

# a **tot**® of English

# 5

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**Guests**

**06**

**The ocean  
tells its story**

**07**

**Alcatraz**

**12**

# People **Simone Biles**

Introducing a  
photograph

# Behind the Gare St. Lazare



**Photographer:** Henri Cartier-Bresson

**Date:** 1932

**Place:** Paris

**Subject:** a man jumping from a ladder\* into water behind the Saint Lazare railway station.

**Interesting fact:** the man has jumped and will end up in the water, while we already imagine the splashes\* of water and the circles he will make with his feet. The photographer shows the moment before he hits the ground; in fact, this photograph symbolises capturing "the perfect moment" - which Cartier-Bresson was famous for.

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## Greetings



Samantha

Here we are at the last issue before the summer holidays. I hope you've all enjoyed A TOT of English this year! In this edition the ocean tells its story for 'World Oceans Day', and we meet Simone Biles - the American who has become a world champion in artistic gymnastics. Together, we'll explore exciting San Francisco and learn all about Alcatraz prison!

Have a great summer, and I'll see you next year!

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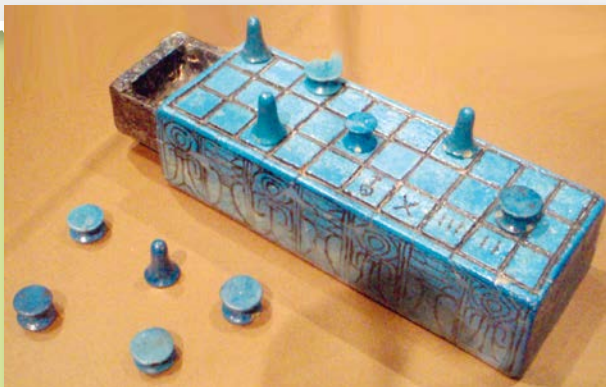
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# Mummified ... lion



Two lion mummies were discovered in Saqqara, Egypt, by a group of archaeologists\* who were very surprised because mummified lion remains had never been seen before. The two cubs were found in a necropolis\*, next to numerous mummies of both domestic and big cats\* (cheetahs, leopards and panthers). They date back to 2600 years ago, and their tombs have been decorated according to the Egyptian custom for humans, with painted statuettes made from stone, wood and bronze, and gold jewelry. In this area of Egypt, they worshipped the goddess Bastet, who had the form of a cat and was the mother of the lion god, Mysis.

In the tomb there is also a large beetle-shaped amulet\*. It is the largest ever discovered, a huge ... lucky charm!



## Guess

The Egyptians loved board games\*, such as senet, similar to checkers\*, and the game of the dog or jackal, which used ivory-tipped sticks.

There is another Egyptian game that's similar to Snakes and Ladders and takes its name from the spiral\* arrangement of the squares, on which you move lion or lioness pawns\*. What's its name?

- a  The Boa Game
- b  The Snake Game
- c  The Snail Game



## Hi, I'm Grammy. This month we'll learn about:

- review of the grammatical structures introduced during the year
- the relative pronoun 'that'
- use of the conditional form
- review of the superlative form
- Past Simple (regular and irregular verbs)

## Glossary

- amulet:** object that has magical powers
- archaeologists:** scholars of ancient cultures and civilizations
- big cats:** large cats like cheetahs that live in the wild
- board games:** games played on a board with others to pass the time
- checkers:** disks or pieces that each player moves in board games
- ladder:** a structure that enables you to climb high
- necropolis:** set of tombs close to each other
- spiral:** winds around itself to a central point
- splash:** sound made by falling in liquid

The answer is on page 14.





# San Francisco

San Francisco is one of the most beautiful, diverse cities in the world. It can get a bit foggy, and it has a lot of hills, but this city caters to everyone. It also has some of the best preserved Victorian architecture in the world. Colloquially\* known as SF, San Fran, Frisco, or The City, it's the cultural, commercial, and financial center of Northern California.



One of the best things about visiting San Francisco is that, although the city is "big" in terms of attractions and amenities, it is geographically small – only 126 square kilometres. This makes it very easy to see and do a great many things in a short period of time. You could also spend weeks in San Francisco and still not experience everything the city has to offer – but here are four highlights not to miss!

## A. Complete the titles for each highlight with the correct verb.

Ride • Walk over • Meet • Visit

1. ....

### the Golden Gate Bridge

This is the most famous bridge in the world. It manages to impress even the most experienced travelers with its stunning 12.7 kilometre

span. Approximately 120,000 cars drive across it every day. A pedestrian walkway also allows crossing on foot, and bikes are allowed on the western side. The Golden Gate Bridge is said to be one of the most photographed things on Earth!

2. ....

### a Cable Car

Cable cars have been transporting





people around San Francisco since the late 19th century. The cars run on tracks and are moved by an underground cable along three routes. You can hear their familiar bells ringing from blocks away. Buy a ticket at the cable car turnarounds at the ends of each route. Each one-way ride gives you

spectacular views of the city's hills, as well as an exhilarating\* ride.

3. ....  
**the Rock**

Alcatraz, the infamous former prison, is located on an island of the same name in the middle of

San Francisco Bay. Some of the United States' most notorious criminals were incarcerated there. Though several tried, no inmate\* ever made a successful escape from "The Rock." The prison was closed in the 1960s and stories about Alcatraz are legendary. To reach the island, take an Alcatraz Cruises ferry from Pier 33.

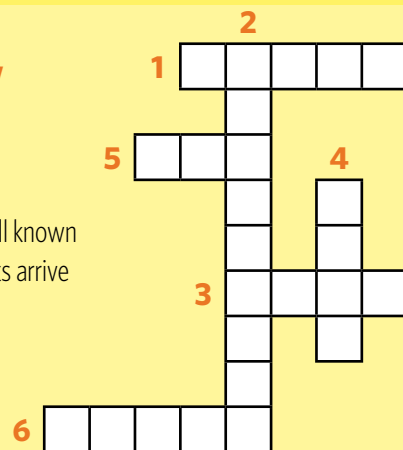
4. ....  
**the Sea Lions**

Fisherman's Wharf is also home to PIER 39, a festive waterfront marketplace that is one of the city's most popular attractions. A community of California sea lions has taken up residence on the docks in the PIER 39 Marina and visitors line the nearby railing to watch them.

## B. Crossword

Answer the definitions below to complete the crossword using words from this story about San Francisco.

- 1 A collection of streets that form a square.
- 2 Remarkable enough to be famous or very well known
- 3 A wooden structure at a port, where the boats arrive
- 4 Another name for Alcatraz is 'The .....
- 5 A heavy mist that comes in from the sea.
- 6 A boat that transports people and cars.



The answers are on page 14.

## Glossary

colloquially: informally  
 exhilarating: exciting  
 inmate: prisoner



# Guests

## In ancient Greece

"Xenia" in Greek sums up the idea of hospitality, which was fundamental to the ancient Greeks. In fact, the Greeks had an obligation to host anyone who requested hospitality. The rules were simple and unwritten: the host must respect the guest, the guest must respect the host, and the host must provide a farewell gift\* to the guest when they leave. The guest also had to be provided with food, drinks, a bathroom for washing and clean clothes!

## Arab hospitality

Arab hospitality is exceptional and in some places it is a way of life. Its origins come from travelers who, moving across the desert, centuries ago, stopped in the villages to rest. Even today, a guest must always be offered Arabic coffee, tea and some sweets, because hosting someone is a pleasure and should not be done in a rush. You sit and chat, forgetting all other commitments, because the guest is sacred.

There is an Arab proverb that says: "Do not show your poverty to the guest". In some countries, in fact, hospitality is a duty. Tunisia, for example, is very hospitable, in fact, during the civil war, many refugees\* were welcomed from Libya.

## Kindness towards guests

Some countries in the world have become very hospitable after historical events that have marked them: for example Ireland, which after centuries of invasions, famines\* and emigration, has a reputation for treating foreigners kindly. The same often applies to African peoples tormented by tribal\* wars and terrible internal conflict, who despite everything are among the kindest people in the world.

The Malawians are said to be the friendliest people in Africa, because they live in the warm heart of the continent; the houses are small and poor, but you will be welcomed into



the house like royalty! The citizens of Fiji and Thailand are also famous around the world for being very kind. The smiles, kindness and the tranquility experienced in some countries, like Indonesia, remain in the hearts of guests, because everyone stops here to have a chat and life happens at a slower pace. In India, following the verses of the Upanishads\* ("The guest is God"), you will receive a lot of attention and food, but remember to remove your shoes and leave them outside the door.

Some tribes of Native Americans\* put on a guest ceremony called "potlatch": it is a lunch made with precious seal or salmon meat, which is given to guests.

## Hospitality in modern times

Thanks to the internet, many travelers/guests are able to reciprocate by offering accommodation\* in their own home. This system is the modern version of hospitality! For example, through Couchsurfing or Hospitality Club, which are the only free

platforms, you can exchange your bed with people from all over the world. Those who use this mode of travel claim that living in a welcoming and lived-in home is much better than staying in a hotel, because you live the culture of the place more and feel the warmth of a real home.

The most famous, but paid, way to find hospitality is Airbnb, a site that connects people looking for accommodation for short periods. There are not only apartments but also castles, boats, huts, igloos, tree houses and much more!

## Glossary

accommodation: place to sleep  
famines: periods of starvation, where there is no food for the population  
farewell gift: a gift provided to someone leaving, usually forever  
Native Americans: peoples who inhabited America before the conquest  
refugees: people who have to leave their country  
tribal: between different tribes  
Upanishad: Indian religious and philosophical books



Report



World Oceans Day is celebrated all over the world on June 8th. Today, this wonderful ecosystem is in danger because of plastic.

Let's not watch the ocean die: you can do something to help too!

# The ocean tells its story

The oceans cover three quarters of our planet and are home to millions of species, animals and plants, many of which are still unknown. Just think: 90% of the Earth's oceans, where the first life forms appeared more than 3.6 billion years ago, are still unexplored! The ocean is a complex and mysterious environment and World Oceans Day, proposed by the Canadian Government, is intended precisely to preserve this unique and magical environment. The ocean is life.

## Sea pollution

At least 8 million pieces of plastic and waste end up in the oceans. If we do not change our lifestyle, by







2050 there will be more plastic than fish. This is why World Oceans Day is so important: it draws everyone's attention back to a huge problem.

Parley for the Oceans ([www.parley.tv](http://www.parley.tv)) is an organisation that brings together artists from all over the world and is trying to stop the pollution of the seas. Last year it collaborated with Adidas to build a shoe made of plastic waste found at sea.

Photographer Chris Jordan shot a film, *Albatross*, to denounce the terrible effects of plastic on albatrosses – great sea birds. Plastic is killing marine ecosystems. Scientists, in an attempt to explain the phenomenon, use the health status of these birds as an indicator. They found that 9 out of 10 sea birds have plastic in their stomachs. The film is online, and you can watch it too: go to [www.albatrossthefilm.com](http://www.albatrossthefilm.com)!

### Sea Shepherd

Sea Shepherd is an American NGO that wants to stop the destruction of natural habitat, and the death of wild species in the oceans. Sea Shepherd activists\*, who cross the world's seas and oceans in their boats, call themselves "pirates\* for the environment" and base their actions on the 1982 UN International Charter for Nature. Activists seek to document, and

show the world, activities that don't respect the sea and put it in danger. For example, they block whaling\* boats. In fact, although whale hunting has been banned since 1986, Japan, Norway, Iceland and Russia continue to kill thousands of whales every year.

### What can you do?

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop". It's true: we all have to do something about ocean life. So, always pick up your plastic litter on the beach, because, in doing so, you could save the life of a fish, or a turtle that has travelled thousands of miles to find the right beach on which to lay its eggs. Or you

could save the life of a seahorse that fights the current, attached to the coral, together with its mate for life. Marine animals have wonderful stories: if you know their tales, you won't want to hurt them!

### Protect the oceans!

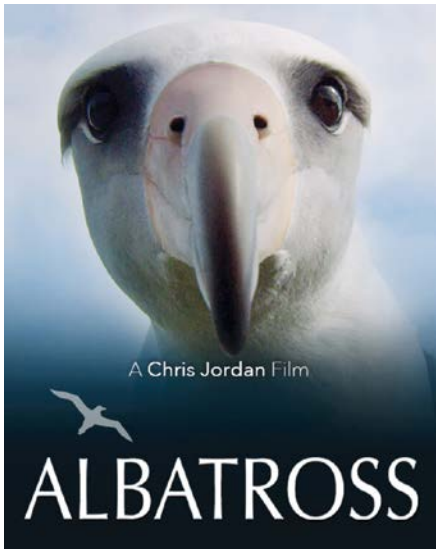
1. Don't use products containing microspheres (read the label).
2. Use recyclable shopping bags.
3. Don't use disposable plastic plates and cutlery.
4. Don't use plastic straws\*.
5. Never throw plastic down the toilet.
6. Recycle plastic waste\*.
7. Use reusable water bottles.
8. Choose food without packaging\* or with biodegradable containers.
9. Take part in the #2minutebeachclean!





But did you know that the Mediterranean Sea is an extraordinary ecosystem? The area is 10 times richer in the number of different species than the world average! A total of about 17,000 species live there, including some very rare species, such as the leatherback turtle, the sperm whale, the monk seal and the bull shark.

The largest and deepest ocean in the world is the Pacific Ocean: its surface exceeds the surface of all dry land on earth! The deepest point is in the Mariana Trench. It's called Challenger Deep and exceeds 11,000 metres in depth. Its ecosystem is totally unknown to human beings: probably only micro-organisms\* live here.



### The future of Kiribati

The inhabitants of Kiribati, a state located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, can't live without the ocean that they love and respect. However, climate change, and rising sea levels caused by global warming, are threatening life on the island. The island itself risks being submerged by the

ocean. The documentary Anote's Ark tells of the struggle of Anote Tong, former president of Kiribati, who works every day towards providing a dignified future to the people of Kiribati, which has 4,000 years of history.



The problem of plastic pollution has grown so large that a plastic island has formed in the Pacific. The current has formed a vortex\*, which over the years has trapped waste and plastic, to form an island three times the size of France. ☹️

## Glossary

- activists: people engaged in some political or social movement
- whaling: whale hunting
- straws: small tubes used for drinking
- packaging: object containers, wrappers
- micro-organisms: living things of very small dimensions
- pirates: men who attacked ships and stole goods
- waste: waste products from various human activities
- vortex: mass of fast-moving water that turns in a spiral

## Find the odd one out . . . . .

For World Oceans Day, Google has launched a website that allows you to listen to approximately 8,000 hours of underwater recordings (**patternradio**). What do you think we can't hear in this recording?

- a  The song of the whales
- b  The sounds of the ships
- c  Mysterious sounds
- d  The sounds of algae
- e  The sounds of fish

The answer is on page 14.







# Simone Biles

For many it is the American dream come true: a girl who, thanks to gymnastics and two special grandparents, becomes a world champion. 14 medals in three years: here is Simone Biles!



**Is it true that didn't love your body?**

Very true. Accepting my body was difficult. As a girl I was unhappy because all my friends were thin, while I had so many muscles because I did a lot of sport. The kids at school teased me; maybe they were jealous because I was more muscular than them. ☺ So I covered myself up and felt ashamed\*.

But over time I realized that it was these muscles that allowed me to win. I finally learned to love my body and myself.

**What they say about her**

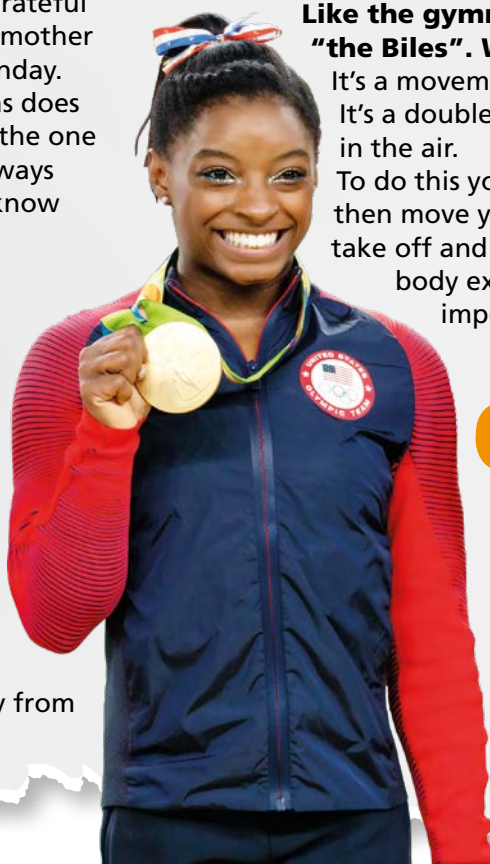
"With Simone, artistic gymnastics is really a sport that contains the word 'art'. It's not just technique, muscles, strength or precision: it's grace and elegance.

**Where does your story begin?**

The most important year of my childhood was 2000, when I was adopted by my grandparents, who became my parents. I will always be grateful to my grandfather Ron and my grandmother Nellie, who take me to Mass every Sunday. My faith brings me a lot of comfort, as does gymnastics. When I win a medal, like the one at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, I always dedicate the victory to them. I don't know where I'd be today without them!

**Are you ready for the Tokyo Olympics?**

I'm always ready! I train in the gym in Texas that I opened with my family and my trainer. I was given an exceptional body, and I will use it as best I can. I know I have a natural talent, but I also know that it's necessary to sweat, work hard, and do more and more. With time I have become more flexible, and now I can control my strength. I have to thank my school, which allowed me to study from home and train twice a day.



**Identity card**

**Name:** Simone Arianne

**Surname:** Biles

**Place and date of birth:** Columbus (USA), March 14, 1997

**Profession:** artistic gymnast

**Interesting facts:** just like the legendary Nadia Comaneci, she invented her own acrobatic move, nicknamed "the Biles"

**What do you do in your everyday life?**

I try to live my twenty year-old life in a "normal" way. ☺

My dream after the Rio Olympics was to meet Zac Efron – the media wouldn't leave us alone!

**Like the gymnastics greats, you invented "the Biles". What is this?**

It's a movement that I invented in 2013.

It's a double somersault\* with a half twist in the air.

To do this you have to take a breath, and then move your arms like a bird about to take off and fly. It is a very difficult free-body exercise; some say that it is impossible, but it works for me. ☺

**Glossary**

**ashamed:** embarrassed or guilty because of your actions or characteristics  
**somersault:** a move where you flip your body over and land on your feet

use of the relative pronoun 'that'





# Which musician best represents you?

**1 You have to play a concert. What special effect would you choose for the stage?**

- a  A light and shadow show
- b  Many different colours
- c  A dramatic entrance

**2 How would you define your music?**

- a  Deep and thoughtful
- b  Young and fresh
- c  Hard rock!

**3 Songs and sounds are for ...**

- a  expressing\* your feelings
- b  entertaining
- c  amazing others

**4 By listening to your music, young people will feel ...**

- a  special
- b  energised
- c  brave

**5 What message would you want to send with your music?**

- a  "Every one of us is unique\*"
- b  "We give joy to those who are not happy"
- c  "We fight against injustice"

**6 What would you talk about in an interview?**

- a  Your private life
- b  How fun it is to be a star
- c  How you created your latest release



**Answered mostly 'a': Billie Eilish**

You're a person who loves to be different from others, and you don't worry about the judgment of those around you. You're reserved\*, and you think carefully before you speak, because you consider words important. Sometimes you're a little difficult to understand, but those who know you wouldn't want to lose you for anything in the world because you are really ... special!

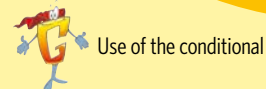
**Answered mostly 'b': Camila Cabello**

Your look is always cute and original, just like that of pop artists, and your world is

full of colours and friends. You know how to bring happiness to people close to you, and your smile never leaves your face. You have an open, fun and sparkling character. In short ... people never get bored with you!

**Answered mostly 'c': Imagine Dragon**

You love strong emotions, and you like to amaze people, with style but also with what you do and say. In fact, you always impress others! You like to party - you love loud music and activities that give you energy. You try to stay close to friends and companions, but ... you're always the leader!



## Glossary

- expressing: showing
- reserved: introverted
- unique: special



Find out  
about ...

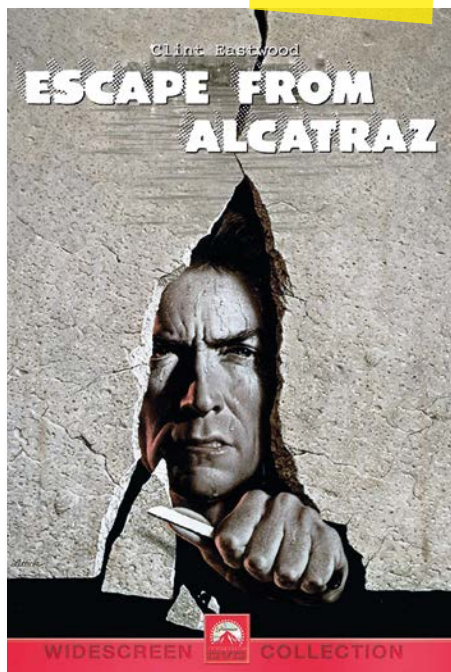
# Alcatraz

This fortress was said to be impossible to escape from. Located in San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz is now one of the city's most popular attractions. Let's find out more about it.



Formerly a notorious\* prison and once home to the gangster Al Capone, Alcatraz is now a museum offering audio tours, accessible by ferry. It's located a mile and a half from San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf and was the site of the first lighthouse built on the Pacific coast. The island operated as a federal penitentiary\* from 1934-1963, housing famous convicts. Now, this once infamous\* prison island is part of the Bay Area's 80,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

A visit to the island includes a tour of the cellhouse that



allows visitors to see where the prisoners lived. Although the last inmates were transferred off the island in 1963, the main prison block with its steel bars, claustrophobic\* cells, mess hall, library and "dark holes" where badly behaved prisoners were kept, all still exist.

There were no successful confirmed escapes from Alcatraz. A total of 36 inmates put the supposedly "escape-proof" Alcatraz to the test. Of those convicts, 23 were captured, six were shot to death and two drowned. The other five went missing and were presumed drowned\*, including Frank







## Did you know?

Alcatraz is named for sea birds. Before criminals lived here, the island was home to large colonies of brown pelicans. A Spanish explorer named it "La Isla de los Alcatrazes," meaning "Island of the Pelicans."



Morris and brothers John and Clarence Anglin, whose 1962 attempted breakout inspired the 1979 film "Escape from Alcatraz".

## Who was Al Capone? .....

Complete this story about Al Capone using the Past Simple (regular and irregular) of the verbs in brackets.

Al Capone ..... (to be) a notorious gangster and mob boss. Sometimes known by the nickname "Scarface", he was the co-founder and boss of the Chicago Outfit. His seven-year rule as crime boss ..... (to end) when he ..... (to go) to prison at age 33. Capone was one of the first prisoners to occupy Alcatraz in 1934. He was ..... (to transfer) there after he ..... (to bribe\*) guards in order to get special treatment while serving his tax-evasion sentence in Atlanta. Alcatraz was so unpleasant that it 'broke' Capone. He ..... (to become) so cooperative that he was permitted to play banjo in the Alcatraz prison band. He ..... (to give) concerts for other inmates.

*The answers are on page 14.*



## Glossary

bribe: to give money for a favour  
 claustrophobic: very small and dark  
 drowned: death by water  
 notorious/infamous: famous for something bad  
 penitentiary: prison



# True or False?

Have you read the report about the oceans?  
Which of the sentences below are true or false!

- 1 World Oceans Day is held on 8 December.
- 2 The oceans cover three quarters of our planet.
- 3 If we don't change our lifestyle, in 2050 we'll have more plastic than fish.
- 4 Adidas has made shoes with dolphin skin.
- 5 Fortunately, seabirds don't eat the plastic in the sea.
- 6 Sea Shepherd works to stop whalers and whaling.
- 7 Turtles lay their eggs wherever they happen to be.
- 8 To protect the oceans, it is good not to use disposable products.

True	False
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Fill in the gaps The history of jeans

Read about the origin of jeans in San Francisco and insert the missing words.

### MINERS - MANUFACTURED - GENOA - CORDUROY - LEAD

Denim jeans were invented in San Francisco by Levi Strauss for the Gold Rush ..... who needed tough, comfortable clothing. For once San Francisco and not New York took the ..... in fashion! Jeans are named after the city of ..... in Italy, a place where cotton ..... , called either jean or jeane, was .....

The answers are below.

**Answers:** Pg 3 **Guess:** b), The Snake Game. Pg 4-5 **A. Complete the titles:** 1. Walk over, 2. Ride, 3. Visit, 4. Meet, **B. Crossword:** 1. block, 2. legendary, 3. dock, 4. rock, 5. fog, 6. ferry, Pg 7-9 **The odd one out:** d), The sounds of algae. Pg 12-13 **Who was Al Capone?** was, ended, went, transferred, bribed, became, gave. Pg 14 **True or false:** 1F, its on 8 June; 2T; 3T; 4F, with plastic rubbish found in the ocean; 5F, unfortunately 9 out of 10 seabirds have plastic in their stomachs; 6T; 7F, turtles travel thousands of kilometres to find the right beach to lay their eggs; 8T; **Fill in the gaps:** miners, lead, Genoa, corduroy, manufactured.





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elementary

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elementary

lower-intermediate

intermediate

intermediate advanced

Italiano



primary school

elementary

lower-intermediate

intermediate

intermediate advanced

advanced

РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК



lower-intermediate

Deutsch



elementary

lower-intermediate

intermediate

intermediate advanced

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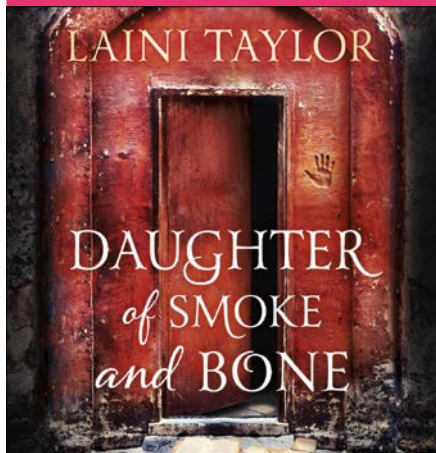
# Daughter of Smoke and Bone

"Once upon a time, an angel and a devil fell in love. It did not end well."



by Laini Taylor

Do you belong elsewhere? Get ready for a complex, exciting Epic Fantasy tale about dark magic, star-crossed\* love, and difficult choices.



Set in Prague, *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* is a richly developed story that brings together fantasy, paranormal, and a touch of horror. National Book Award finalist Laini Taylor has created a lushly\*

imaginative, fully realized world that will enchant\* readers of all ages. If you like fairy tales, epic love stories, and wild imagination, this is the book for you.

### The story

Karou is a 17 year old art student living in Prague. She spends time with friends, studies, and has an annoying ex-boyfriend – but Karou has a secret. Her father is a demonic 'wishmonger' who sends her on errands\* around the world, collecting teeth for him. In this secret world, wishes are as valuable as money and monsters will do anything to have their greatest wishes granted. Living between worlds, Karou senses that she doesn't quite belong in either... then one day she meets Akiva, who not only makes her question where she belongs, but also who and what she actually is.



*Daughter of Smoke and Bone* is a tale of forbidden love with a mythological twist. Karou and Akiva are a modern Romeo and Juliet in a story that encaptures love, loneliness and desperation.

### The author

Laini Taylor writes Fantasy novels and is a National Book Award Finalist. She lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, illustrator Jim Di Bartolo, and their daughter. And yes, she has pink hair!

"Hope can be a powerful force. Maybe there's no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic."



use of the relative pronoun 'that'

### Glossary

- enchant: captivate
- errands: jobs you have to travel for, to complete
- lushly: richly
- star-crossed: prevented from getting together by bad luck