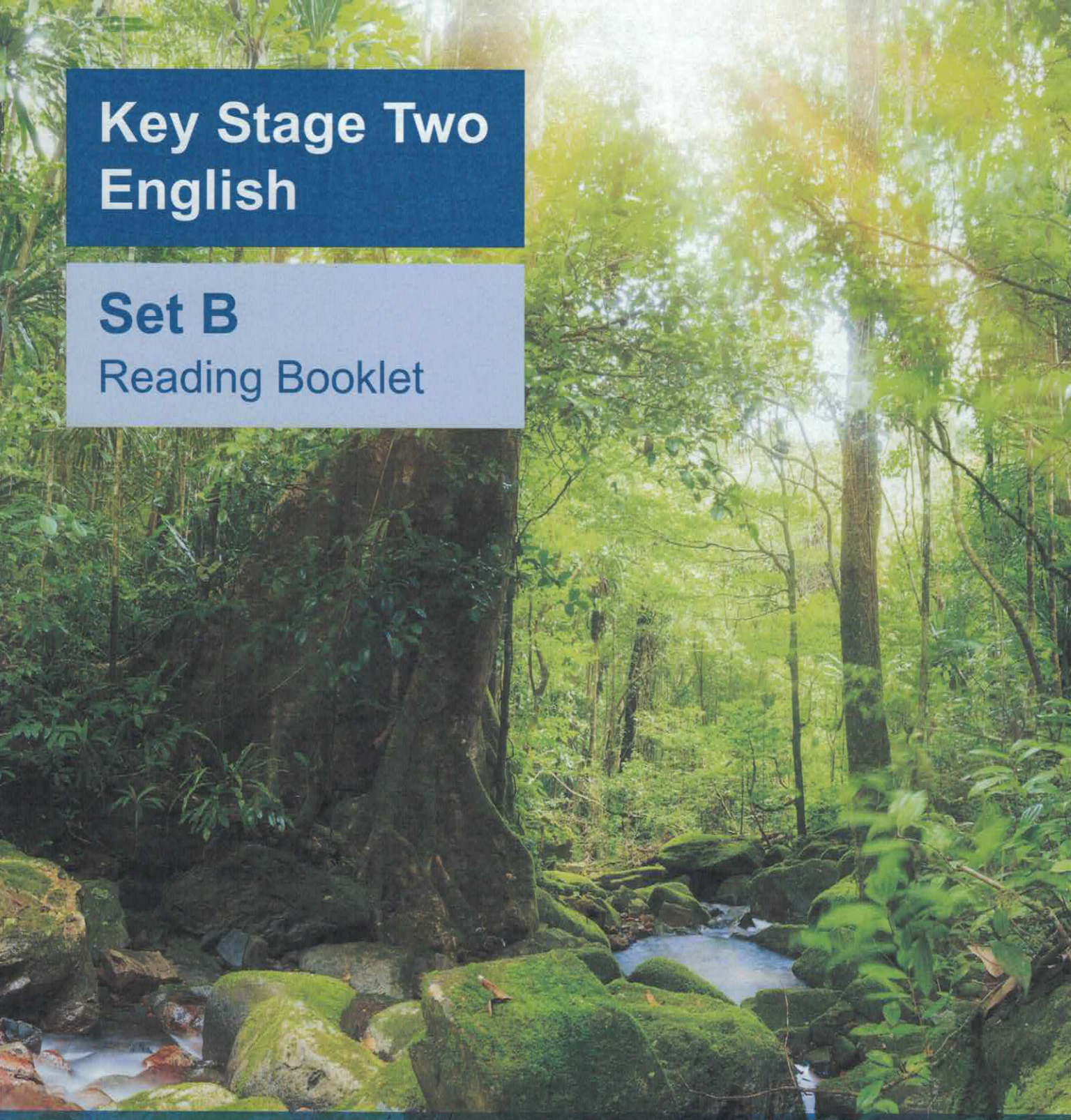
Key Stage Two English

Set B

Reading Booklet



This booklet contains:

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EHEP26

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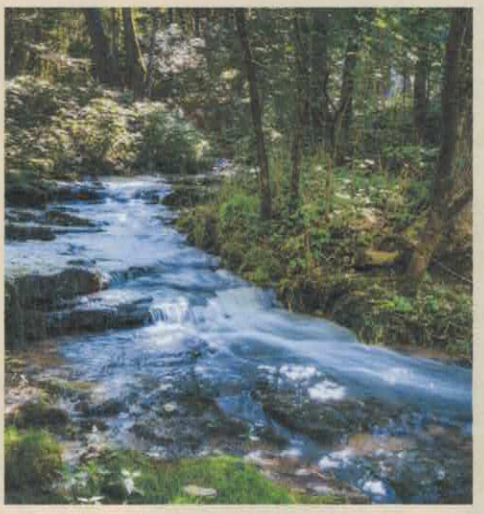
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Dorothy and her dog, Toto, have been transported to a magical land called Oz. They are on a journey to find the Wizard of Oz, in the hope that he can send them home. They encounter a Scarecrow on their way who has joined them.



When Dorothy awoke the sun was shining through the trees and Toto had long been out chasing birds around him and squirrels. She sat up and looked around her. There was the Scarecrow, still standing patiently in his corner, waiting for her.

"We must go and search for water," she said to him.

"Why do you want water?" he asked.

"To wash my face clean after the dust of the road, and to drink, so the dry bread will not stick in my throat."

"It must be inconvenient to be made of flesh," said the Scarecrow thoughtfully, "for you must sleep, and eat and drink. However, you have brains, and it is worth a lot of bother to be able to think properly."

They left the cottage and walked through the trees until they found a little spring of clear water, where Dorothy drank and bathed and ate her breakfast. When she had finished her meal, and was about to go back to the road of yellow brick, she was startled to hear a deep groan near by.

"What was that?" she asked timidly.

"I cannot imagine," replied the Scarecrow; "but we can go and see."

Just then another groan reached their ears, and the sound seemed to come from behind them. They turned and walked through the forest a few steps, when Dorothy discovered something shining in a ray of sunshine that fell between the trees. She ran to the place and then stopped short, with a little cry of surprise.

One of the big trees had been partly chopped through, and standing beside it, with an uplifted axe in his hands, was a man made entirely of tin. His head and arms and legs were jointed upon his body, but he stood perfectly motionless, as if he could not stir at all.

Dorothy looked at him in amazement, and so did the Scarecrow, while Toto barked sharply and made a snap at the tin legs, which hurt his teeth.

"Did you groan?" asked Dorothy.

"Yes," answered the tin man, "I did. I've been groaning for more than a year, and no one has ever heard me before or come to help me."

"What can I do for you?" she inquired softly, for she was moved by the sad voice in which the man spoke.

"Get an oil-can and oil my joints," he answered. "They are rusted so badly that I cannot move them at all; if I am well oiled I shall soon be all right again. You will find an oil-can on a shelf in my cottage."

Dorothy at once ran back to the cottage and found the oil-can, and then she returned and asked anxiously, "Where are your joints?"

"Oil my neck, first," replied the Tin Woodman. So she oiled it, and as it was quite badly rusted the Scarecrow took hold of the tin head and moved it gently from side to side until it worked freely, and then the man could turn it himself.

"Now oil the joints in my arms," he said. And Dorothy oiled them and the Scarecrow bent them carefully until they were quite free from rust and as good as new.

The Tin Woodman gave a sigh of satisfaction and lowered his axe, which he leaned against the tree.

"This is a great comfort," he said. "I have been holding that axe in the air ever since I rusted, and I'm glad to be able to put it down at last. Now, if you will oil the joints of my legs, I shall be all right once more."

So they oiled his legs until he could move them freely; and he thanked them again and again for his release, for he seemed a very polite creature, and very grateful.

"I might have stood there always if you had not come along," he said; "so you have certainly saved my life. How did you happen to be here?"

"We are on our way to the Emerald City to see the Great Oz," she answered, "and we stopped at your cottage to pass the night."

"Why do you wish to see Oz?" he asked.

"I want him to send me back to Kansas, and the Scarecrow wants him to put a few brains into his head," she replied.

The Tin Woodman appeared to think deeply for a moment. Then he said:

"Do you suppose Oz could give me a heart?"

"Why, I guess so," Dorothy answered. "It would be as easy as to give the Scarecrow brains."

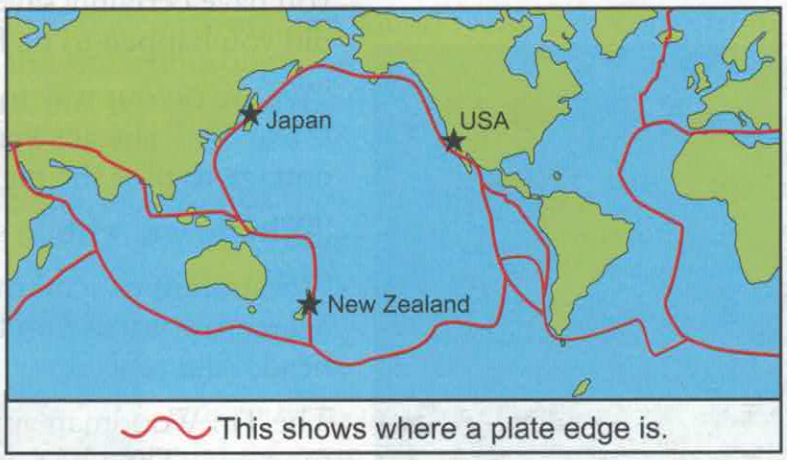
An edited extract from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

Earthquakes

Each year across the world, millions of earthquakes cause the Earth to shake and shudder beneath us. Their severity is measured on the Richter scale, with most of them so low on the scale that we don't even notice they are happening. But every so often, a powerful earthquake strikes, leaving devastating damage and disruption in its wake.

Earthquakes are caused by movements of the Earth's surface. The outer layer of the Earth is composed of vast floating plates that interlink like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. These plates are constantly moving at an average of a few centimetres each year. Sometimes when two neighbouring plates manoeuvre past each other, they get stuck. Pressure builds up and when the plates finally jerk free, the ground shakes: this bone-shaking phenomenon is an earthquake.

Earthquakes are most common along the edges of these shifting plates. The west coast of the USA is located at a plate edge, making it prone to earthquakes. One such earthquake, the Hector Mine Earthquake, occurred in 1999 in the Mojave Desert in southern California. Very few people live there, so fortunately it caused almost no damage.



Japan, like the USA, is also situated at a plate boundary and, in 2011, suffered its most powerful earthquake since records began. It unleashed a tsunami (a huge ocean wave) that wreaked havoc in many coastal towns and villages. In the same year, the bustling city of Christchurch in New Zealand was hit by two powerful earthquakes just months apart. In an unfortunate turn of events, the second struck before there had been time to repair all the damage caused by the first earthquake.

Across the world, earthquake zones are not left empty and unoccupied; quite the opposite in fact. Many people live in places where earthquakes are a real threat. The work of specialised engineers and scientists is indispensable in these highly populated areas where earthquakes are common. Engineers have developed earthquake-resistant buildings like the US Bank Tower, which are designed to waver and wobble during an earthquake, but not actually collapse. Scientists also monitor common signs that an earthquake might be on its way, for example, changes in water levels and cracks in the ground. However these indicators don't appear before every earthquake, so scientists can't precisely predict the time or location of an earthquake.

The US Bank Tower

Fire from broken gas pipes

Homes in earthquake zones are often adapted to reduce earthquake damage. Heavy pieces of furniture can be secured with robust, flexible straps so they can move without falling and sticky putty can keep smaller objects from tumbling. Taller pieces of furniture like wardrobes can be fixed to the wall using metal brackets. Some recently built homes have flexible pipes which are less likely to break during an earthquake. This reduces the risk of fire following an earthquake, when gas from broken pipes can come into contact with a flame, with explosive results.

Many schools and businesses in earthquake zones hold regular earthquake drills to practise what they should do if there is a real emergency. A three-step approach is common: drop, cover and hold on. During an earthquake, you should drop to the floor and shield your head with your arms. Then, if possible, you should take cover under a table and hold on until the danger has passed. In Japan, 1st September is National Disaster Prevention Day, when all Japanese citizens practise these drills.

Another way that people prepare for earthquakes is to assemble an earthquake survival kit. Damage from earthquakes often prevents rescue services from reaching everyone affected immediately, so these survival kits should allow an individual to survive for a minimum of three days without outside help. They usually contain such vital supplies as bottled water, tinned foods and a tin opener. First aid kits are included to allow people to treat minor injuries at home because hospitals are normally stretched to their limits after an earthquake.

Earthquake survival kit

Electricity supplies can also be cut off by an earthquake, so a torch and spare batteries are essential; at best, the electricity supply is likely to be unpredictable. Dust masks and a whistle to signal for help are also useful — shouting when trapped can cause people to inhale large amounts of dust which is thrown up and lingers in the aftermath.


Damage after an earthquake

Although running is tempting, after a major earthquake, people should initially remain where they are as there may be aftershocks. These are smaller earthquakes which follow in the footsteps of the main earthquake, as the Earth's plates adjust to the movement.

When any aftershocks subside, uninjured people should tend to the wounded and inspect houses for signs of damage; if the damage is bad, people may need to be evacuated. At this point in time, the lengthy clean-up process can begin.

With so many earthquakes occurring with little or no warning, it is difficult for scientists to predict them accurately. This means that it is essential for people living within earthquake zones to be properly prepared.

Talking Through Time

Nowadays, we take for granted the ability to communicate instantly and easily with people across the globe. However, it hasn't always been so easy. Over the centuries, different methods of transmitting messages over long distances have been used.

The Royal Mail

The written word is one of man's oldest methods of long-distance communication. Throughout history, various ways of transporting letters have been attempted. The British postal service (later known as the Royal Mail) originated in 1512 with the appointment of Brian Tuke as 'Master of the Posts' — postmaster to the King himself. It was not until 1635 that this facility became available to the public at large. At that time, the price of postage was based on a combination of factors: how long the letter was and how far it had travelled. This expense was settled by the letter's recipient.

A Penny Black stamp

In the late 1700s, horse-drawn mail coaches replaced individual riders as the primary method of distributing mail. They were manned by a single, heavily armed mail guard. Another dramatic change occurred in 1837; now the letter's sender would be the one to foot the bill. Advance payment resulted in the introduction of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840.

In the early 1900s, people started to send mail by plane, which made global correspondence much easier and quicker. The Royal Mail set up its first public overseas airmail service in 1919, flying between London and Paris. Since then, the British postal system has been modernised further — including the introduction of postcodes and computerised sorting machines. Mail is now transported by train, plane and van across the entire globe.

Telegraphs & Telephones

The harnessing of a new technology, electricity, was a major turning point for communication in the mid-1800s. Different ways of sending messages through wires were invented, including electric telegraphs. Pulses of electricity were transmitted from one device to another, which caused the second device to mark a piece of paper. The resulting messages — telegrams — were incredibly popular as they allowed rapid global contact between people, including journalists, soldiers and families sharing important news.

An electric telegraph

A rotary telephone

Alexander Graham Bell was exploring techniques to improve telegraphs when he began to investigate how to transmit speech electronically through wires. Simultaneously, others around the world were working on similar projects, and the official inventor of the telephone remains a matter of debate. The first telephone line in America was completed in 1877 and within three years the number of telephones in the USA was approaching 48,000. Early telephones were sold in pairs, connected by a long wire. In 1889, an automatic switchboard was invented, so users could choose who they wanted to call and the wires would be connected accordingly.

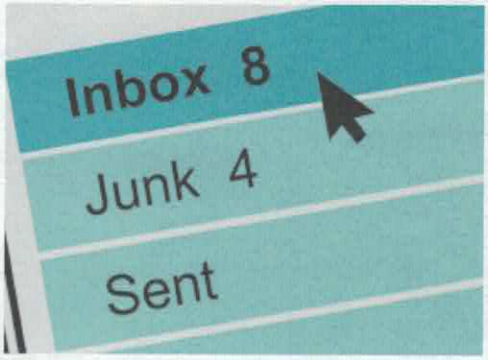
The next major advance for telephone technology was the invention of the mobile phone. Mobile devices that could make phone calls were first available to the public in 1984, costing over £2500 in today's money.

Email

An early PC

Before the advent of the personal computer (PC) in the 1970s, computers were unwieldy, expensive contraptions used exclusively by corporations and universities. As PCs became more commonplace in the following decades, people sought ways to use them to communicate with each other. It is generally accepted that electronic mail, or email, was invented by Ray Tomlinson in 1972.

His innovation was a program which allowed communication between two computers connected to the same network. Since this ground-breaking discovery, computers have changed rapidly, almost beyond recognition, and internet use has exploded. Now emails containing not only text but all kinds of media can be sent between any number of computers connected to the internet — the world's largest network.



Nowadays, many people use their mobile phones to send and receive emails in the blink of an eye. This is thanks to a new generation of mobile phones: smartphones. These popular, hugely powerful devices can connect to the internet, play videos and much more.

Throughout time, humans have endeavoured to find ways to quickly communicate with each other. With the advances of modern technology, our search seems to finally be over.