

Wembley Stadium: The Home of English Football

Non-fiction

Content domain focus:

2b retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

2c summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

2h make comparisons within the text

Text summary

This non-fiction text, organised into paragraphs, gives a succinct summary of the history of Wembley Stadium, dating back to the construction of the original stadium in 1923. It offers comparisons of the old and the new stadia – from the building costs to the capacity. The text contains interesting and unusual facts about both stadia.

Unit summary

The majority of questions in this unit focus on straightforward information retrieval. Children are also asked to organise statements that summarise each paragraph in the text. Finally, they are asked to retrieve information and complete a table that compares the original and the new Wembley Stadium.



Teaching prompts

- Ask the children to tell you about their favourite sports – both to play and to watch. Establish whether any of them have been to a large sporting venue to watch a sport. Ask them to give the rest of the class an impression of the experience.
- If necessary, show the children images of large sporting venues, including Wembley. Discuss what they notice about them, e.g. their appearance, size, facilities.
- Explain that they are going to read a non-fiction text. Explore their expectations, e.g. how do they think it might be organised?
- Remind the children of strategies they can use to skim the text when they first read it, in order to get an overview of what it is about, e.g. reading headings, reading the first and last sentences of paragraphs.
- Ask the children to remind you of the techniques they can use to find information efficiently and effectively. If necessary, revisit and practise scanning techniques, e.g. finding cues in the questions, visualising key words and phrases.

Revisiting the text

Ask the children to:

- produce fact cards about Wembley Stadium
- create true/false statements about the stadium, based on information given in the text, and challenge other children to respond
- research other significant sporting arenas or buildings and present the facts in an appropriate format
- identify words and phrases that indicate the author is unsure of the facts e.g. *"it is thought that", "estimated"*
- respond to questions that ask them to make inferences from the text, e.g. *"Why do you think no athletics events have taken place so far at Wembley?"*



Answers

Links to content domain requirements are in brackets after the answer.

1. 300 days [2b]
2. Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United [2b]
3. Because a white horse helped to clear supporters off the pitch so that the game could start. [2b]
4. England [2b]
5. 2003 [2b]
6. 133 m [2b]
7. North London [2b]
8. It was an attempt to build an English copy of the Eiffel Tower. [2b]
9. Events that took place in the original Wembley Stadium 3
 What the text is about 1
 The building and opening of the new Wembley Stadium 4
 What else takes place in the new Wembley Stadium 5
 The building and opening of the original Wembley Stadium 2 [2c]
- 10.

	Original stadium	New stadium
Cost of building	£750,000	£757 million
Year it opened	1923	2007
Distinctive features	White twin towers	Wembley Arch Sliding roof
Capacity of the stadium	127,000	90,000

[2h]



Assessment

The children are secure in their ability to locate information if they can explain the strategies that they used to search for the answers. For example, questions that start with "How?" or "When?" generally involve looking for numbers. Questions that start "Which?" or "Where?" usually involve looking for names or places, so the children could scan for capital letters.

The children can summarise effectively if they can develop or recognise phrases that could be used as headings for paragraphs. Discuss how they tackled the task in question 9.

The children can make comparisons in texts if they are able to retrieve and categorise similar information about two or more subjects. Check that they have used key words in the table in question 10 that also appear in the text, e.g. "distinctive", "feature" and "capacity" to help them complete the task.

Next steps

Using non-fiction passages from books, as well as newspapers, leaflets, etc., challenge the children to find specific pieces of information within a given time period.

Show photographs from newspapers and ask them to discuss what is happening in the photo, what might have happened before and what they think might happen afterwards.

Using advertising leaflets and flyers for places of interest, ask the children to produce tables that compare the information given, e.g. cost of entry, what there is to do and see, who it might appeal to.

Involve the children in summarising paragraphs in non-fiction texts and using their summaries as sub-headings in the text. These can then be turned into more generic sub-headings and used as a writing frame to support the children's own planning and writing.