



lingoda

People who disappear

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1033R_EN

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can read and understand a factual text about people who have disappeared throughout history.
- Can discuss disappearances and unresolved mysteries in depth.





In times past, it was easy to believe that people could **vanish without a trace**. However, it still happens and people's appetite for such **mysterious** stories only continues to grow.



Vocabulary



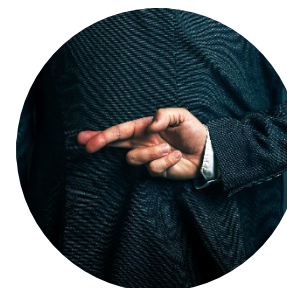
Magicians sometimes make things **vanish** temporarily.

Chinese culture has always **intrigued** me – it's fascinating.



The violence in the city was **chilling** – everyone was scared.

He lies all the time – his stories are never **credible**.





Vocabulary



My grandmother always **speculates** about my private life.

The big bang is one **hypothesis** for the origin of the universe.



I'm **running short** of milk – I need to go to the shop.

People who **hijack** planes usually want money.





Tell your teacher

**Have you heard
of any mysterious
disappearances?**



People who disappear



History **is peppered with** cases of unexplained disappearances. It was once easy to believe that people could **disappear off the face of the Earth**, but in the modern world, full of technology, we find it harder to be convinced that people can vanish **without a trace**.

However, it certainly does still happen, and people's appetite for stories old and new shows no sign of **abating**. We continue to be intrigued by a combination of odd facts, strange sightings, and often **chilling** imaginative details. Some of these mysteries lead us to question not only those around us, but the very **solidity** of our existence. Read on for 3 bizarre stories of people disappearing.

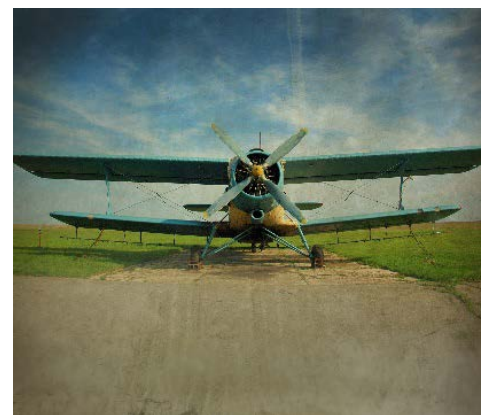


People who disappear

Amelia Earhart

Perhaps the most famous of all mysterious disappearances is the case of pilot Amelia Earhart. She was an aviation pioneer and in 1937 was attempting an around the world flight with her navigator, Fred Noonan. Her plane disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, and immediately a huge search and rescue operation was launched.

For many years nothing was found, though theories abounded about what had happened to Earhart. One which probably has the most credibility is that she crash-landed somewhere in the Pacific. Though it seems likely she would have died instantly, there have been many other theories.





People have hypothesised that Earhart was captured by the Japanese after she crashed, and that she was either imprisoned or taken to the Marshall Islands, where a photograph purportedly showing Earhart and Noonan has been discovered. Other theories speculate that Earhart and Noonan crashed on a deserted island in the Pacific where they survived for a time, and later died.





What do these words from the text mean?

to be peppered
with

disappear off the
face of the Earth

a trace

abate

chilling

solidity



What happened?



Have you heard about the mysterious _____ of Amelia Earhart?

Which _____ of what happened to her do you believe?

Yes, it is. But I like the romance of the story of them surviving on a _____ island for a while.

Yes, wasn't it tragic. She was such a _____ of aviation. A female pilot at that time was unusual.

I'm really not sure. I think the most _____ is that she crash landed somewhere. Maybe she had technical problems – it's very believable.



What do you think?

Which of the theories about Amelia Earhart do you think is the most likely to be true? Explain your answer.



1

She crashed into the Pacific and died.

2

She was captured by the Japanese.

3

She and her navigator crashed but survived for a while on a desert island.



People who disappear

The Lost Colony of Roanoke

In 1587, John White settled the island of Roanoke, just off present-day North Carolina, with a group of 114 English men, women and children. In fact, the first English person to be born in the New World was born in Roanoke, taking the population to 115. The situation in the colony was rather desperate, as the native inhabitants of the land resented the English invasion, and food had begun to run short.

Soon after arriving, White boarded a ship to England to ask for help. Arriving back on Roanoke in 1590, three years after the founding of the settlement, White found the colony abandoned. There was no sign of a struggle or a battle, and the houses had all disappeared, indicating that the departure was not hurried.



People who disappear

The only clue was the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a nearby fence post. Croatoan was the name of the local, native tribe. There are many theories as to what happened to the settlers. Many historians believe that the settlers voluntarily joined the native Americans and were absorbed into their tribes. Others think that they may have caught diseases in the New World that their bodies were not used to, and decided to split up into smaller groups, eventually dispersing over the local area. A more violent theory is that the settlers were killed by native American tribes, though there is no evidence to support this.



True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Lots of children were born in the new colony.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The native Americans welcomed the new settlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. John White was away from the colony for 3 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Carving the word CROATOAN into the fence was a distress signal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The settlers may have caught diseases that their bodies were not immune to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The most credible theory is that the settlers were killed by native American tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Match the text to the pictures

1. fence

2. battle

3. settler

4. tribe

5. disease

6. The New World

A



C



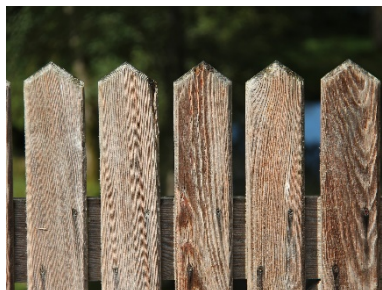
E



B



D



F





Tell the story

Using the words from the previous slide along with any other vocabulary you can remember from the text, retell the story of the colony of Roanoke in your own words.





People who disappear



Malaysian Airlines Flight 370

One of the most recent incidences of a puzzling disappearance is that of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, which vanished on the 8th of March, 2014. The plane was flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, China, and had 239 people on board. Shortly after take off the flight made its last contact with air traffic control and was not heard from again. The plane was recorded on radar as making an unplanned turn and heading towards the Indian Ocean.



People who disappear

The plane is thought to have continued flying for several hours after losing contact with air traffic control. Many theories about what happened to the plane have been put forward. One is that the plane was hijacked and flown to a remote island; another is that the plane was the victim of a terrorist attack and was flown to an unknown site or deliberately crashed into the sea, either by passengers or crew. A fire on board is another theory. Despite a huge search effort, neither the plane nor its 239 passengers and crew have been found.



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences below with words from the text about Malaysian Airlines Flight 370.

1. Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 vanished on...
2. Shortly after _____, the flight made its last contact with air traffic control.
3. The plane made an _____ towards the Indian Ocean.
4. Some believe that the plane was _____ and flown to a remote location.
5. Others think that the plane was a victim of...



Using relative clauses, make the two sentences into one.

1. Flight 370 disappeared. It was operated by Malaysian Airlines.

→ Flight 370, which was operated by Malaysian Airlines, disappeared.

2. The plane had 239 people on board. It was flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.



3. The plane lost contact with air traffic control. It continued flying for several hours.



4. Some experts believe that the plane crashed. The plane may have been taken over by terrorists.



5. A huge search effort was launched. The search was concentrated in the Indian Ocean.





Tell your teacher

**Which of the
disappearances did
you find the most
mysterious?**

Amelia Earhart

The Lost Colony
of Roanoke

Malaysian
Airlines 370



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p. 11

Disappearance, pioneer, theory/hypothesis, credible, desert

Exercise p. 15

1. F, 2. F, 3. T, 4. F, 5. T, 6. F

Exercise p. 16

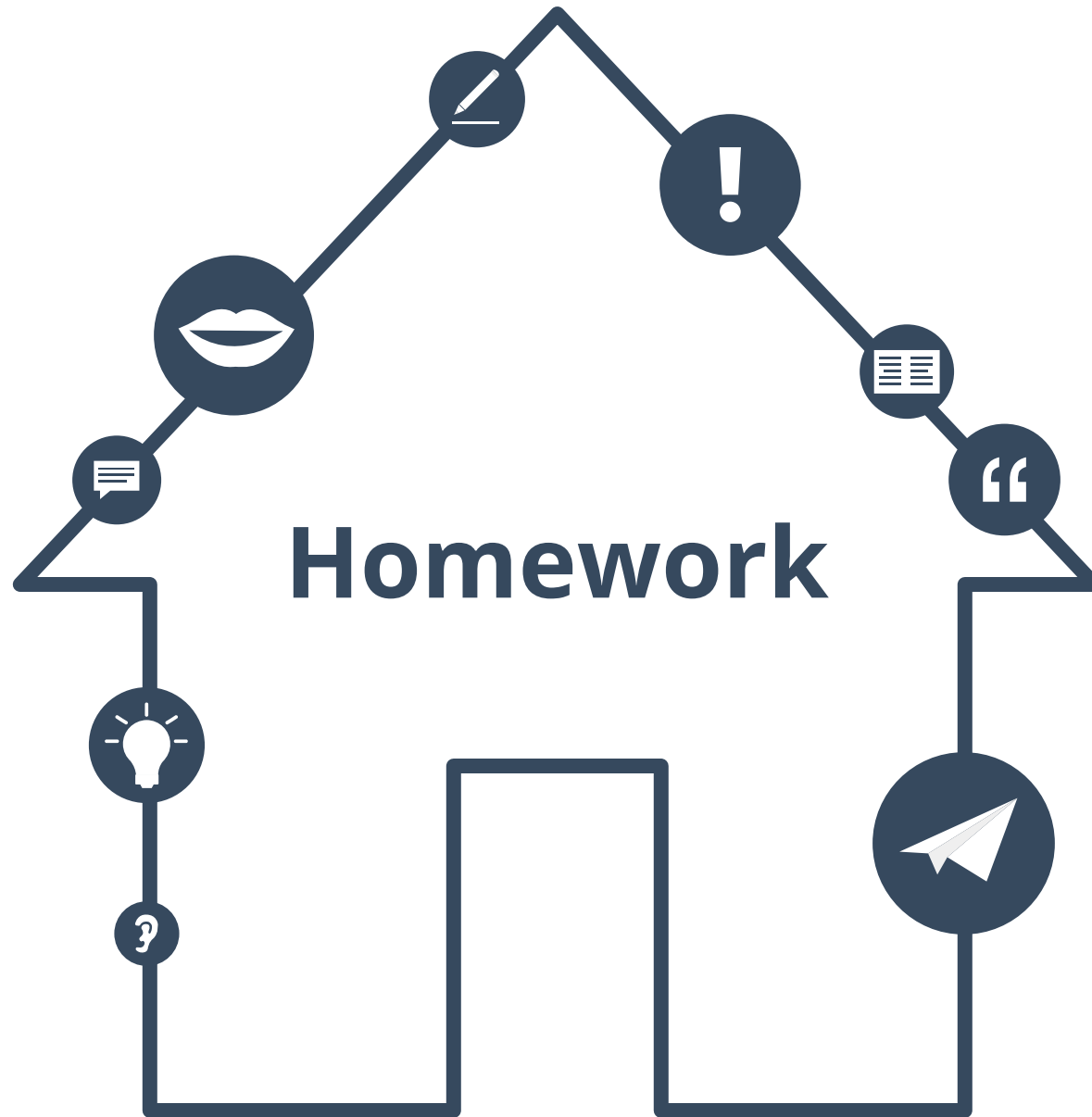
1. D, 2. F, 3. E, 4. A, 5. C, 6. B

Exercise p. 20

1. 8th March 2014, 2. take off, 3. unplanned turn, 4. hijacked, 5. terrorism

Exercise p. 21

2. The plane, which was flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, had 239 people on board. 3. The plane, which lost contact with air traffic control, continued flying for several hours. 4. Some experts believe that the plane, which may have been hijacked, crashed. 5. A huge search effort, which was concentrated in the Indian Ocean, was launched.





Match the beginnings and the endings

1. It is hard to believe that people...
 2. Amelia Earhart was a...
 3. The settlers at Roanoke...
 4. Flight 370 was flying towards Beijing...
- a. before it took an unplanned turn.
 - b. were not welcomed by the native tribes.
 - c. can still vanish off the face of the earth.
 - d. pioneer of aviation in the early twentieth century.



Make 3 lists

Write any new vocabulary you found in each of the stories.

Amelia Earhart

Roanoke

Flight 370



Homework answer key

1. C, 2. D, 3. B, 4. A



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