

Finding Fantastic Beasts

Teacher's Notes **A2**

This A2-level article will enable your pupils to find out about the new film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and understand the connection with the *Harry Potter* series.

Vocabulary and structures:

■ Verb forms:

- verb tenses: simple past and simple present
- expressions of the future
- contracted forms

■ Qualifying adjectives

■ **Narrating** a story without giving the ending away

■ **Culture:** popular Anglophone books and films

Reading + writing

Activity A helps the pupils understand the main ideas of the article with true or false statements, correcting the sentences that contain a mistake, justifying their corrections.

Activity B: In the first part, the pupils review verb forms and tenses that they must know at A2 level: the difference between the full infinitive and the bare infinitive, the two simple tenses (past and present) as well as the expressions of the future that are in the text. In a differentiated pedagogy, advanced pupils can find the verb forms in the article while intermediate pupils can be given the list of verbs. The second part enables the pupils to check their use of the contracted forms.

Activity C enables the pupils to enhance their vocabulary. In a differentiated

pedagogy, advanced pupils can find the adjectives to match in the article while intermediate pupils can be given the second list of adjectives to match.

Activity D prepares the pupils for the final task and develops their language creativity. During correction, ask if the French translations of some of the terms helped them understand (*Poudlard* for Hogwarts, *Serpentard* for Slytherin, *chemin de traverse* for Diagon Alley). The French translator used a similar process as J.K. Rowling to come up with memorable and evocative terms and this will help pupils understand the techniques better.

Interaction/written/spoken production

- Ask pupils to invent a fantastic beast, alone or in groups. This can be an opportunity to have them write a short article or present their beast to the rest of the class orally. They can also make a picture/visual aid to support their article/presentation.
- This is a good opportunity to work on animal vocabulary, comparisons and modals (*My beast has a long neck like a giraffe... has wings like a helicopter... can fly.*)

These descriptions of beasts by JK Rowling could help for inspiration.

Billywig: a sapphire-blue beetle-like insect with a long stinger and wings on its head that allow it to spin as it flies.

Demiguise: a medium-sized, silver-haired primate with big, sad eyes. It has the ability to become invisible.

Mooncalf: grey creature with big, round eyes on the top of its head.

Niffler: a small, furry rodent with a duck-bill for a mouth and a marsupial-type pouch for treasure.

Occamy: a two-legged, serpentine creature with plumed wings that give it the appearance of a winged dragon and whose eggs are shelled in the purest silver. The Occamy is “choranaptyxic,” meaning it will grow or shrink to fit the available space,

Swooping Evil: appears to be just a small, green, spiny cocoon. But when it is correctly flung, “similar to a yo-yo,” it expands into a beautiful but vicious-looking creature with the body of a reptile and the multi-coloured wings of a large butterfly. The Swooping Evil can be dangerous as it has been known to suck out brains.

Thunderbird: native to Arizona. When it flaps its multiple wings, it creates storms.

■ Going Further

■ Pupils could prepare in group work stories around the creatures they imagined and that would interact together.

Solutions

A. True or False

1. F/theatre play
2. T
3. F/Magizoologist
4. F/1926
5. F/J.K. Rowling
6. F/live separately
7. T
8. T
9. F/baker in New York
10. F/sisters
11. T
12. T
13. F/Bowtruckles
14. T

B. Verb forms and tenses

Infinitive: to find, to discover, to transport, to get

Simple past: were, was, played, met, wrote, went

Simple present: is, are, arrives, can't, has, opens, escape, can, becomes, works, live, have, resemble, protect, use

Future: 'll recognise, are going to be, will cause

Contracted forms: 1. c 2. e 3. d 4. h 5. b 6. a 7. f 8. g 9. There's 10. isn't 11. they're 12. aren't 13. can't 14. weren't 15. won't 16. It'll

C. Antonyms

1. b/c
2. b
3. f
4. a
5. d
6. e

D. Inventing words

1. magic + zoologist
2. mug
3. magic
4. hog + wart
5. legere + mens
6. slither
7. griffin + d'or
8. diagonal + alley