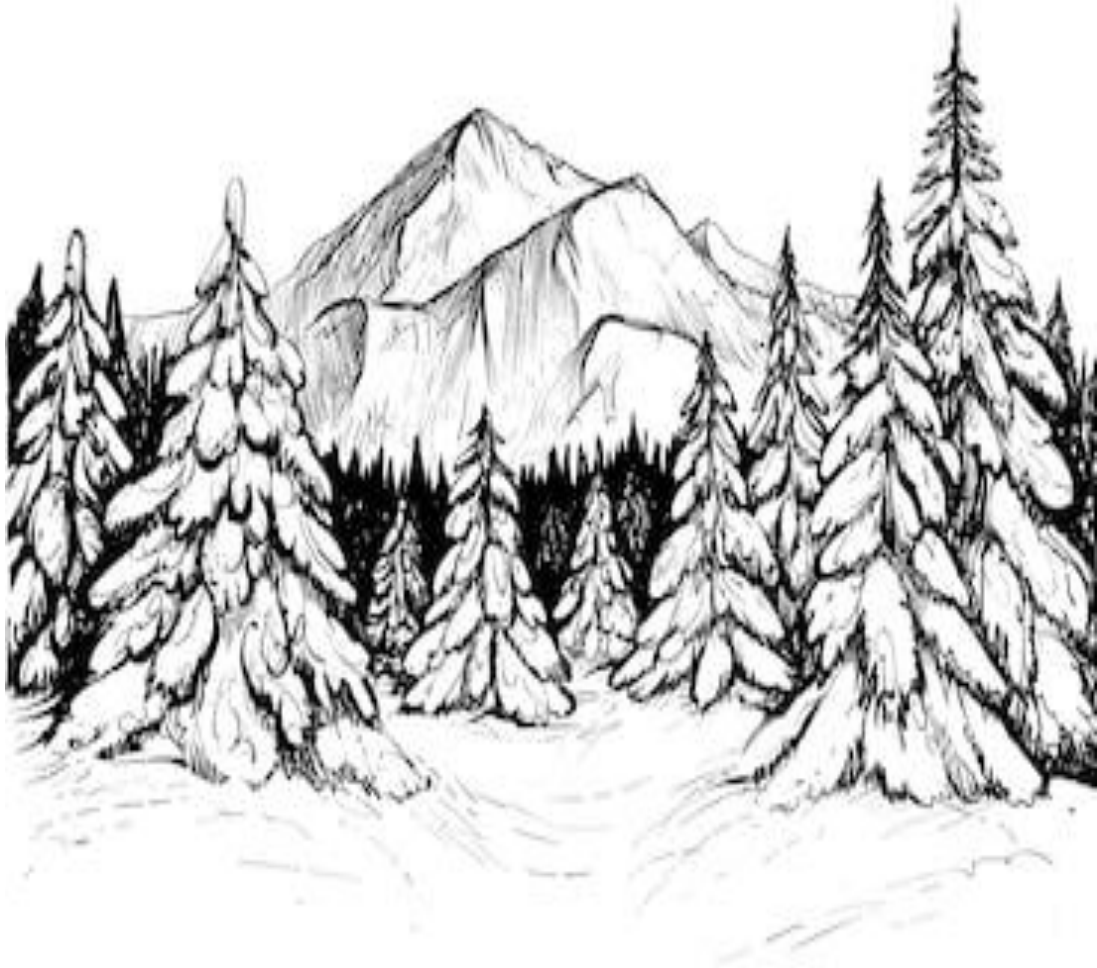


# Welcome to the February Activities Pack



Below are a mixture of activities and ideas, some are harder than others.  
Feel free to choose the ones you like the look of or give them all a try!

Please use the 'talking point' boxes to think or talk about the subjects  
covered.

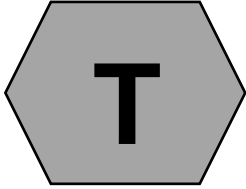
# February Quiz

- 1) At one time, February was the last month of the year - True or false?
- 2) February gets its name from the word Februa. What language does this word come from?
- 3) What was the name of the first Space Shuttle that 'boldly' made its first flight on top of a Jumbo Jet in February 1977?
- 4) Augustus Caesar took a day from February to make August the same length as July - True or False?
- 5) Which American Film Awards Show normally occurs at the end of February?
- 6) What country's New Year celebration often lands in February?
- 7) What huge celebration occurs in both Brazil and New Orleans (USA) in February?
  - a. Mardi Gras
  - b. Independence Day
  - c. All Saint's Day

**Talking point:** What is an important celebration day for you now?  
How about when you were young?

# Blockbusters

Can you work your way through this cryptic objects blockbuster?



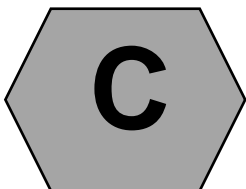
The more I dry the wetter I become.

What **T** am I?



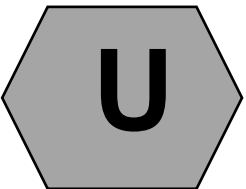
I have a single eye but cannot see.

What **N** am I?



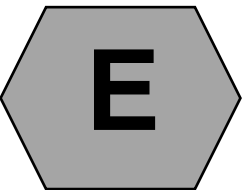
I have a head and a tail, but no arms and legs.

What **C** am I?



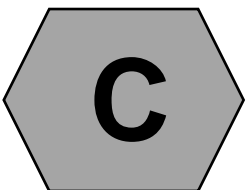
When water comes down, I go up.

What **U** am I?



I start with an E, end with an E, and have a letter in me.

What **E** am I?



I have two hands and a face, but no arms and legs?

What **C** am I?

**Talking point:** Can you think of different ways of describing everyday items?

# The Yellow Quiz

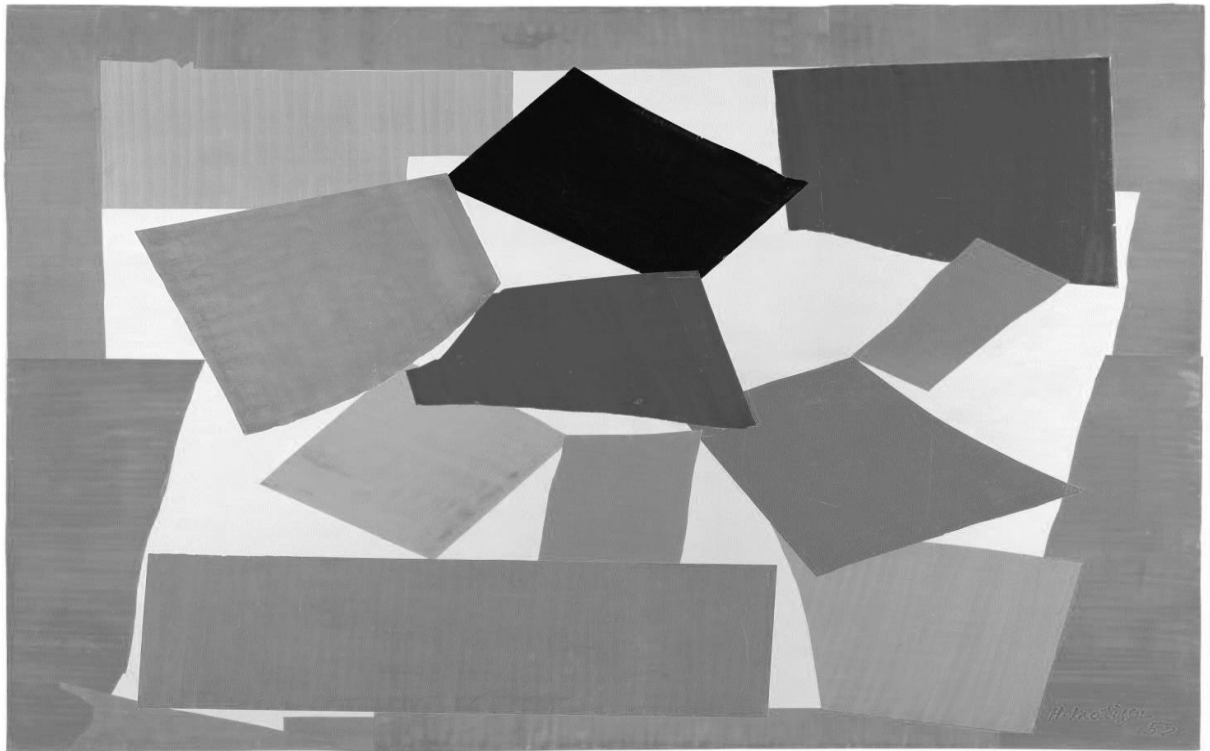
All the answers have the word 'yellow' in them

1. The world's first National Park
2. Tropical Disease
3. What Dorothy followed
4. Business telephone directory
5. Nautical song sung by Ringo Starr
6. The Tour de France leader wears it
7. It's "itsy bitsy, teenie weenie"
8. Joni Mitchell Song 'They paved Paradise'
9. Two of these can get you sent off
10. Known in it's country as Huang He and also a song by 'Christie'

**Talking point:** What other phrases can you think of that contain the word yellow?

## Lighting Up Art Corner- Squares and the like!

The idea is to make a design roughly based on squares. For inspiration below is a collage called L'escargot (The snail), by the French artist Matisse, who started making large collages when his arthritis became too severe for him to paint. It is made from large pieces of cut paper and though it may look haphazard it was very carefully planned. Even though the collage is abstract you can see the spiral of the snail's shell.



The activity we are suggesting is that you first cut out squares from any spare papers you want to use. You do not need to be too accurate, just make rough shapes, as they end up looking more interesting.

When you have plenty of squares play around with arranging them on a piece of paper, which could be white, coloured or black but don't stick anything down till you have a design that satisfies you.

You might want to take up the idea of a spiral or represent another creature. Alternatively, just make an abstract design or pattern, whatever pleases you. Finally stick it all down and survey your work from a little way away. It will surprise you!

# Lighting Up Art Corner- A Winter Landscape

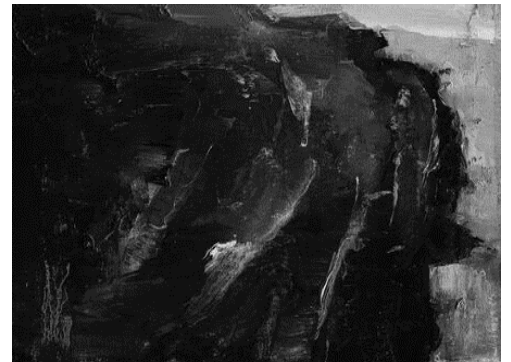
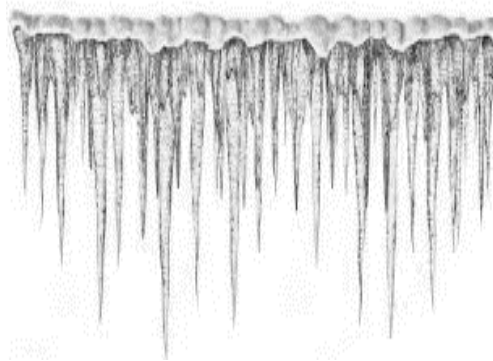
The idea is to make a drawing or a painting of a wintry landscape either from looking out of a window, from a photo or from your imagination.

Materials: Pencil, pen or paint and blank paper.

I am including a list and pictures of possible subjects to include but feel free to get inventive:

Gnarled trees, buildings covered in snow, icicles, frozen puddles, ponds, lakes, people skating, birds or animals in the snow with their prints or anything else you can think of!

Don't worry too much about accuracy; just enjoy making a work that suggests winter to you.



# February Facts...

**Leap Years** – February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years.

Traditionally women prepose to men on the 29<sup>th</sup> February. The odds of being born on February 29<sup>th</sup> are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a “leaper” or “leapling.”

**The word ‘February’** - The name of February comes from the Latin word “februum” which means purification. This is believed to be linked to a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring-cleaning festival.

**Wales-** In Welsh, February is sometimes known as “y mis bach” which means “little month.”

**Cake anyone?** The Saxons called February “Sol-monath” which means “cake month” because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.

**Febuary-** Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word “February” before in a press release!

**The whole of the moon-** February is the only month where it is possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

**Birthstone-** If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, which is related to wisdom.

**Birth flower-** If born in February your birth flower is Violets, are said to represent faithfulness, virtue and modesty, which explains where the expression 'shrinking violet' comes from.

# Pancake Word Scramble!

Can you unscramble these pancake related words?

NELOM

\_\_\_\_ \_

RINFGY NAP

\_\_\_\_ \_

GEGS

\_\_\_\_ \_

RUGAS

\_\_\_\_ \_

AULSPAT

\_\_\_\_ \_

PLIF

\_\_\_\_ \_

RUSYP

\_\_\_\_ \_

KILM

\_\_\_\_ \_

MMMM

\_\_\_\_ \_

**Talking point:** What do you like on your pancakes? Are you good at flipping them??



# Sudoku

The goal is to fill the rest of the 9x9 grid with single-digit numbers 1 through 9 with the following basic restrictions: A number can only be used once in each row, column, and 3x3 cell.

5				1				4
2	7	4				6		
	8		9		4			
8	1		4	6		3		2
		2		3		1		
7		6		9	1		5	8
			5		3		1	
		5				9	2	7
1				2				3

Talking point: Did you like mathematics at school?

Have mathematics been helpful in later life?

# Wordsearch:

Snowdrops

Blackbird

Aquarius

Lent

Valentines

Violet

Tuesday

Cupid

Wren

Pancake

Lemon

Bulbs

S	B	U	L	B	S	G	V	C	A	P
N	I	A	Q	U	A	R	I	U	S	A
O	A	L	E	M	O	N	O	P	Z	N
W	R	E	N	T	P	C	L	I	B	C
D	T	U	E	D	A	Y	E	D	F	A
R	J	S	O	L	E	N	T	V	M	K
O	G	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E
P	B	L	A	C	K	B	I	R	D	A

Talking point: What words do you think of when you think of February?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

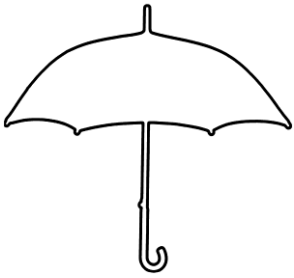
And what shoulder, & what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And water'd heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

# Fill in the blanks



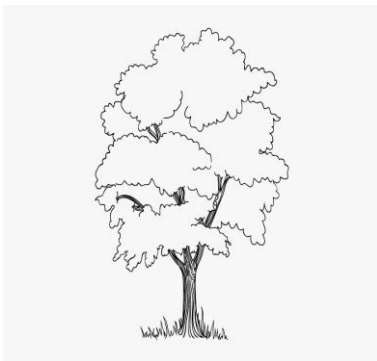
\_ M \_ R \_ L \_ \_



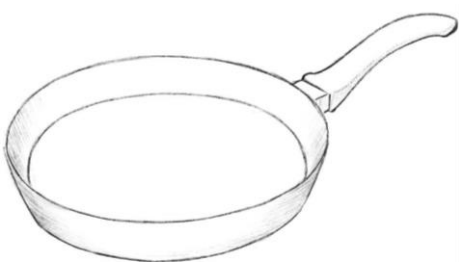
S \_ \_ W D \_ \_ \_ S



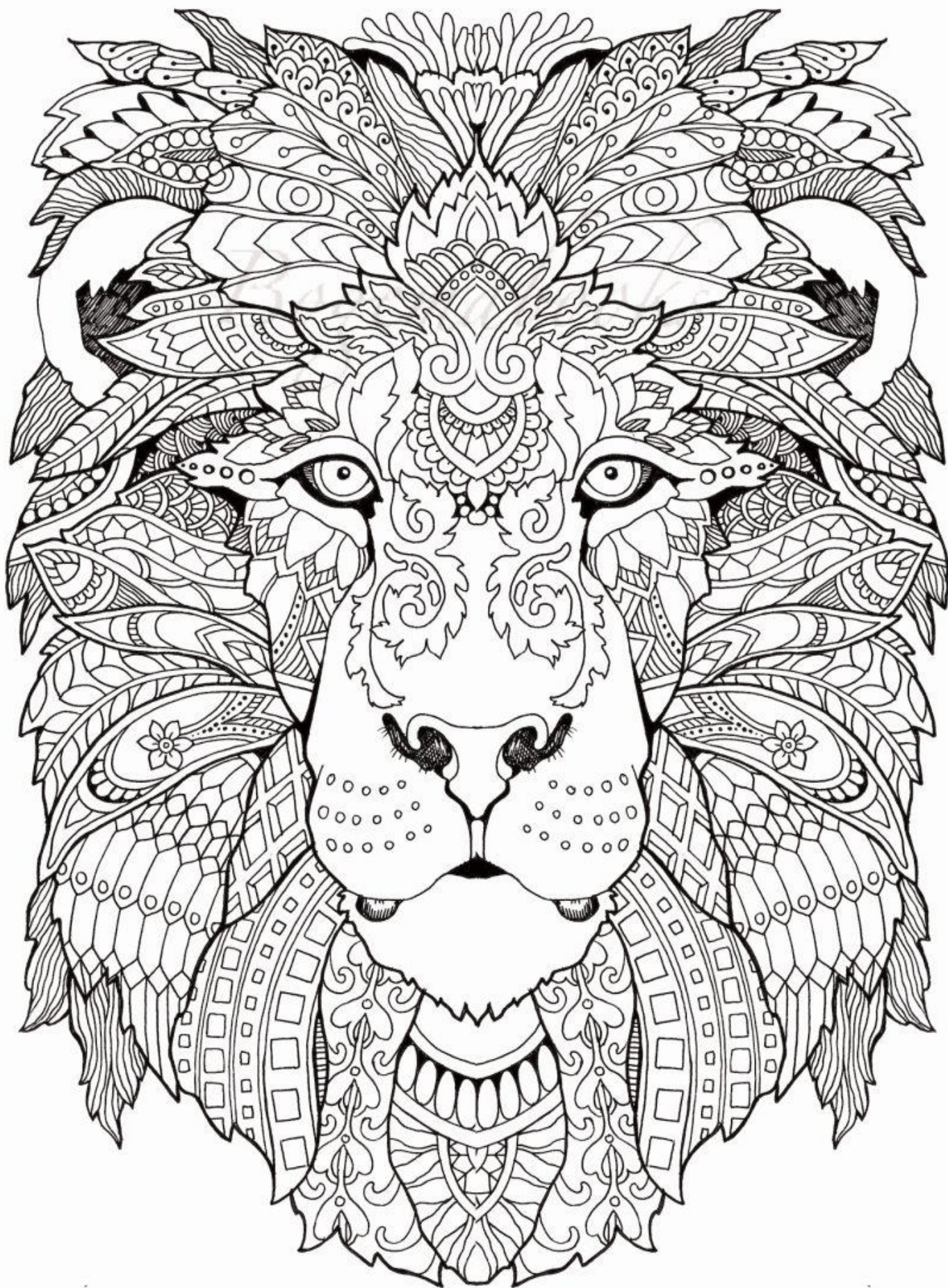
H \_ \_



\_ \_ \_ E



\_ \_ Y \_ \_ \_ \_ N



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# Colour by numbers

1. PINK

3. PURPLE

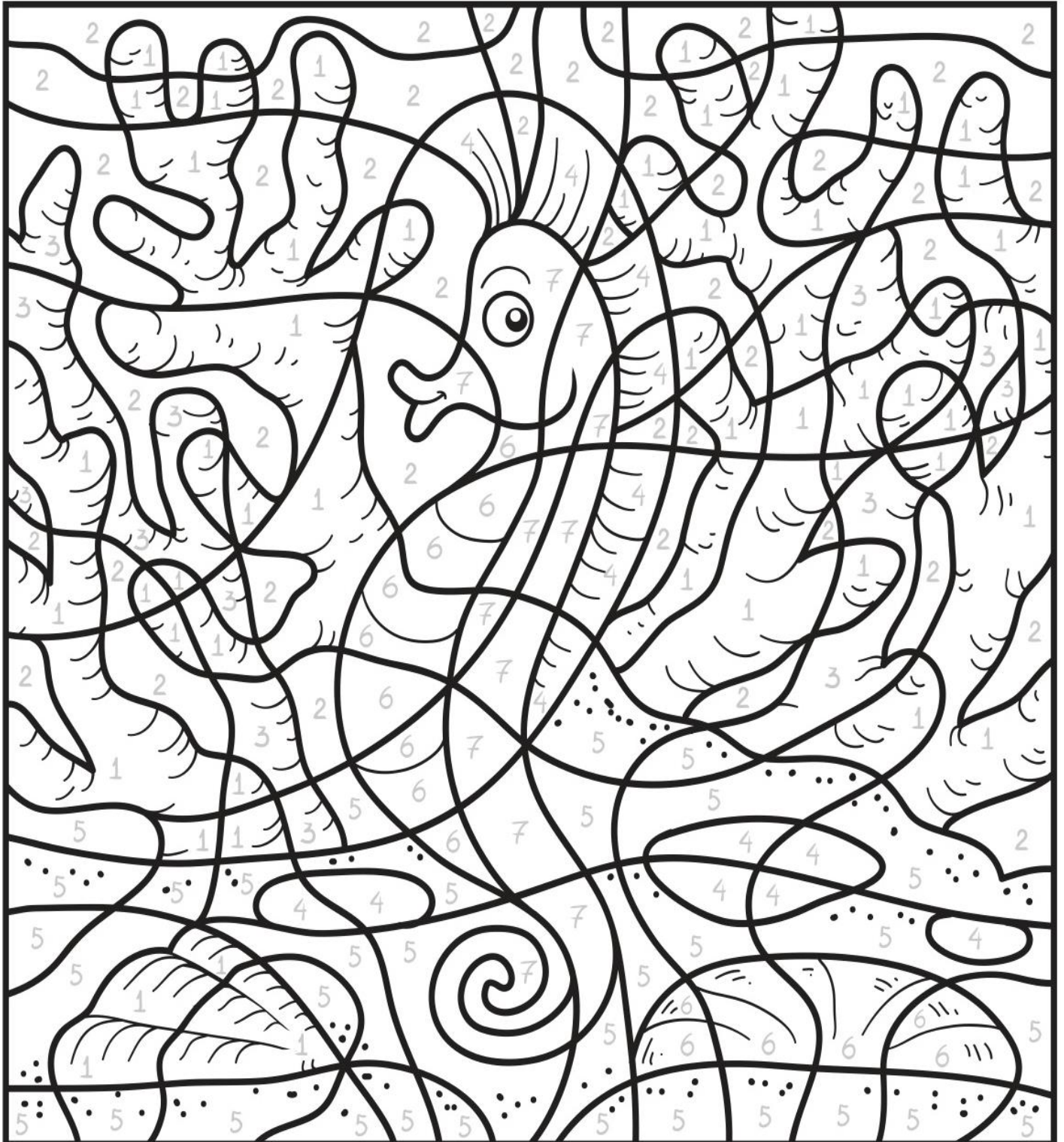
5. YELLOW

7. RED

2. BLUE

4. BROWN

6. ORANGE



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# Murmurations

This amazing sight can be seen at points in the UK from November to February at dusk and dawn.



Ham Wall reserve in Somerset is a popular spot for birders.

It's been called the greatest wildlife spectacle in Britain and is remarkable to witness. Studies suggest that starlings congregate in these remarkable 'murmurations' to deter possible predators, which are confused by the swirling masses.

Why these great congregations occur and how starlings know when to turn in unison without colliding, have been the subject of much debate.

From November to February, this amazing sight can be seen across Sussex and the rest of the UK. Brighton and Eastbourne are well known for their dramatic displays, but other coastal towns such as Bognor, Chichester and Hastings can occasionally host magnificent displays too. Elsewhere in the country spectacular displays are regularly seen over the Somerset Levels, Gretna Green, Blackpool Pier and the Fens of Cambridgeshire.

## How does a murmuration work?

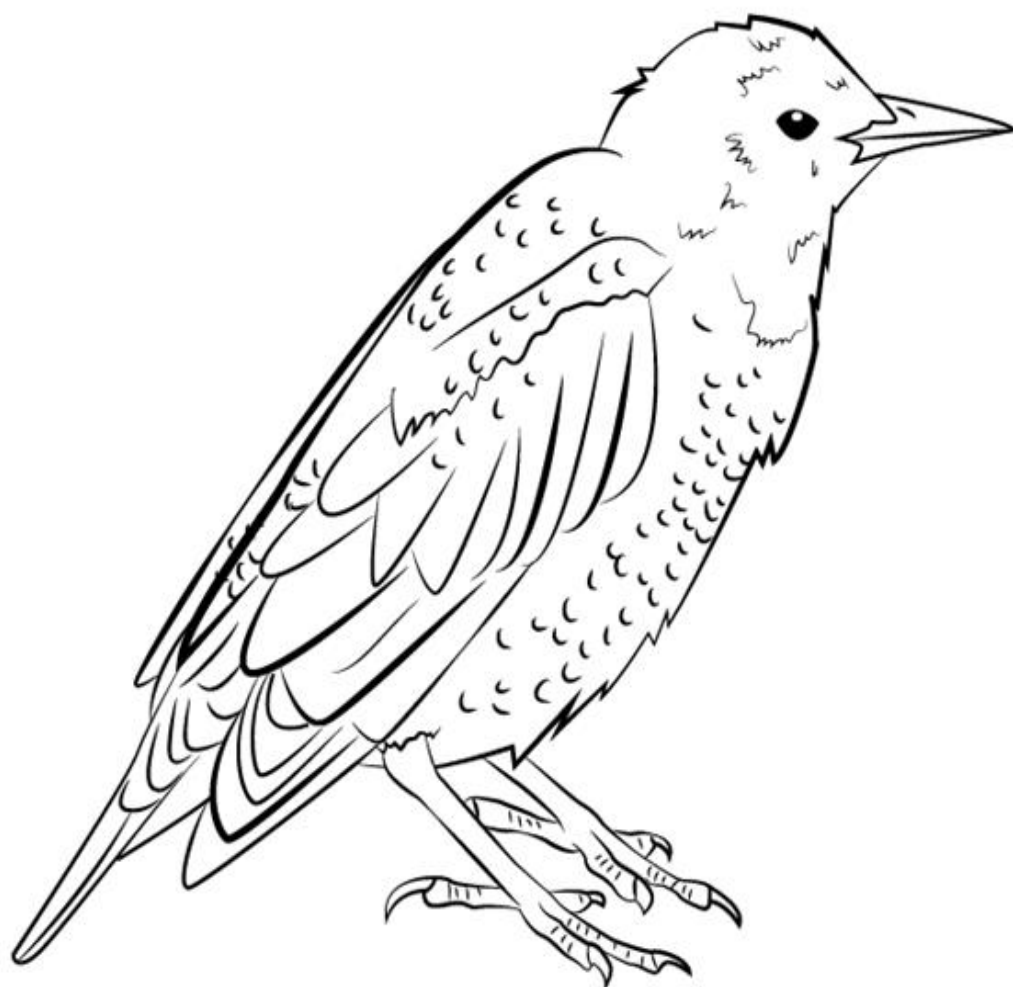
Starlings have extremely fast reaction times and can make changes in their flight direction in a split second. It is now generally thought that flocking helps to protect the starlings from predators. We all know the old saying that there's safety in numbers.

Put simply, the more starlings there are in a flock the smaller chance each individual has of being caught by an airborne predator. Studies have even shown that individual starlings move around within the flock and try to minimise their time on the edge where they are most vulnerable.

Although most murmurations look enormous, these annual flocks are quite small compared to what they used to be. In the UK, starling numbers have declined by over 60% in the last 50 years causing this species to be red listed as a bird of high conservation concern.

It is likely that this population crash is due to the shortage of food and nesting sites that comes with more intensive agriculture, increased urban development and the reduction of outbuildings and open eaves on houses.

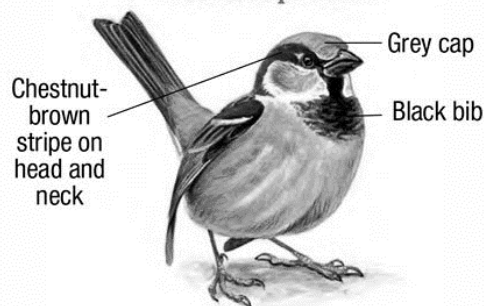




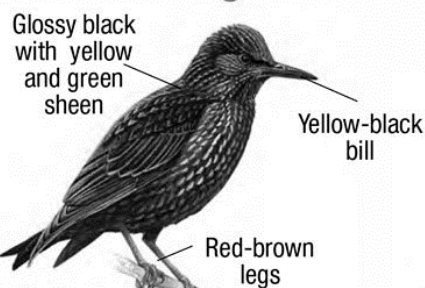
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# Guide to the top 10 garden birds

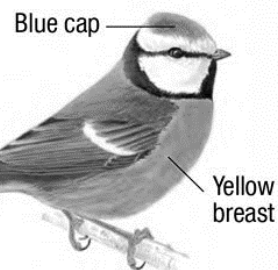
House sparrow



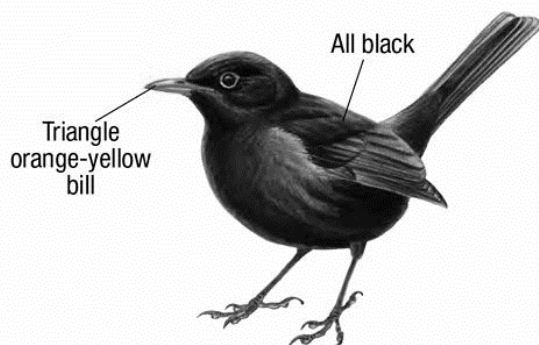
Starling



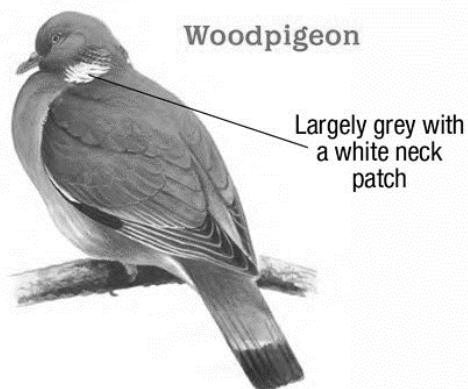
Blue tit



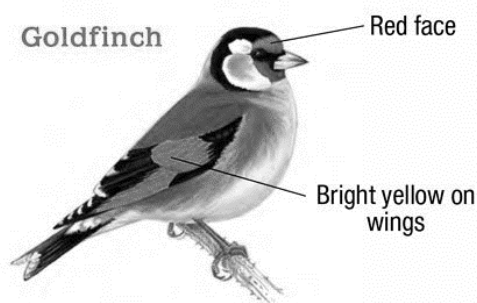
Blackbird



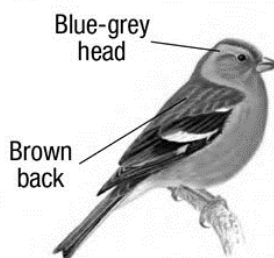
Woodpigeon



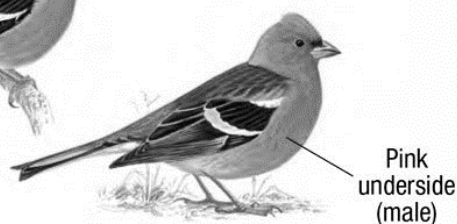
Goldfinch



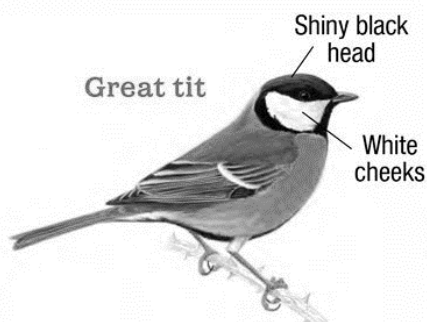
Blue-grey head



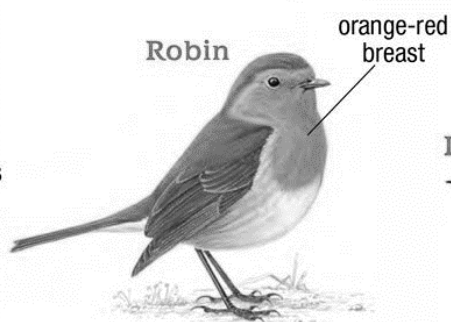
Chaffinch



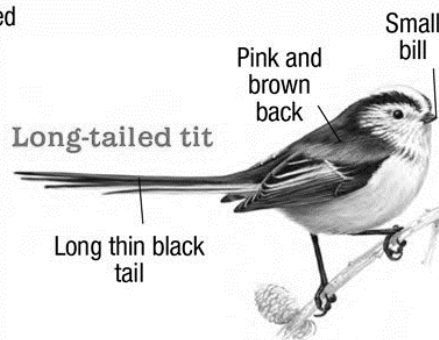
Great tit



Robin



Long-tailed tit



# Song Titles Quiz

Draw a line to connect the two parts of these song titles

Hey

Hotel

Bohemian

Daisy

Heartbreak

Choo-Choo

Wild

Danube

Dancing

Calling

Daisy

Dolly

London

River

Chatanooga

Queen

Blue

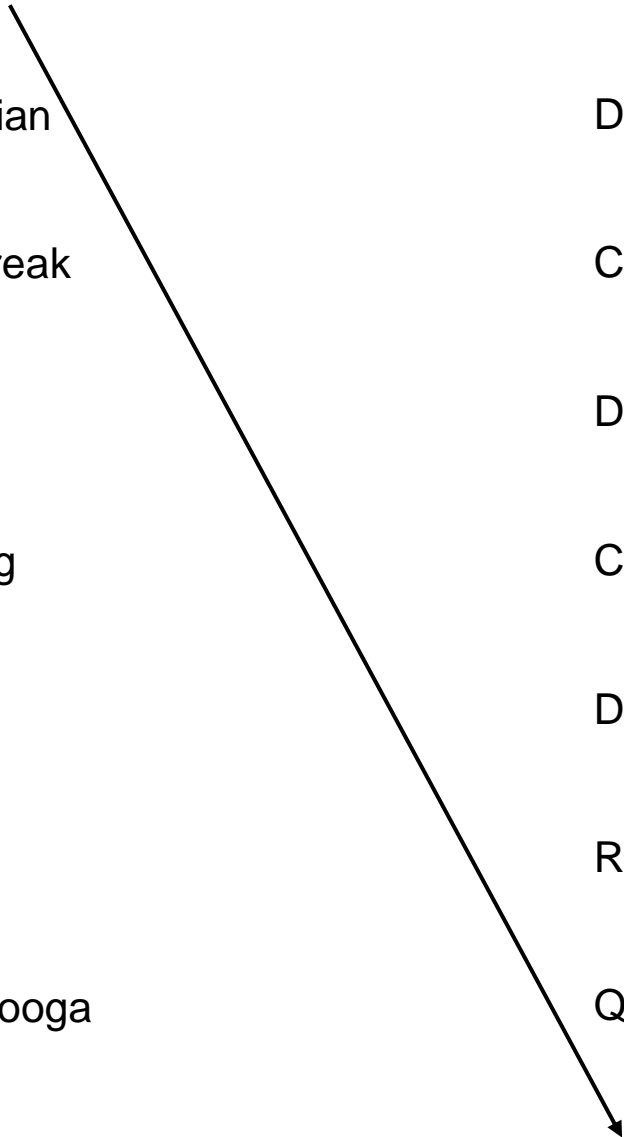
Jude

Hello

Rover

Moon

Rhapsody



**Talking point:** What are your favourite songs?

# Cockney Rhyming Slang

Many of us know that "bubble bath" is Cockney rhyming slang for laugh but how many know the meaning of the phrases? The historic native wit of this east end London community often has an interesting logic to its phrases. Rather than simply a rhyming association, the slang reflects meaning in the expressions themselves.

## **"Apples and pears" (stairs)**

To the Cockney, the phrase "steps and stairs" describes the idea of gradation. Every good costermonger has skill in displaying the front of his stall. Apples and pears, when in season, are common on each barrow and, when polished, create an arresting display.

## **"Army and navy" (gravy)**

As gravy was plentiful at mealtimes in both services.

## **"Borrow and beg" (egg)**

A term that enjoyed a fresh lease of life during the second world war and the food-rationing period.

## **"Box of toys" (noise)**

As a box of toys, particularly a new one given as a present at Christmas time, causes a great deal of noise to be made.

## **"Cuts and scratches" (matches)**

Many imported safety matches were of poor quality and often failed to ignite when scratched against the side of the box.

## **"Pleasure and pain" (rain)**

Both a matter of pleasure for gardeners and pain for sufferers from rheumatism.

## **"Early hours" (flowers)**

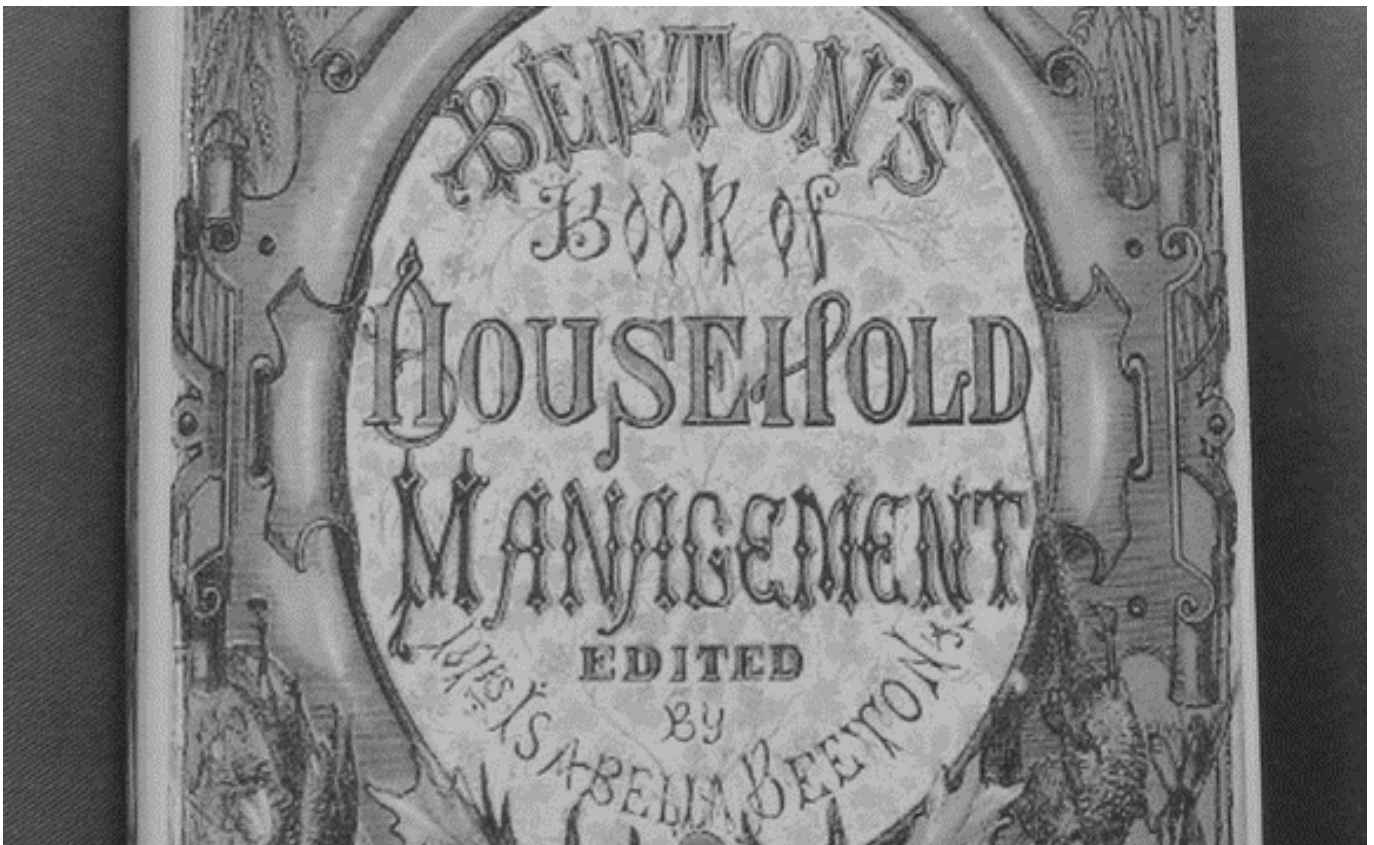
As flower buyers have to keep very early hours to buy their produce at Covent Garden flower market.

<b>Talking point:</b> What other rhyming slang phrases can you think of?
--

## Victorian Pancakes

For Pancake day, the team at Brunel's SS Great Britain have decided to delve into the library and find out how the Victorians would have made their pancakes. It is believed that the tradition of Shrove Tuesday and the eating of pancakes at the start of Lent stretches back for many centuries. In that time the recipe for pancakes has hardly changed.

Amongst the many great books on maritime history and Brunel held within the David MacGregor Library, we have a collection of books that shed light on Victorian life. One of the best-selling books of its time is Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management. Published in 1861 the book had sold nearly two million copies by 1868 alone. It is a guide on how an aspirational Victorian woman should care for her home and her husband. Some of the recipes are very different than today (such as explaining that pasta should be boiled for an hour and forty-five minutes), but many are very similar, including the recipe for pancakes.





## Victorian recipe to make pancakes (from 1861)

Eggs, flour, milk; to every egg allow 1oz of flour about 1 gill (half a pint) of milk, ½ tablespoon of salt.

Ascertain that the eggs are fresh; break each one separately in a cup; whisk them well, put them into a basin with flour, salt, and a few drops of milk, and beat the whole to a perfectly smooth batter; then add by degrees the remainder of the milk. The proportion of this latter ingredient must be regulated by the size of the eggs; but the batter, when ready for frying, should be of the consistency of thick cream.

Place a small frying pan in the fire to get hot (**Please do not use a fire if following this recipe!!**); let it be delicately clean, or the pancakes will stick, and, when quite hot, put into it a small piece of butter, allowing about ½oz to each pancake. When it is melted, pour in the batter, about half a teacup full to a pan 4 inches in diameter, and dry it for about 4 minutes, or until it is nicely brown on one side. By only pouring in a small quantity of batter, and so making the pancakes thin, the necessity of turning (an operation rather difficult to unskilful cooks) is obviated.

When the pancake is done, sprinkle over it some pounded sugar, roll it up in the pan, and take it out with a large slice, and place it on a dish before the fire. Proceed in this manner until sufficient are cooked for a dish; then send them quickly to table, and continue to send in further quantity, as pancakes are never good unless eaten almost immediately they come from the frying pan.

The batter may be flavoured with a little grated lemon rind, or the pancakes may have preserve rolled in them instead of sugar. Send sifted sugar and a cut lemon to table with them. To render the pancakes very light, the yolks and whites of the eggs should be beaten desperately, and the whites added the last thing to the batter before frying.

Time - from 4 to 5 minutes for a pancake that does not require turning; from 6 to 8 minutes for a thicker one.

Average cost for three persons 6d (price from 1861)

SEASONABLE at any time but traditionally served on Shrove Tuesday.

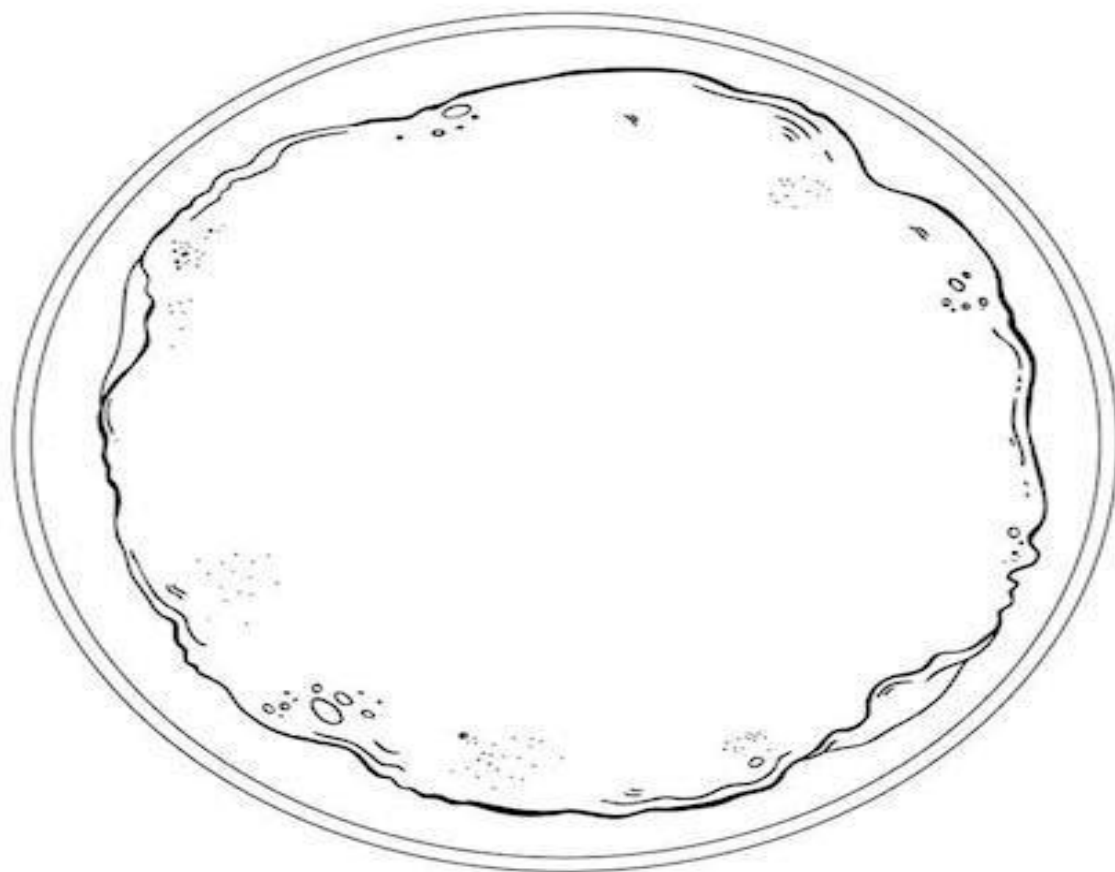
For those that are feeling a little more decadent and perhaps have a few more shillings to spare, Mrs. Beeton offers a recipe for a more luxurious pancake.

### **Richer Pancake (recipe from 1861)**

Ingredients: 6 eggs, 1 pint of cream,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb of sugar loaf. 1 glass of sherry,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoonful of grated nutmeg. Flour

Ascertain that the eggs are extremely fresh, beat them well, strain and mix with them the cream, pounded sugar, wine, nutmeg, and as much flour as will make the batter nearly as thick as that for ordinary pancakes. Make the frying pan hot, wipe it clean with a clean cloth, pour in sufficient batter to make a thin pancake, and fry it for about 5 minutes.

Average cost with cream at 1s. Per pint, 2s 3D (price from 1861)





# Food on Board the SS Great Britain

Food was clearly very important to passengers travelling on the SS Great Britain. It is mentioned frequently in passengers' diaries. Food was prepared in the ship's Galley (kitchen). Live animals such as sheep, pigs and chickens were kept on board to provide fresh meat and one cow would be taken on each voyage to provide fresh milk for First Class passengers only.

Mary Crompton's diary tells us that First Class passengers enjoyed meals four times a day at 9am, 12pm, 4pm and 7.30pm. Breakfasts were described by Annie Henning, a passenger who travelled in 1853, as "wonderful in the way of meat." Her menu choices included hot beef steak, bacon, cold ham, tongue, mutton chops, herrings, eggs, tea, coffee and toast. Dinner was a grand affair with soup followed by a choice of 22 main courses, five vegetable dishes, nine pastries and six desserts on the menu, all served in the luxurious First Class Dining Saloon.

Passengers travelling in Steerage Class took it in turns to eat in small groups on tables next to their accommodation. A 'mess leader' would collect food and water rations from the Pantry and take them to their group at meal times. Their menu was also much less varied. Breakfast consisted of ship's biscuits and sometimes porridge. Main meals were often salt-preserved meat or fish, potatoes and a boiled pudding made of flour, known as 'duff'. One passenger complained that the meat was extremely salty and tough to eat. Each week, Steerage passengers were given a small piece of cheese and sometimes even jam - a great luxury. Allan Gilmour, a Steerage passenger, described an occasion when Steerage passengers helped the sailors to catch a porpoise and were allowed a share of its fresh meat.



# Food On Board Wordsearch

Can you find the dishes listed below? They were all served on the *SS Great Britain* on 6 July 1861

T	X	S	L	W	O	F	D	E	S	I	A	R	B	G
H	A	R	O	A	S	T	G	O	O	S	E	F	O	F
M	C	O	R	N	E	D	T	O	N	G	U	E	I	I
E	Q	R	V	S	E	T	T	E	L	E	M	O	L	B
N	K	P	V	M	W	A	Y	G	H	D	J	W	E	G
E	V	G	W	S	E	G	N	A	R	O	C	H	D	A
S	E	O	T	A	T	O	P	D	E	H	S	A	M	E
I	Y	M	A	C	O	G	F	D	O	H	M	P	U	W
K	F	B	O	I	L	E	D	R	I	C	E	N	T	F
Z	G	N	I	D	D	U	P	M	U	L	P	D	T	O
E	C	U	R	R	I	E	D	F	O	W	L	Z	O	I
L	S	T	E	W	E	D	D	U	C	K	S	D	N	D
K	P	K	X	C	O	R	N	E	D	B	E	E	F	A
P	P	E	H	W	A	P	Q	N	Z	E	L	Q	U	G
L	R	I	C	E	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	H	N	W

Boiled mutton  
Boiled rice  
Braised fowls  
Corned beef  
Corned tongue  
Curried fowl  
Mashed potatoes

Omelettes  
Oranges  
Plum pudding  
Rice pudding  
Roast goose  
Stewed ducks



## **The Oak**

**Alfred Lord Tennyson**

Live thy Life,  
Young and old,  
Like yon oak,  
Bright in spring,  
Living gold;

Summer-rich  
Then; and then  
Autumn-changed  
Soberer-hued  
Gold again.

All his leaves  
Fall'n at length,  
Look, he stands,  
Trunk and bough  
Naked strength.

## **Hope**

**Joseph Addison**

Our lives, discoloured with our present woes,  
May still grow white and shine with happier hours.  
So the pure limped stream, when foul with stains  
Of rushing torrents and descending rains,  
Works itself clear, and as it runs refines,  
till by degrees the floating mirror shines;  
Reflects each flower that on the border grows,  
And a new heaven in it's fair bosom shows.

### **February Quiz Answers**

- 1) True
- 2) Latin
- 3) Enterprise
- 4) False
- 5) Academy Awards-  
(The Oscars)
- 6) China
- 7) a. Mardi Gras

### **Cryptic objects Blockbusters answers**

- T – Towel
- N – Needle
- C – Coin
- U – Umbrella
- E – Envelope
- C – Coin

### **Pancake Word Scramble**

1. Lemon
2. Frying Pan
3. Eggs
4. Sugar
5. Spatula
6. Flip
7. Syrup
8. Milk
9. Mmmm

### **Yellow Quiz**

1. Yellowstone
2. Yellow Fever
3. Yellow Brick Road
4. Yellow pages
5. Yellow Submarine
6. Yellow Jersey
7. Yellow Polka Dot Bikini
8. Big Yellow Taxi
9. Yellow Card
10. Yellow River

### **Fill in the blanks**

- 1) Umbrella
- 2) Snowdrops
- 3) Hat
- 4) Tree
- 5) Frying Pan

### **Song Title Quiz**

- Hey – Jude
- Bohemian – Rhapsody
- Heartbreak – Hotel
- Wild – Rover
- Dancing – Queen
- Daisy – Daisy
- London – Calling
- Chatanooga– Choo-Choo
- Blue – Danube
- Hello – Dolly
- Moon - River