

Tomorrow, in some parts of Japan, is the Obon festival – an important annual event. Other parts of Japan mark Obon in August.

Deceased family members are believed to revisit their home during Obon to be reunited with their family. To guide the souls back, a *mukae-bi* (迎え火, *welcoming flame*) bonfire is lit outside the house.

Houses are cleaned and fresh produce is offered at family altars. After Obon, the spirits are sent off with another bonfire (*okuri-bi*, 送り火). Some regions release *okuri-bi* lanterns down rivers.

The biggest event of the Bon season is the *Bonodori* (盆踊り, dance), which is held throughout Japan. Dances differ across Japan, but people usually go to the neighbourhood park or shrine in yukata (summer kimono) to dance together.



1. What festival will be celebrated in parts of Japan tomorrow?
2. Who is believed to visit during this festival?
3. What must be lit to guide them back?
4. What do some regions release down rivers?
5. Will all of Japan celebrate tomorrow?
6. Do you think it is important to remember deceased family



1. What festival will be celebrated it in parts of Japan tomorrow? **Obon**
2. Who is believed to visit during this festival? **Deceased family members**
3. What must be lit to guide them back? **Mukae-bi, welcoming bonfires**
4. What do some regions release down rivers? **Okuribi lanterns**
5. Will all of Japan celebrate tomorrow? **No, some parts will celebrate in August**
6. Do you think it is important to remember deceased family members? Why or why not? **Own answers and reasons**

One incredible chunk of ear wax has made news around the world.

An audiologist in the UK could hardly believe the size of a massive piece of ear wax he pulled out of his patient's ear. The ear wax measured 2.5cm, just 0.5cm short of taking up the whole ear canal.

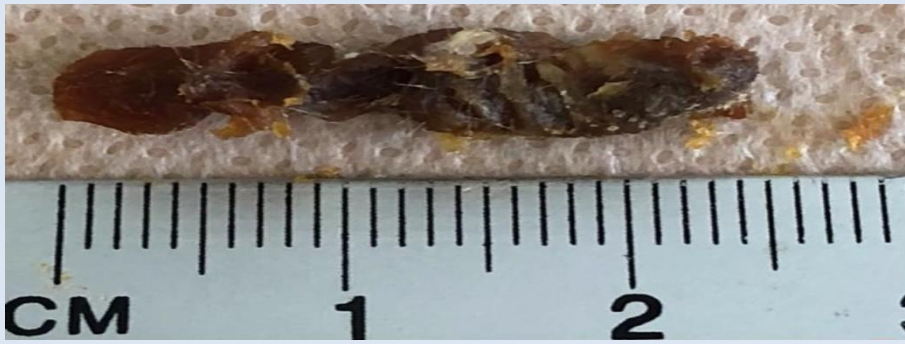
Ear wax is not actually wax. Ear wax is a mix of fat, dirt, dead skin and sweat and sometimes even insects!

The fat is called sebum and is made by glands in your ear and in the ears of other mammals to keep your skin soft.

The ear wax you see ranges in colour from yellowish to brownish and is mixed with skin cells you no longer need, plus sweat, hair and dirt and whatever else that has made its way into your ear.



1. What object has made news around the world?
2. How long was the object?
3. What part of the body was it found in?
4. Is ear wax made of wax? If not, what is it made from?
5. What colours might ear wax be?
6. What adjective might you use to describe this story?



1. What object has made news around the world? **A long piece of ear wax**
2. How long was the object? **2.5 cm**
3. What part of the body was it found in? **The ear canal**
4. Is ear wax made of wax? If not, what is it made from? **a mix of fat, dirt, dead skin and sweat and sometimes even insects**
5. What colours might ear wax be? **Yellowish to brownish**
6. What adjective might you use to describe this story? **Own answers (Ms Nicholl thinks she might chose the word DISGUSTING!)**

The residents of an island near the Arctic Circle plan to scrap time for two months each summer. Norway's island of Sommaroy doesn't get dark at all between May 18 and July 26.

"There's constantly daylight, and we act accordingly," Local Kjell Ove Hveding said. "In the middle of the night, which city folk might call 2am, you can spot children playing soccer, people painting their houses or mowing their lawns, and teens going for a swim."

With the sun not setting for 69 days, it means there is no conventional day-to-day running of the island, which is home to 300 people.

The island also doesn't experience any sunrise between November and January, when its residents live in total darkness.



1. What island is this story about?
2. What does NOT happen on this island between May 18<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>?
3. What might teenagers do at a time we would call 2 am?
4. How much light is there in winter (between November and January)?
5. Would you like to live somewhere with such different amounts of daylight? Why or why not?

1. What island is this story about?

**Sommaroy in Norway**

2. What does NOT happen on this island between May 18<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>?

**It does not get dark, there is constant daylight**

3. What might teenagers do at a time we would call 2 am?

**They might be swimming**

4. How much light is there in winter (between November and January)?

**There is no daylight, it is dark all the time**

5. Would you like to live somewhere with such different amounts of daylight? Why or why not?

**Own answers and reasons**

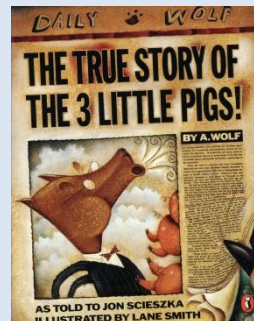
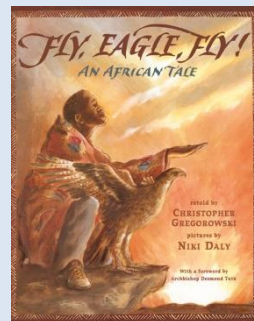
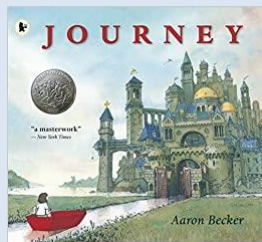
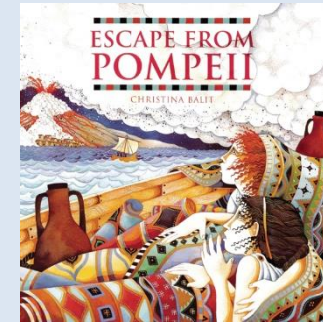
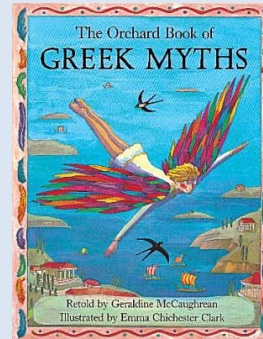
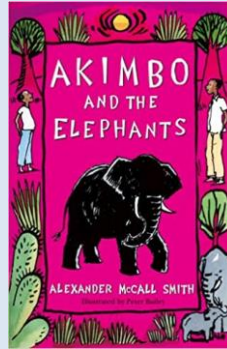
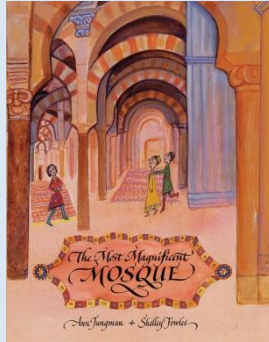
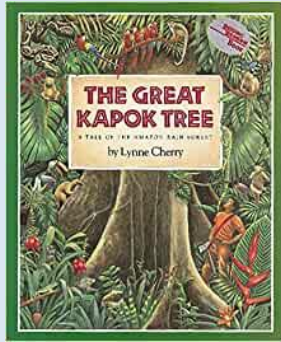


# Year Four Book Survey

What score would you give each book out of 5 (0 is terrible, 5 is fantastic)?

Do you think we should use it again - yes or no?

Any other book suggestions for us?



Nelson Mandela Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010.

Mandela said, “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

No matter how small your action, Mandela Day is about changing the world for the better, just as Nelson Mandela did every day.

Each year, on 18 July, we look back on what has been done, and forward to what will be done.



1. What day is it on 18<sup>th</sup> July?
2. When was the first of these days held?
3. What did Mandela suggest would determine the significance of the lives we lead?
4. Do actions you might take need to be big?
5. What action might you take to make a difference in the world?



1. What day is it on 18<sup>th</sup> July?

**Nelson Mandela day**

2. When was the first of these days held?

**2010**

3. What did Mandela suggest would determine the significance of the lives we lead?

**The difference we have made to the lives of others**

4. Do actions you take need to be big?

**No, small actions can be significant too**

5. What action might you take to make a difference in the world?

**Own answers but might encompass many of the schools Christian values – being kind, being thankful, supporting others, donating to charity, etc.**

