

# Who is Paddington Bear?

*Paddington Bear is a very popular, and famous, storybook bear. This extract gives some information about Paddington and his life.*

Paddington Bear was born in deepest, darkest Peru. He was orphaned in an earthquake when he was very young and was brought up by his Aunt Lucy, who taught him to speak English. When Aunt Lucy decided to go and live in a Home for Retired Bears, she sent Paddington to England.

Paddington was discovered by the Brown family in a railway station in London. He was wearing an old hat and carrying a battered suitcase. Around his neck was a label that said “Please look after this bear. Thank you.” The Browns took him home and named him Paddington, after the station where they had found him.

The weather in England is quite cold and wet compared to Peru, so Mrs Brown gave Paddington a blue duffle coat and a pair of Wellington boots. He usually wears this outfit, along with his hat. Paddington is rarely seen without his suitcase, which has his initials – PB – on the lid. Inside the case is a secret compartment where Paddington stores all of his important papers.

Paddington’s favourite food is marmalade, particularly marmalade sandwiches. He always carries a jar of marmalade in his suitcase and usually tucks a sandwich under his hat – in case of emergencies.

In 2006, Paddington Bear was printed on a special edition stamp in Great Britain to celebrate favourite children’s book animals.



Paddington is a friendly, polite bear. He is very trusting and tries to be helpful but sometimes he misunderstands situations and this can lead him into trouble. If he thinks people are being rude or unhelpful, he gives them one of his “hard stares”, which generally makes them feel rather uncomfortable.

More than 150 books have been written about Paddington Bear, and he has starred in many TV programmes as well as a full-length film. A life-sized bronze statue of Paddington can be found on Platform 1 at Paddington station, close to where he first met the Browns.



Paddington appeared in a feature length film for the first time in 2014.



The bronze statue of Paddington on platform 1 at Paddington station.

## WHO IS PADDINGTON BEAR?

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** Where was Paddington Bear born?

.....

**2** Who brought up Paddington?

.....

**3** “He was *orphaned* in an earthquake when he was very young”.  
What does the word *orphaned* mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

To have been hurt.

To have lost his house.

To have lost his parents.

**4** Who followed the instructions on the label around Paddington’s neck?

.....

**5** What does Paddington keep inside his suitcase?

.....

**6** How does Paddington like to eat his favourite food?

.....

**7** What do you think the weather is like in Peru?

.....

**8** If Paddington thinks someone is being rude, he gives them a “hard stare”. Which phrase means *to give a hard stare*? Tick **one**.

To turn your back on someone.

To try to persuade someone.

To look at someone seriously.

**9** Why do you think Paddington’s statue is on Platform 1 at the station?

.....

**10** Match each heading to the paragraph. The first one has been done for you.

Paragraph 1	Paddington’s favourite food
Paragraph 2	What Paddington is like
Paragraph 3	Paddington’s arrival in London
Paragraph 4	What Paddington owns
Paragraph 5	Fascinating facts about Paddington
Paragraph 6	Paddington’s early life