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COMPREHENSION NINJA

MASTERING COMPREHENSION: Photocopiable Activities to Improve Reading

FOR AGES 9–10



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12 THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Each year in July, more than 200 cyclists from 22 teams compete in an epic bicycle race across France: the Tour de France. The race winds its way through sprawling cities, cobbled streets, picturesque countryside and even snow-capped mountains to its climax in Paris. It is divided into stages of different lengths and with types of track.

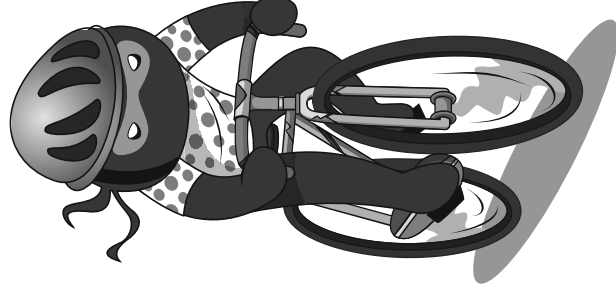
The first race

The race was first held in July 1903 and was won by a French man, Maurice Garin. Over 100 years later, the Tour has become one of the most high-profile sporting events in the world.

Winning jerseys

Instead of medals, cyclists in the Tour de France are awarded jerseys for their achievements in different categories as the race goes on.

- The yellow jersey is awarded to the rider with the lowest total time of all the stages that have been raced so far. At the end, this cyclist is the winner of the Tour de France.
- The green jersey is awarded to the rider who has accumulated the most points by finishing high in individual stages of the race and winning sprints.
- The polka-dot jersey is awarded to the best-performing racer in stages where difficult hills and mountains are involved.
- The white jersey is awarded to the best-placed rider under 26 years of age at the



Mark Cavendish, unlike Wiggins, of the Tour de France are short, a thirty individual stages of the Tour. Chris Froome won four Tour de France in 2017, and the Giro d'Italia Championships, and was given a

Allegations

The Tour de France hasn't always been a human resilience. Some riders are and the sport has been rocked by performance-enhancing drugs. One of these drugs is called EPO. cells so it can absorb more oxygen for longer, giving them an unfair advantage. Perhaps the most famous conviction was Armstrong's. He won seven Tour de France after he tested positive for the drug. He finally admitted his sporting crimes.

Record winners

Winning the Tour de France is a difficult feat. Once just wasn't enough for some riders, some of whom won the



FILL IN THE GAP




MATCHING

Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

The white jersey is awarded to the best-placed rider _____ years of age at the end of each stage.

The _____ is awarded to the rider with the lowest total time of all the stages that have been raced so far.

The polka-dot jersey is awarded to the best-performing racer in stages where _____ and mountains are involved.

The green jersey is awarded to the rider who has accumulated the _____ by finishing high in individual stages of the race and winning sprints.

Perhaps the most famous _____ for use of EPO was American cyclist Lance Armstrong's.

EPO makes the body produce more red blood cells so it can absorb more _____. He won seven Tour de France titles, but had all of them _____ after he tested positive for the drug.

Some riders are apparently willing to do anything to win, and the sport has been rocked by allegations of _____ – mainly the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

He won _____ individual stages of the Tour de France, and was awarded an MBE in 2011.

Some of the stages of the Tour de France are short, and so are _____ for riders like him.

Mark Cavendish, unlike Wiggins, was a _____ sprint cyclist.

Draw a line with a ruler to match the

Bradley Wiggins
Philippa York
Mark Cavendish
Tour de France

Giro d'Italia 2018
MBE 2011
July 1903
Tour de France 2012

Chris Froome
Jacques Anquetil
Greg LeMond
Mark Cavendish

Lance Armstrong
green jersey



Label the description with the correct cyclist.

won the Tour de France in 1991 and 1994	
specialist sprinter	
1984 King of the Mountain	
won the Tour de France by over a minute	
drugs cheat	
won the Tour de France in 1957 and 1961	

Label the description with the correct jersey.

winner of the Tour de France	
hills and mountains	
lowest total time	
most points accumulated	
under 26	

Label the year with the correct winner.

1986	
------	--

Read the sentences. Put a tick in the which are *false*.

The Tour de France happens every year.

The Tour de France happens in Germany.

The Tour de France was first held in 2004.

Bradley Wiggins won the first Tour de France.

The race moves through cobbled towns.

Lance Armstrong had seven Tour de France titles.

Mark Cavendish is a specialist sprinter.

Bradley Wiggins won the Olympics and the Tour de France.

Chris Froome has won the Tour de France.

Mark Cavendish has won the Tour de France.

200 cyclists from 22 teams compete in the Tour de France.

The Tour de France is a car race.

People have used performance-enhancing drugs.

EPO builds larger muscles.



Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

In which month does the Tour de France take place?

January

May

July

September

How many teams compete in the Tour de France?

12

18

22

26

In which city does the Tour de France finish?

London

Lyon

Paris

Brussels

When was the Tour de France first held?

1991

1954

1918

1903

Which jersey is awarded to the best rider under the age of 26?

green

white

yellow

polka-dot

Which jersey is awarded to the rider who performs the best on difficult hills and mountains?

green

white

yellow

polka-dot

Who won the Tour de France in 1989?

Jacques Anquetil

Bernard Hinault

Greg LeMond

Miguel Indurain

Look at *The Tour de France*. Number the text. Look at the first line of each

The race was first held in July 1903, and

The Tour de France hasn't always been resilient.

Instead of medals, cyclists in the Tour of different categories as the race goes on.

Perhaps the most famous conviction for

Each year in July, more than 200 cyclists from France: the Tour de France.

Look at the table in *The Tour de France*. Order them as they appear in the table.

Chris Froome

Eddy Merckx

Miguel Indurain

Louison Bobet

Phillipe Thys

Look at *The Tour de France*. Number the text as it occurs in the text.



These questions are about *The Tour de France*.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that teams are fighting against each other to win.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that the race is very big and exciting.

Look at the 'Winning jerseys' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that riders earn points in each stage.

Look at the paragraph beginning 'Philippa York...'. Find and copy a word that suggests that the mountains are very tough to ride up.

Look at the paragraph beginning 'Chris Froome...'. Find and copy a word that suggests that Chris Froome finished in third place in the 2017 World Championships.

Look at the 'Allegations' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that cycling was negatively affected by cheating allegations.

Read the paragraphs below and the

Allegations

The Tour de France hasn't always been a test of and human resilience. Some people have won the win, and the sport has been accused of use of performance-enhancing drugs.

One of these drugs is called EPO. It gives riders more energy for longer, giving them an extra boost.

Perhaps the most famous cyclist to be caught was Lance Armstrong's. He won seven Tour de France titles, but his victory was invalidated after he tested positive for EPO. After he had used it, he finally admitted to using it.

Underline or highlight a word that means 'to accuse'.

Underline or highlight a word that means 'to give extra energy'.

Underline or highlight a word that means 'to admit'.

Underline or highlight a word that means 'to accuse'.

Underline or highlight a word that means 'to give extra energy'.

FIND AND COPY

used / waste
preserve
designated
degrade / rot
illegally
reduce
refunding
reusable

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

customer
innovations
paperless
refunding
reverse
returned

12. THE TOUR DE FRANCE

FILL IN THE GAP

- under 26
- yellow jersey
- difficult hills
- most points
- conviction
- oxygen
- invalidated
- cheating

MATCHING

Bradley Wiggins	Olympic gold medal winner
Philippa York	King of the Mountain specialist sprinter
Mark Cavendish	world's most famous race
Giro d'Italia 2018	Chris Froome
MBE 2011	Mark Cavendish
July 1903	first race
Tour de France 2012	Bradley Wiggins
Chris Froome	2013
Jacques Anquetil	1957
Greg LeMond	1990
Mark Cavendish	never won
Lance Armstrong	seven Tour de France titles invalidated
green jersey	most points
EPO	produces more red

TRUE OR FALSE

- True
- False
- False
- False
- True
- True
- True
- True
- True
- True
- False
- True
- False
- True
- True

MULTIPLE CHOICE

July
22

Paris

1903

white

polka-dot

Greg LeMond

Miguel Indurain

Lance Armstrong

red blood cells

SEQUENCING

- 2, 4, 3, 5, 1
- 3, 1, 2, 5, 4
- 2, 4, 1, 3, 5

FIND AND COPY

compete
epic
accumulated
steep
bronze
rocked
invalidated
prolific

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

glory
denying
admitted
resilience
(performance-) enhancing
cheating

13. THE BRITISH EMPIRE

FILL IN THE GAP

British colonies
influence
United States

MATCHING

TRUE OR FALSE

- True
- True
- False
- False
- True

MULTIPLE CHOICE

over 3.5 million

SEQUENCING

- 4, 2, 3, 1

FIND AND COPY

profitable
voluntarily

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

regained
achieved

14. J.K. ROWLING

FILL IN THE GAP

seven
translated
Lifetime

MATCHING

J.K. Rowling born	near Bristol
taught English	Portugal
relocated to	Edinburgh
had the idea	on a train

LABEL

2016

2018

2012

2007

over 75

12

TRUE OR FALSE

- True
- True
- True
- False
- False

MULTIPLE CHOICE

2.65 million

SEQUENCING

- 1, 4, 2, 3

MATCHING

targets at a distance	archery
balance, rhythm and determination	kayaking
requires a harness	zip lines
combines fitness and fun	orienteering

LABEL

bushcraft
crate climbing

kayaking

night line

orienteering

abseiling

TRUE OR FALSE

- True
- True
- False
- True
- False

MULTIPLE CHOICE

five stars

SEQUENCING

- 1, 4, 3, 2

FIND AND COPY

adrenaline-filled
collapse

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

gained
navigation

16. ICEBERGS

FILL IN THE GAP

glaciers
catastrophe
trickle

MATCHING

iceberg creation process	calving
icebergs the size of cars	growlers
icebergs the size of houses	berg bits
the shape of an iceberg	'tabular' or 'non-tabular'