

 This text is a traditional story from West Africa, adapted from *Tales of Wisdom and Wonder*, retold by Hugh Lupton.

## The Blind Man and the Hunter

Once there was a blind man who lived with his sister in a hut on the edge of a forest. This blind man was very clever. 'Blind man,' people would ask, 'how is it that you are so wise?'

And the blind man would smile and say:

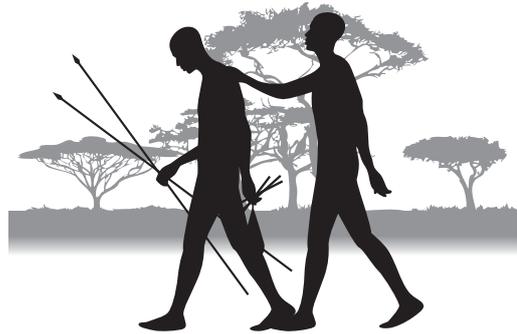
'Because I see with my ears.'

When the blind man's sister got married, her husband, a hunter, came to live in the hut. Every morning the hunter would go into the forest with his traps and spears. Every evening, when the hunter returned, the blind man would say: 'Please, tomorrow let me come with you, hunting in the forest.'

But the hunter would shake his head: 'What use is a man with no eyes?'

This continued for many months until one evening the hunter said: 'Very well, tomorrow you will come hunting.'

So the next morning they set off into the forest. When they came to a clearing the hunter set one of his traps, and he showed the blind man how to set another. They then made their way home.



The next morning they went back into the forest. When they came to the clearing the hunter saw there was a little grey bird in his own trap and a large, colourful bird in the blind man's trap. The hunter gave the little grey bird to the blind man and he kept the large, colourful bird for himself.

As they were walking home, the hunter asked the blind man: 'If you're so clever and you see with your ears, answer me this: why is there so much anger and hatred in this world?'

'Because the world is full of people like you - who take what is not theirs.'

The hunter took the little grey bird out of the blind man's hand and gave him the large, colourful one. 'I'm sorry,' he said.

They walked on. A little later the hunter asked: 'If you're so clever and you see with your ears, answer me this: why is there so much love and kindness in this world?'

'Because the world is full of people like you - who learn from their mistakes.'

And from that day onwards, if the hunter heard anyone ask: 'Blind man, how is it that you are so wise?' He would put his arm around the blind man's shoulders and say:

'Because he sees with his ears...and hears with his heart.'



This text is adapted from *Ten Freaky Forces of Nature* by Douglas E. Richards from [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)

## Five Freaky Forces of Nature

# 5

*Nature can be unbelievably powerful. Everyone knows about earthquakes, hurricanes, blizzards, avalanches, forest fires, floods, tidal waves, and even thunderstorms. But if you thought Mother Nature didn't have many surprises up her sleeve, think again. Nature has a load of other powers that, while less well known, can only be described as, well, freaky.*

- **Dodge balls** About 1,000 years ago hundreds of people were mysteriously killed in the Himalayan Mountains. A recent investigation concluded that they were caught in a hailstorm that dropped chunks of ice the size of cricket balls on their heads at more than 160 km per hour. Hail is formed when raindrops are carried into extremely cold areas of the atmosphere by powerful vertical winds. The longer the tiny specks of ice bounce around, the bigger they become. When the clumps of ice grow too big for the wind to hold up, they fall to the ground as hail.

- **It's raining frogs!** Small frogs rained on a town in Serbia, sending residents running for cover. 'I thought maybe a plane carrying frogs had exploded in mid-air,' one resident told a local newspaper. Had the town gone crazy? Probably not. Scientists believe that tornadoes can suck up the surfaces of lakes and other bodies of water. When they do, they can take frogs and fish along for the ride. The tornadoes can then drop them miles away.

- **Gas attack** When a volcano erupts, a glowing sea of molten lava often flows down its sides, destroying everything in its path. A lava flow is unbelievably dangerous. But a volcano can produce something even deadlier: a pyroclastic flow, which is a cloud of gas and rock that can reach temperatures above 500°C. The flow crashes down the side of a volcano like an avalanche, typically reaching speeds of more than 80 km per hour.

- **Great balls of fire** During a thunderstorm, a glowing ball the size of your head suddenly appears. It hovers a few feet above the ground, drops down, dances across the garden, and then darts up into the air before it fades away. This freaky phenomenon is ball lightning. Some scientists think that when normal lightning strikes the ground, it vaporises a mineral called silicon found in soil. They think this silicon forms a kind of bubble that burns in the oxygen around it.

- **Snowball factory** You head outside after a snowstorm and see dozens of log- or drum-shaped snowballs. These rare creations are called snow rollers, and Mother Nature makes them all by herself. Snow rollers form when wet snow falls on ground that is icy, so snow won't stick to it. Pushed by strong winds, the snow rolls into logs. Maybe this is nature's way of saying it's time for a snowball fight!



Name:	Class:	Date:
-------	--------	-------

# The Blind Man and the Hunter

1 Fill in the missing information about the story. One has been done for you.

Where the hut was	
Who the blind man lived with	his sister
Who the hunter was	

AF2  
1 mark

2 Which of the following **best** describes the blind man? Tick **one**.

happy  patient  honest  wise

AF2  
1 mark

3 a) Why did the hunter refuse to take the blind man hunting with him at first?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

b) Why do you think the hunter eventually agreed to take the blind man hunting with him?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

4 The blind man says that he *sees with his ears*.

What does he mean by this? Tick the **best** answer.

He cannot see with his eyes.

He can see things with his ears.

He uses his sense of hearing to work out what's happening.

He cannot hear very well.

AF3  
1 mark

/ 5  
Total for this page

5 **Number** these events to show **the order** in which they happen in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

- The hunter finds a bird caught in each trap.
- The hunter apologises to the blind man.
- 1 The hunter comes to live with the blind man and his sister.
- The blind man and the hunter set traps.
- The blind man asks the hunter if he can go hunting with him.

AF4  
1 mark

6 *he kept the large, colourful bird for himself*

What does this phrase tell you about the hunter? Tick **two**.

- |                  |                          |                |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| He is dishonest. | <input type="checkbox"/> | He is selfish. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| He is cruel.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | He is clever.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

AF5  
1 mark

7 This story is a fable with a lesson to be learned. Which of the following 'lessons' would **best** fit the story? Tick **one**.

- It is important to learn from your mistakes.
- It is important to apologise if you have done something wrong.
- It is important to listen carefully.
- It is important to respect people who are blind.

AF6  
1 mark

8 a) What is the hunter's attitude towards the blind man at the **beginning** of the story? Explain your answer, using the text to help you.

---



---

AF3  
1 mark

b) What is the hunter's attitude towards the blind man at the **end** of the story? Explain your answer, using the text to help you.

---



---

AF3  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
-------	--------	-------

# Five Freaky Forces of Nature

1 a) When and where were hundreds of people killed by hailstones?

- When? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where? \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

b) The writer describes the people who died as being *mysteriously killed*. Why do you think their deaths were a mystery to start with?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

2 Draw lines to match each word or phrase with its meaning in the text. One has been done for you.

- tornado
- snow roller
- pyroclastic flow
- hail
- silicon

- a fast-moving cloud of rock and gas emitted by an erupting volcano
- a funnel-shaped spinning windstorm
- a mineral found in the soil
- frozen rain
- a log- or drum-shaped snowball created by the wind

AF2  
1 mark

3 Read the introductory paragraph, starting *Nature can be...*

What does this paragraph tell you about nature?  
Write **two** things in **your own words**.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
2 marks

/ 5  
Total for this page

4 'I thought maybe a plane carrying frogs had exploded in mid-air,' one resident told a local newspaper.

What impression does this give of the day when frogs rained on a town in Serbia? Tick **two**.

- The town was near an airport.
- The resident was mad.
- The resident heard an explosion.
- The 'frog rain' started suddenly.
- A lot of Serbian planes carry frogs.
- There were a lot of frogs.

AF5  
1 mark

5 Read the paragraph headed *Gas attack*.

Look at these words that the writer uses in the paragraph.

*destroying dangerous deadlier crashes*

Why has the writer used these words?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF5  
1 mark

6 Where would you expect to find this text? Tick the **best** answer.

- in a newspaper
- in a magazine
- in an encyclopaedia
- in an advertising brochure

AF7  
1 mark

7 *Nature can be unbelievably powerful.*

From what you learn in the passage, do you think this is **true**?

Explain as fully as you can, using the text to help you answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AF6  
2 marks

/ 10  
Total for this test