Reading Task 1:

Learning Objective: We are learning to comprehend what we read.

The Story of Icarus

King Minos looked out of the window and spotted the boat that his messenger had just mentioned. He had been told about a man who was on board. The man was a genius who could invent anything you asked for.

When Daedalus arrived on the island of Crete, he was taken to the palace and asked to become the King's master craftsman. "I need you to invent something for me," said the King. "I need a prison that can trap a Minotaur."

Immediately, Daedalus started work. Helped by his son, Icarus, they built a giant maze. When it was finished, the Minotaur was captured and locked away inside. The people of Crete celebrated and thought that Daedalus and Icarus were heroes.

Then, a man called Theseus asked Daedalus for help. He explained that he wanted to slay the Minotaur but that he would need Daedalus to guide him through the maze. Thinking that slaying the Minotaur would make him famous, Daedalus agreed to help. The two completed their mission and escaped the maze. Immediately, Theseus fled back to Athens. Daedalus was surprised by the hero leaving and began to worry that he had made a terrible mistake.
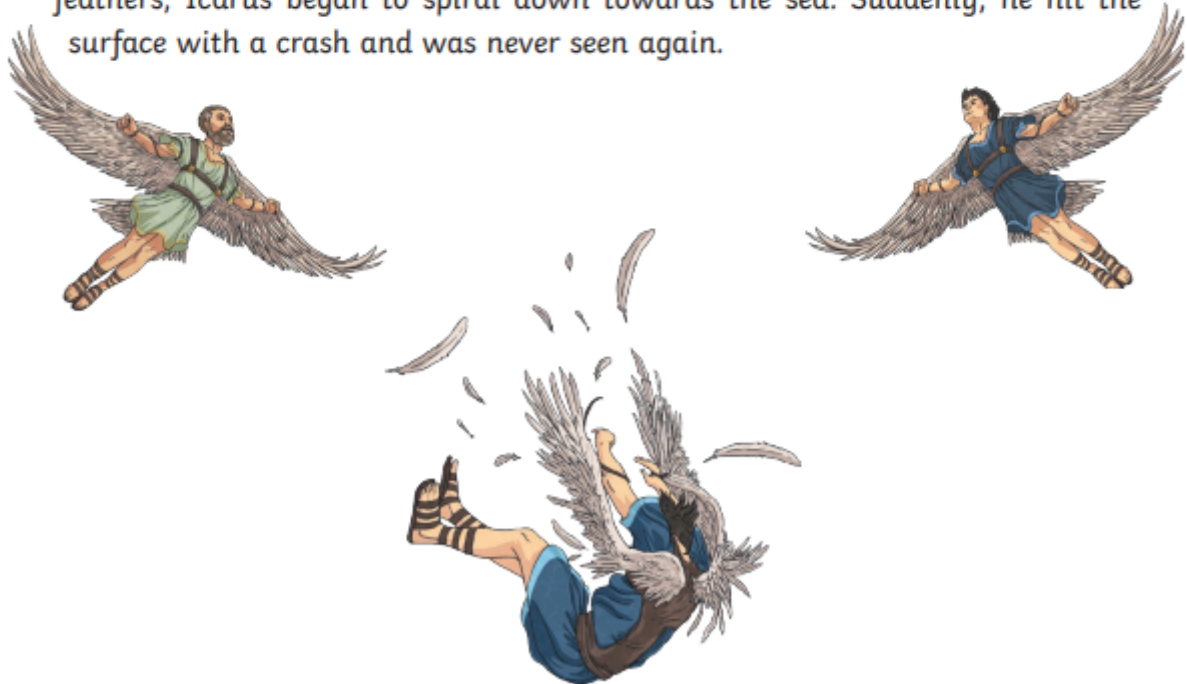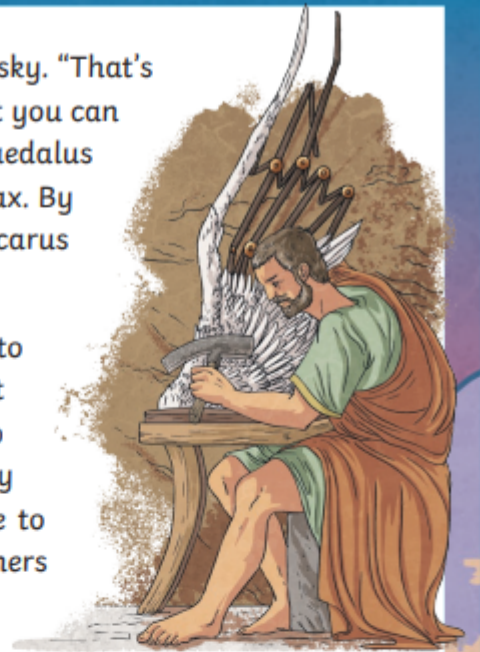
Meanwhile, King Minos was furious that Daedalus had broken into the maze so he locked Daedalus and Icarus inside. Daedalus was now trapped inside the maze that he had created. As he hadn't planned his route, it was impossible to find the entrance again.

One day, Daedalus saw some birds flying high in the sky. "That's it!" he shouted to Icarus, "Bring me every feather that you can find." When Icarus had collected enough feathers, Daedalus carefully stuck them to large wooden frames using wax. By the next day, Daedalus had made both himself and Icarus a huge pair of wings.

"Before we escape," warned Daedalus, "I need you to listen carefully. There are two rules that you must follow. The first is that you must not fly too close to the sea. If the feathers get wet, they will be too heavy to fly. The second is that you must not fly too close to the sun. If you do, the wax which holds the feathers together will melt. Do you understand?"

Icarus nodded and the two began to beat their wings. Higher and higher they rose. Daedalus looked at his son, who was flying like an eagle, and felt proud. They had escaped.

Icarus looked around and realised that he was closer to the gods than any human had ever been. Amazed by this thought, he forgot his father's warning and began to fly higher. He was now too close to the sun. The wax began to melt. With no feathers, Icarus began to spiral down towards the sea. Suddenly, he hit the surface with a crash and was never seen again.

1. What does King Minos ask Daedalus to invent? Tick one.

   ○ a boat
   ○ a toy
   ○ a prison
   ○ a throne

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

   ☐ Daedalus builds a giant maze.
   ☐ Daedalus and Icarus escape using wings.
   ☐ Daedalus arrives in Crete.
   ☐ Theseus asks Daedalus to help him to slay the Minotaur.

3. Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

Daedalus has a son called...		Minotaur.
Daedalus was asked to become the King's...		master craftsman.
Icarus flew too close to the...		Icarus.
The giant maze trapped the...		sun.

4. When Icarus is flying, what did Daedalus think that he looked like? Tick one.
   ○ an eagle
   ○ a god
   ○ a blackbird
   ○ a hero

5. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word which means the same as **really clever.**

   _____

6. Why did the feathers fall from Icarus's wings?

   _____

7. Would you like to try a pair of Daedalus's wings? Explain your answer.

   _____

   _____

Reading Task 2:

Learning Objective: We are learning to comprehend what we read.
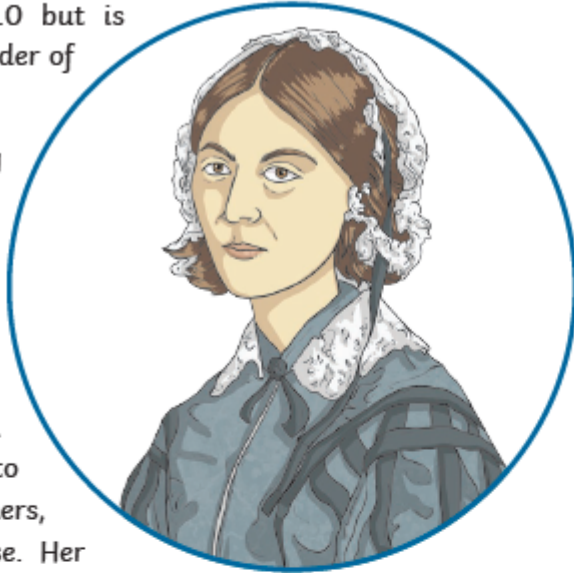
Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale died in 1910 but is still remembered for being the founder of modern-day nursing.

Florence was born on 12th May 1820 in Florence, Italy. She was born into a rich, upper-class British family. The family moved to England in 1821.

Florence the Nurse

She had a strong faith and believed that God had instructed her to dedicate her life to looking after others, so she decided to become a nurse. Her mother was disappointed with her decision as she thought that Florence should devote all of her time to becoming a mother and wife.

At the age of 33, Florence became superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in London, however, she only worked there for a short period of time. The Crimean War broke out in 1853; Britain, Turkey and France fought against Russia. Florence was keen to go and help when reports reached Britain about the horrendous conditions for the wounded soldiers. Along with a staff of volunteer nurses and nuns, she travelled to Scutari to do her bit.

Florence and her team found that the wounded soldiers were not receiving decent food. She also found that medicines and beds were in short supply, hygiene was poor and infections were common, in fact, more soldiers died from infections than their battle wounds. As a result of this, Florence asked the British government for help. Sewers were flushed out and the hospital was cleaned. Florence also ensured that the everyone washed their hands regularly. She bought fresh food and organised a chef to cook meals. These changes caused death rates to drop.

Did You Know...?
Florence was given the famous nickname, 'The Lady with the Lamp' by the soldiers who she cared for day and night. When it was dark, she carried a lantern with her.

Florence had a meeting with Queen Victoria. She explained all the improvements required in the Army hospitals. The Army then began training doctors and the conditions in hospitals improved.

Later in Life

At the age of 40, Florence established the Nightingale Training School to train nurses. She spent the rest of her life trying to improve health standards and wrote over 200 books and leaflets on hospital planning. Some of these ideas helped influence practices which are still in existence today.

In 1883, Florence received the Royal Red Cross by Queen Victoria. She died in London on 13th August, 1910.

1. Why do you think she was given the name Florence?

_____

_____

2. Why did she decide to become a nurse?

_____

_____

_____

3. Why did she only work at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen for a short period of time?

_____

_____

_____

4. Explain why Florence felt the need to go and look after the wounded soldiers.

_____

_____

_____

5. List **two** things that were wrong with the hospital.

    1. _____

    2. _____

6. When did the Crimean War begin?

    ○ Turkey
    ○ France
    ○ Italy
    ○ Russia

7. Florence Nightingale What was the name of Florence's school for nurses?

    ○ Nightingale Nurses
    ○ Nightingale Training School
    ○ Florence's Nursing School
    ○ Florence's School for Nurses

Reading Task 3:

Learning Objective: We are learning to comprehend what we read.

Stephen Hawking

Stephen Hawking was an English scientist, teacher and author. He used a wheelchair to move around and a computer with a voice synthesiser to talk, after being diagnosed with a **degenerative** disease called ALS when he was at university. He is best known for finding out how the universe was formed and predicting what might happen to it in the future.

Early Life

Stephen William Hawking was born on 8th January 1942 in Oxford, England. He was born exactly 300 years after the death of Galileo – a fact that Stephen was very proud of. He was the eldest child of Frank Hawking, a medical **researcher**, and Isobel Walker, a Scottish **secretary**. His parents loved learning and both went to the University of Oxford.

Stephen was born in the middle of the Second World War. During this time, London was a very dangerous place. To make sure that Stephen would be safe when he was born, his mother moved away from London and went to Oxford. While they lived in Oxford, Hawking's two sisters (Philippa and Mary) were born and his brother (Edward) was adopted.
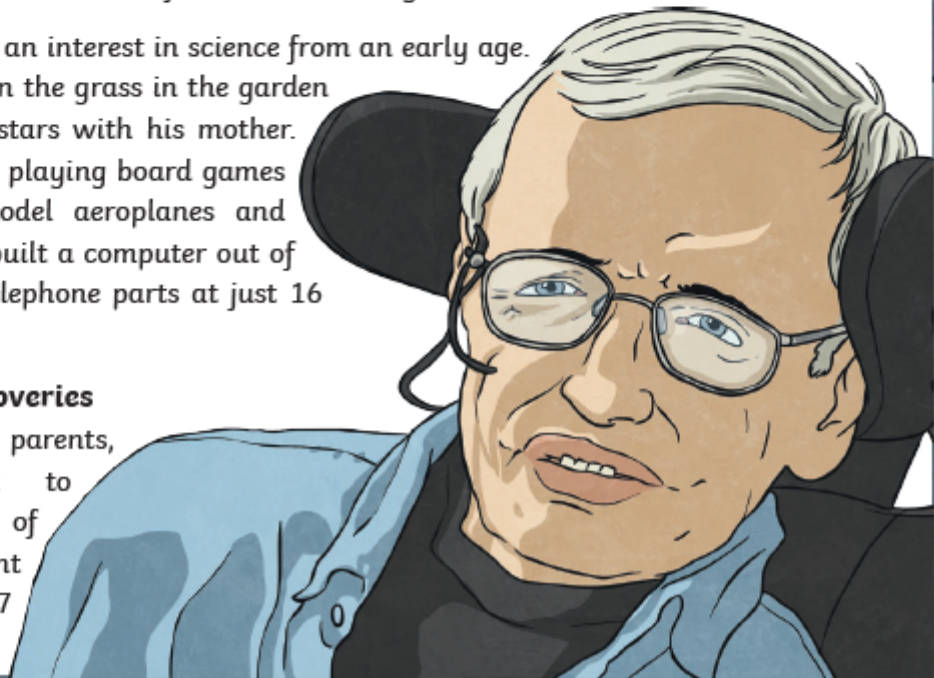
Childhood

In 1950, the Hawking family moved to St Albans. People who knew the family thought that they were odd; instead of talking or watching television, the family would sit in silence and each read a book while they ate meals. They are said to have kept a beehive in their basement and made fireworks in their greenhouse!

Stephen showed an interest in science from an early age. He loved to lie on the grass in the garden and watch the stars with his mother. Stephen enjoyed playing board games and making model aeroplanes and boats. Stephen built a computer out of old clock and telephone parts at just 16 years old.

Scientific Discoveries

Just like his parents, Stephen went to the University of Oxford. He went there at just 17

years old because he had passed his exams a year early. He said that the work was 'ridiculously easy'.

Stephen then went to study at the University of Cambridge, where he became very interested in black holes. At the time, people thought that black holes were places in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out. However, Stephen noticed that one thing was able to get out of a black hole: a certain type of **radiation**. This type of radiation was named after him and it is now known as Hawking radiation. Using what he had learned, Stephen helped to prove the idea that the universe began with the Big Bang. Stephen's work and his great personality made millions of people become interested in science.
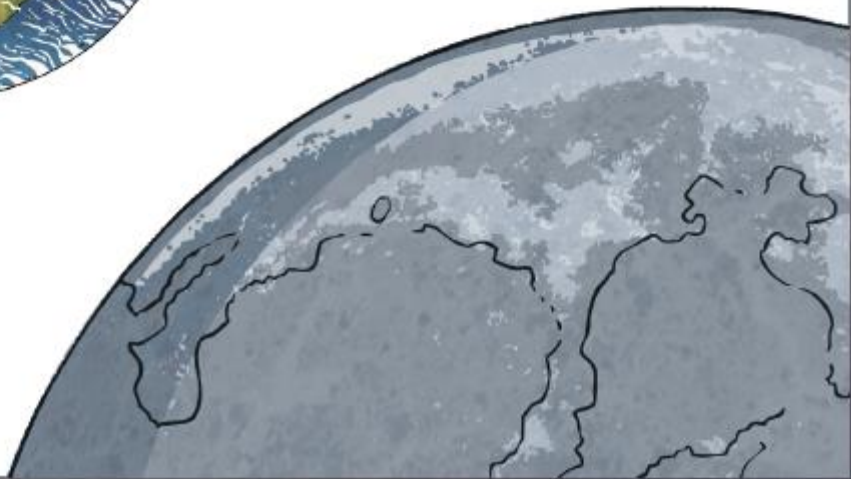
Glossary

degenerative – Getting worse over time.

radiation – Waves of energy that come out of or off something.

researcher – A person who tries to find out more about something.

secretary – A person who writes letters, makes appointments and keeps records.

1. What was the name of Stephen's mother? Tick **one**.

   ○ Frank
   ○ Isobel
   ○ Philippa
   ○ Mary

2. In which town was Stephen born? Tick **one**.

   ○ St Albans
   ○ London
   ○ Oxford
   ○ Cambridge

3. Which two of these did Stephen enjoy doing as a child? Tick **two**.

   ○ watching the stars
   ○ racing his bike
   ○ playing board games
   ○ baking with his mother

4. Fill in the missing words:

   People thought that _____ were places in space where _____ pulls so much that even _____ cannot get out.

5. What had happened exactly 300 years before Stephen was born?

   _____

6. What did Stephen discover could come out of a black hole?

   _____

7. Why were Stephen's scientific discoveries important?

   _____

   _____

8. Explain why Stephen's mother moved from London to Oxford.

   _____

   _____