1881 to 1973. He was Spanish, but he lived for a long time in France.

YOUNG ARTIST

Young Pablo always wanted to be an artist. When he was a child he had art lessons from his father, who was also a painter. Then, when he was sixteen, he went to the best art school in Spain.

PARIS – CENTRE OF ART

In 1900 he moved to Paris. It was a very exciting time! Paris was the centre of art in Europe. Pablo Picasso found lots of new friends and learned a new language. At first he was very poor. He burned lots of his paintings to keep his room warm!

RICH AND FAMOUS!

After a few years his life was very different. Some of his paintings were gloomy; paintings of sad women in blue and green paint. Some were happier; paintings in orange and pink of people playing music. People liked his paintings and they bought them. Soon he was rich and famous!

Look at the paintings by Picasso on these pages. Which one do you like most? Why? Work in pairs.



Three Musicians



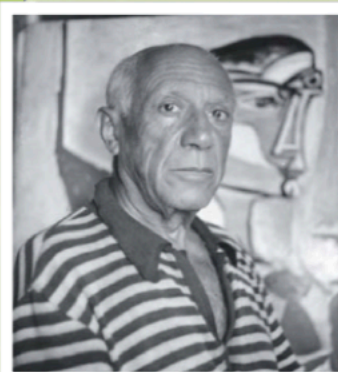
Guernica

DIFFERENT PAINTINGS

Picasso is most famous for his Cubist work. Cubist paintings looked different from other paintings at the time. The shapes in these pictures look flat. Some of Picasso's Cubist pictures have got bits of newspaper and wallpaper in them. This is 'collage'. Some are about war and have very strong ideas in them, like 'Guernica' above.

BEING ALONE

When Picasso wasn't painting, he hated being alone. He had many friends and girlfriends. In his life, he married twice and he had four children.



EXPENSIVE!

Picasso was 91 when he died. Most of his work went to the French government who opened a special gallery, the Musée Picasso, in Paris. Now Picasso's paintings are some of the most expensive paintings in the world. Someone bought one painting, 'Garçon à la pipe' for over a hundred million U.S. dollars (\$100,000,000) in 2004!

What do these words mean? You can look in a dictionary.

burn flat government gloomy marry shape

When you write a fact file, your ideas need to be presented concisely and clearly, similar to when writing in note form. Here are some points to remember:

- Only include the important points.
- Don't include opinions.
- Use different colours.
- Keep your sentences short.
- Use headings and sub-headings.
- Use bullet points.
- Use illustrations and drawings where relevant.