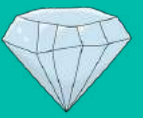




# Rockerbox News

Rockerbox News  
Sample Content Pack

**April 2022**



## The Bowman of Warwick Castle



Listen Aloud

20.4.2022

*An Interview with Lewis Copson, Bowman at Warwick Castle, England.*

Lewis Copson has many strings to his bow. He has to for his job as a Warwick Castle bowman. Copson must entertain and educate his audiences while demonstrating his archery skills with a traditional longbow. Lewis' day sees him bring history alive on the grounds of the castle. In medieval attire, Lewis gives live demonstrations of longbow archery, sprinkling historical facts into his performance.

In some moments Copson is a storyteller, in others a sportsman. "Being a performer is first and foremost", he says, but, as he turns his back to aim for the target, "there's a moment where I'm then the archer".

The whole time Lewis is thinking about how to make history exciting and relatable.

"The key is to imagine", he says. In his eyes, live reenactment is an essential way to make history exciting for people. Lewis has many ways of transporting an audience to a medieval battlefield. If it rains, he'll tell them to "imagine that each raindrop is an arrow, falling every few seconds".

Lewis needs to adapt in order to reach different audiences. With some attendees, his go-to comparison is clay pigeon shooting; with others, it's the video game Minecraft. "I'd like people to look at history as stories", he says. "If you want to know incredible stories, look in history books".



# Rockerbox News Diamond Level



Archery was a bigger part of life than you might expect. “It was the law that every single lower-born person in the 13th Century was expected to provide their child with a bow and four arrows from age six to age seventeen”. Parents could be jailed for up to eight days for not doing so.

Though Lewis was always drawn to archery, his path to Warwick Castle was a surprising one. He worked as a Christmas elf in a seasonal show, and as a ghost in the castle’s ghost tower.

As someone who used to operate the castle’s portcullis, Lewis’ metaphor for his job is appropriate; “A bowman opens the gate to history”.



## Check Your Knowledge

1. Live reenactment is essential because

it simplifies events

it makes history exciting

it gives history credibility

it enriches understanding

history books are boring

it revives historical sports

2. In the 13th Century, children had to be provided with a bow and four arrows from the age of:

five to seventeen

six to seventeen

nine to nineteen

six to twenty-one

three to seventeen

ten to twelve

3. How might Lewis capture the attention of a young gamer?

he lets them fire his bow

he makes their parents tell them

he gives them a game to play

he compares archery to Minecraft

he talks about Robin Hood

he tells them a joke



## *Check Your Knowledge*

4. Which of Lewis' past jobs inspired his summary of his current job?

ghost

Christmas elf

photographer

bowman

portcullis operator

teacher

### **Discuss as a class:**

Have you ever been to a live reenactment?

What other important historical events could be taught through reenactment?

Why is it important for us to know about history?



## Floating Solar Panels



Listen Aloud

22.4.2022

*Written in partnership with The Energy Mix, a Canadian news site specialising in climate change, energy and the shift off carbon.*

A considerable amount of Africa's energy comes from hydroelectric reservoirs.

However, hydroelectric reservoirs can be hindered by climate change. Global warming can affect rainfall patterns and lead to longer droughts. This deprives the reservoirs of the water that they use to create electricity.

What if these reservoirs could also be made into a source of solar energy? Researchers in Africa set out to do exactly that.

The researchers built rafts that can float on the water in the reservoirs. These rafts were then covered in solar panels, which convert sunlight into electricity. This allows the reservoirs to generate energy through both sunlight and water.

The researchers concluded that use of these panels could increase the energy produced by the reservoirs by 50%. This increase could be achieved by covering just 1% of Africa's hydroelectric reservoirs with floating solar panels.

By covering up the water in the reservoirs, these floating solar panels could even protect against evaporation during droughts.

**Hydroelectric reservoirs:** hydroelectric reservoirs create energy using water. Flowing water turns a turbine, which powers a generator. This generates electricity in a green manner.



## Check Your Knowledge

1. How can climate change impact Africa's energy supplies?

deprive wind turbines of wind

storms damage pylons

it threatens water supplies

heat floods the reservoirs

it can melt solar panels

water flows out of the reservoir

2. Thanks to the rafts, the reservoirs can now:

create electricity from water

generate only solar energy

allow locals to fish

create two types of energy

gather more rainwater

prevent floods

3. How do the rafts counteract water loss?

they stop animals drinking it

they collect rain

they lower temperatures

they deflect sunlight

they stop water evaporating

they speed up evaporation

### Discuss as a class:

Why is finding different energy sources important?

Would a solution like this work where you live? Why?



## Floating Solar Panels



Listen Aloud



22.4.2022

*Written in partnership with The Energy Mix, a Canadian news site specialising in climate change, energy and the shift off carbon.*

Across Africa, a huge amount of electricity is generated from reservoirs. The movement of water generates the electricity.

However, climate change has led to less regular rainfall which makes it more difficult to produce the electricity. Researchers have found a way to use the reservoirs to generate electricity in a different way.

The researchers are building rafts that float on the reservoirs. These rafts are covered in solar panels, that generate electricity from the sun. They float on the surface and take in sunlight.

**Reservoir:** A lake used to store water. Reservoirs are often man-made.





## Check Your Knowledge

1. A reservoir is a lake that is often:

empty

full

warm

man-made

2. According to the article, what has led to less regular rainfall?

solar panels

climate change

the sun

the wind

gather more rainwater

prevent floods



## Floating Solar Panels



Listen Aloud



22.4.2022

*Written in partnership with The Energy Mix, a Canadian news site specialising in climate change, energy and the shift off carbon.*

All across Africa there are huge lakes that have been made by people. The lakes are used to store water. Water moving through these lakes also makes energy.

Making this energy is becoming more difficult. Experts have found a new way to make energy from the lakes.

The experts have made floating rafts. The rafts have solar panels on them that make energy. They float on the water and make energy for people to use.



## Check Your Knowledge

1. Experts have found a new way to make energy from:

the wind

lakes

the moon

people

2. What floats on the lakes to hold the solar panels?

boats

rafts

dolphins

logs

gather more rainwater

prevent floods



## Ryan the Pilot



Listen Aloud



22.4.2022

*Interview with Ryan Farran, Pilot.*

Ryan flies a plane.

His plane is not too big. It is not too small.

He does not fly in cities or towns.

He flies and lands planes on an island.



It has lots of trees.

He flies in the trees.

He has to land his plane on short, thin, grassy landing strips.

Ryan takes people and food from the one big town to the small villages.

Kids get a lift to school with Ryan.



## Check Your Knowledge

1. Ryan flies a

tractor

plane

car

2. Kids get a lift to

school

the dentist

the shop



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