

Read this tall tale about Regina Metkard. Then answer short response questions about the tall tale. Write the answers for Numbers 1 to 6.



REGINA METKARD BEGINS



You've probably heard about the famous Australian folk hero, Sir Alfred Metkard. You might even know about Lady Regina Metkard, his wife, and their travels around the world onboard their yacht, the Lamington.

But long before she met Sir Alfred, Regina had adventures of her own. Regina's parents were famous explorers, and she accompanied them on many journeys around the world. Her childhood was very different to most others. By the time she could walk she had been to every continent. When they first came to Australia, she was thirteen.

Regina's mother was very interested in finding out about the great sea that many people at the time thought was in the middle of Australia. They set out on an expedition to the centre of the continent in a long wagon train. Regina came with them.

Travelling around the world with her parents and being an only child had made Regina a spoiled brat. She insisted on getting her own wagon in the train. She also made sure that it travelled behind her parents. Their wagon went first. Next were the wagons carrying the water and food. Regina's wagon came last. This seemed like a good idea at the time. It would turn out to be a mistake.

They travelled for days. One afternoon, Regina was awoken by the feeling of hot sand streaming into her wagon. It had become bogged while she was asleep, and now it was sinking. Thinking quickly, Regina had to use cups, bowls and anything she could find to try and bail the sand out of the wagon. The more sand that came in, the more likely it was that the wagon would sink completely. She even took off her shoes and used them to hurl sand out of the windows. Regina was stubborn, but even she realised that it was a lost cause. At the last moment, she managed to escape the wagon just as it and her horses disappeared completely into the desert floor. She lay panting in the hot sand.

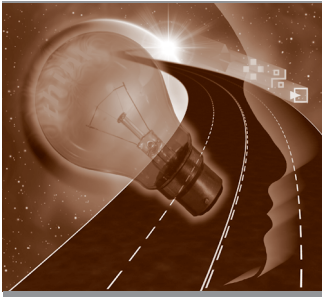
Regina looked around, but she couldn't see any of the other wagons ahead of her. Because hers was at the back of the line, they hadn't noticed her trouble and had gone on without her. She was stuck in the middle of the desert, barefoot, with no food, water or transport.

A less stubborn girl might have just given up. But Regina wasn't ready to die yet. The story of her adventures from this point on would become legendary. With one last look at the spot where her wagon had sunk, she hitched up her huge dress and started to walk.

1. What is the meaning of the word *accompanied* in the tall tale?

2. How was Regina's childhood different from the average childhood?

3. In the wagon train, who went first?







Level Three

ADD TO IT

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes the answer to a question isn't clearly stated in one place, and you can't find pieces of the answer to put together. Don't give up. You can still answer the question. The answer isn't directly stated in the passage, but there are hints. Look for clues or other details that will help you figure out the answer. Use the clues, along with what you already know, to figure out the answer.

-  FIND IT
-  CONNECT IT
-  ADD TO IT
-  GO BEYOND IT

Modelled Instruction

ADD TO IT

Reread this version of a fable about the Ant and the Chrysalis. After you read, you will answer a question about the fable. The answer to this question isn't clearly stated in one place, and you can't find pieces of answer information. Even though the answer isn't directly stated in the passage, there are hints, or clues. Look for the clues or other details that will help you figure out the answer. Use the clues, along with what you already know, to figure out the answer.



Aesop's The Ant and the Chrysalis

One day long ago, an Ant was scurrying about as ants do when they search for food. On one of its wanderings through the garden, the Ant happened to pass a Chrysalis that was just about ready for its next stage of life. Just then, the Ant noticed the Chrysalis moving its tail. The Ant felt superior to the Chrysalis because it could not speed through the cool grass the way that the Ant could. As a result, the Ant started loudly proclaiming all the advantages it possessed that the Chrysalis didn't have. The Chrysalis could not scamper to the top of the tallest oak, but the Ant could. It could not sip dew from the petals of a flower as the Ant could. The Chrysalis was not free to roam like the Ant was. The poor Chrysalis was locked inside its shell as surely as a prisoner is locked within a jail. The Chrysalis listened as the Ant rambled on, but it left the charges unanswered.

A few days later, the Ant happened by the same spot where it had first noticed the Chrysalis. The Ant shaded its eyes against the blazing sun as it searched for the Chrysalis and was disappointed to see that where the Chrysalis had been there was simply a bedraggled shell. The Ant wondered what could have happened to the Chrysalis.

All of a sudden, the large jewel-coloured wings of a Butterfly blocked the sun. The Ant didn't recognise the Chrysalis any more. "Look at me!" the Butterfly exclaimed as it soared from flower to flower. "There is no need to pity me, Ant. You boasted that you could run and climb while I was temporarily a Chrysalis. Try your boasting now, and I'll listen as long as I can." And with that, the Butterfly rose gently skyward on the breeze. Higher and farther it flew until it was a speck in the sky, and then it was gone.

Moral: Appearances can deceive you.



Read this history article. Then answer multiple choice questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 6.



Getting To Federation

On 1 January 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was born. On this day, what had been separate colonies united and became states. The Australia we know today took shape. We were now one big country, rather than many separate little ones. Today we take it for granted that Australia has always been like this. But the road to Federation was not a quick or easy one.

The first movements to federate the Australian colonies went back as far as the 1850s. But they'd never really had much popular support. Most people weren't really interested in the idea, and it didn't become a big issue.

All this really changed in 1889. Henry Parkes was the long-serving and forceful premier of the largest colony, New South Wales. Parkes had been invited to speak at a banquet at the Tenterfield School of Arts. Tenterfield is a town in New South Wales. It was closer to big commercial areas in Queensland, over the border, than it was to Sydney. But because of the system existing before Federation, it couldn't trade with Queensland without having to pay stiff tariffs.

Parkes thought that this was ridiculous. On 24 October 1889, he gave a famous speech. It called for the Federation of the Australian colonies. This speech became known as the "Tenterfield Oration". Apart from trade, Parkes suggested another big reason to federate. This was the united defence of the whole of Australia.

The speech caused a change in the tide of public opinion. Suddenly Federation was something that was on everyone's minds. But it wouldn't happen easily. It would be more than ten years before the Federation Parkes had talked about would even come close to being a reality. Parkes himself would not live to see it, dying in 1896.

The 1890 Federation Conference was held a year later. But things did not go smoothly. People might have supported the idea in principle. But the individual colonies didn't really like the idea of a federal government that might take some of their power away. Also, often colonies didn't actually want to be able to trade cheaply with others. This meant less money for them.

There would be ten years of debate and two referenda before Federation finally became a reality. How well it actually works is shown in the Australia we all live in today. It's the most important event in Australian history.



<p>1. In the fifth paragraph, what does the phrase <i>a change in the tide</i> mean?</p> <p>(A) “changed many people’s minds” (B) “worked against itself” (C) “did the impossible” (D) “was only remembered for a little while”</p>	<p>4. If Henry Parkes hadn’t made the Tenterfield Oration, how might things have been different?</p> <p>(A) Federation might have never happened, or at least taken a lot longer. (B) Federation would have happened without the vote. (C) Henry Parkes might have become the premier of New South Wales. (D) Henry Parkes might not have died in 1896 and lived to see Federation.</p>
<p>2. In the third paragraph, what is the meaning of the word <i>tariffs</i>?</p> <p>(A) “travel costs” (B) “limits” (C) “taxes” (D) “responsibilities”</p>	<p>5. Which of these statements about the article expresses an opinion?</p> <p>(A) Tenterfield is a town in New South Wales. (B) On 1 January 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was born. (C) Parkes himself would not live to see it, dying in 1896. (D) It’s the most important event in Australian history.</p>
<p>3. What effect did colonies not wanting Federation have on the process?</p> <p>(A) It made the Federation process happen more quickly. (B) It meant that Federation would only happen if the colonies could be gotten rid of. (C) It made Federation happen a lot more slowly. (D) It meant the Tenterfield Oration became more important.</p>	<p>6. What is the main idea of the third paragraph in the article?</p> <p>(A) Tenterfield is in New South Wales. (B) Tariffs have to be paid. (C) Parkes was going to give a speech. (D) Parkes was invited to speak in Tenterfield, a town that had problems before Federation due to trade restrictions.</p>