

Colourful collective nouns

A gaggle of geese sounds like the cackling noise that geese make. A leap of leopards – is how the strong running movement of leopards looks.

■ Think of related sights and sounds as you invent collective nouns.

A _____ of clouds.

A _____ of clocks.

A _____ of fireworks.

A _____ of socks.

A _____ of apples.

A _____ of cakes.

A _____ of feathers.

A _____ of snakes.

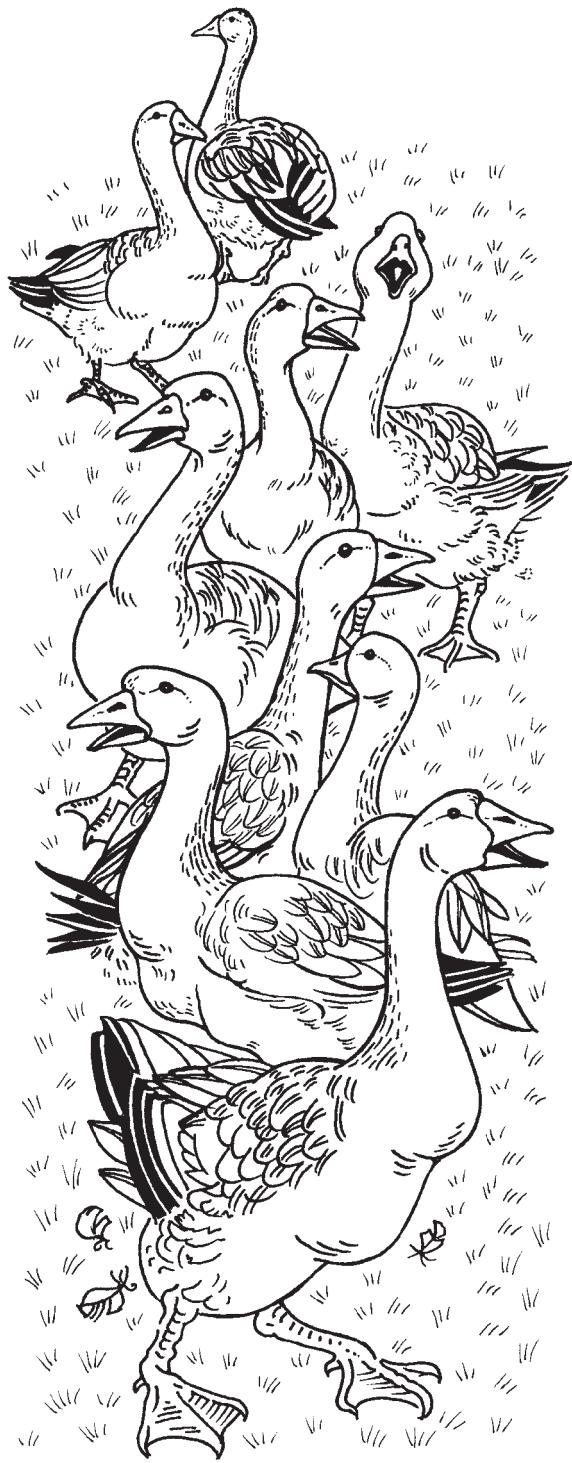
A _____ of crayons.

A _____ of bricks.

A _____ of pillows.

A _____ of tricks.

■ Read them aloud. You may find you have written a poem!

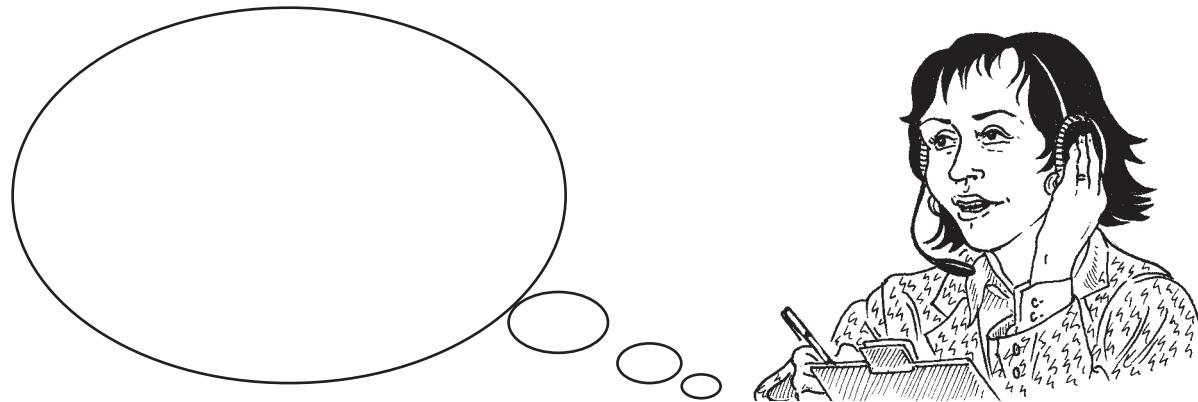


Poetry as conversation

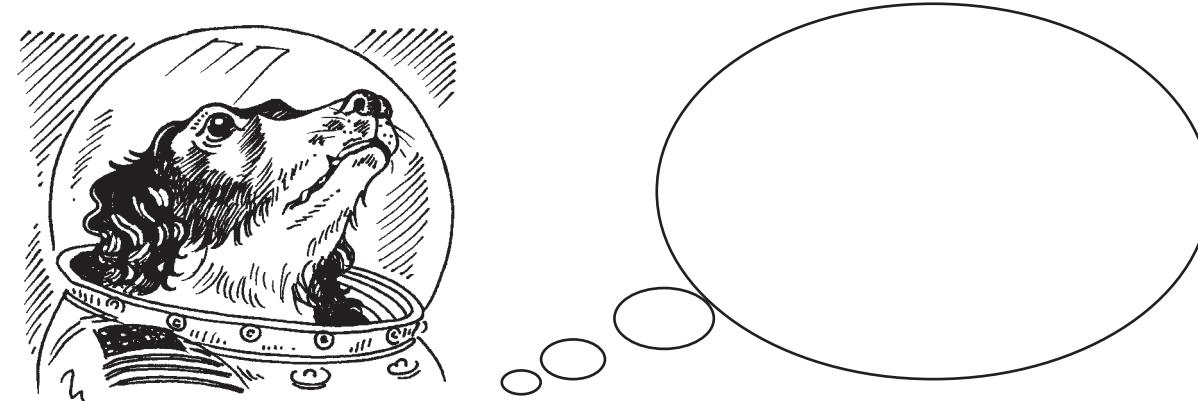
- Read "First Dog on the Moon" by David Orme.
- The interviewer (on Earth) and the dog (on the Moon) speak in contrasting tones. The interviewer's questions are very casual, unremarkable and specific. Give examples of the interviewer's informal words and style of speech:

- The dog's replies are enigmatic, mysterious and vague. For example, it is often said that dogs can smell fear. What sort of fear does the dog on the Moon smell? Quote from the poem:

- What effect do the dog's answers have on the interviewer, as he says, OK, OK...?



- What effect do the dog's answers have on you – the reader?



Spellhorn

Spellhorn lowered his horn right down till the tip was in the water. The sea boiled, gushing up a hiss of steam. The snakes reared up, lashing out again and again with their tongues, spitting, leaping. Spellhorn dipped his horn again, and this time there was a clang in the sea, like the chiming of hundreds of iron bells, a deep booming that seemed to echo under the ocean. One by one the snakes curled away from him. They lowered their heads and swam out in a wide half-circle away from him, and the sun caught the dazzle of their flashing brilliance. They slid up on to the beach and the rocks at the far end of the shore, and they were the colours of jewels, amethyst and emerald and topaz, glittering in coils.

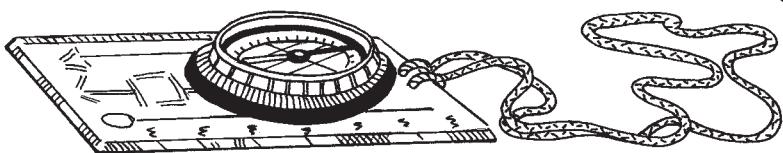
...

In the swirls of her mind's eye she saw a dark cave. Moonbats hung in it, opening out their leathery winds. On the damp floor of the cave a small girl sat: the child Flight. The child was not afraid, she was laughing. One of the moonbats swooped down and the Flightchild clambered on to its back. It rose up slowly and she spurred him on and out of the cave with kicks and shouts. The other moonbats swarmed out of the cave after them. They swirled out into the sky and headed through the night to the black trees of the Bad Woods. As they hovered, they lit up the earth with the light of their wings. A pale creature stood alone under the trees. As they plunged nearer to it the Flightchild on the moonbat leader's back shrieked with joy. "Kill him!" she shouted. "Kill the unicorn!"

Berlie Doherty

MAPS

by Jane Russell



Is your house on the map? If it is a large-scale Ordnance Survey (OS) map, it will show blocks of houses and individual buildings. On a small-scale map, your house will be part of a mass of colour, indicating a built-up area. Maps for different purposes are drawn to different scales.

Every map is printed with the north at the top. A weather vane or a compass will tell you, approximately, which direction you are looking. That will help you to orientate yourself on the map.

Maps serve many different purposes. Road

maps help drivers. Maps in retail precincts help shoppers. Often, these have an arrow symbol saying YOU ARE HERE. Many maps show more than just places and directions. Some have contour lines. These show mountains and valleys and how steep they are (gradient). Other maps show things as diverse as annual rainfall or population (the number of people per square mile). Maps may have very specific purposes. For example, maps of the night sky show star constellations and their positions relative to Earth at different times of the year.

Scale

- On a small-scale map such as a road map, one centimetre on the page may cover one kilometre on the ground.
- On a large-scale map, as much as four centimetres may cover only one kilometre. On this scale, the map-maker (cartographer) can show more detail. This scale is useful for walkers and cyclists. It enables them to identify on the map features of the landscape they can see.

Contour Lines

- These show the gradient of hills and valleys on a relief map. The closer together the lines, the steeper the hill; the further apart; the gentler the slope.

Symbols

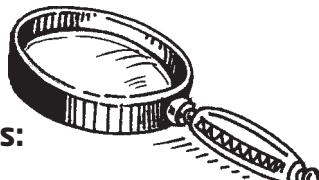
- However large the scale of the map, it is not a picture – although cartographers use aerial photographs to help them. Maps use symbols to represent real objects. Each block of buildings is represented by rectangular

shapes – whatever their style or purpose. Every picnic site may look different but they are all represented by the same symbol on the map.

Some features you can find on a large-scale map:

• In the country:	• In the town:
Gravel Pit	Bus or Coach station
Level crossing without gates	Footbridge
Mine	Police Station
Site of a battle	Post Office
Well or spring	School

Useful References:



www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

www.mapzone.co.uk – an interactive fun site