

## Forge: The Brave Sea Dog

Honolulu—This morning at 9 A.M. on Pier 24, the tugboat *American Quest* docked. On board was the frisky two-year-old white terrier Forgea. Friends were at the pier with a colorful "Aloha" sign and leis. News media from around the country, such as *People Magazine* and *Inside Edition*, gathered to cover the dog's arrival.

This would be the dog's first time on land since being stranded twenty-four days earlier on a crippled oil tanker. The tanker's crew was rescued south of here by a passing cruise ship on April 2. They left the dog behind because the cruise ship would not take her.

Donations to help rescue Forgea totaled more than \$40,000. Money came from thirty-one states, Washington, D.C., South Africa, Great Britain, Canada, and Brazil. Two fishing boats had made a previous effort to rescue the terrier but were unsuccessful.

The *American Quest* crew had humane traps and food to capture Forgea, but those were unnecessary. When two crew members went onboard to inspect the tanker, the dog came right up to them. One of the two was a dog owner who was good with animals.

Iams, the dog food company, donated a lifetime supply of food to the dog's owners. "We want her to be well fed and happy for the rest of her life," they said.

Forge was to be flown to Kauai, where she would be quarantined for 120 days. The governor was petitioned to shorten the time, but the terrier got no pardon.

Forge's original name was "Hok Get," which is Taiwanese for "good fortunes." Some are calling her "the miracle mutt," and she truly is.

Eugene Morris  
Associated Press Writer

### Reading Comprehension

1. Number the following events in the order they happened.  
\_\_\_\_ Forgea is stranded.  
\_\_\_\_ The oil tanker is crippled.  
\_\_\_\_ The tugboat *American Quest* rescues the terrier.  
\_\_\_\_ The tanker crew is rescued.
  
2. In paragraph three, another word for *stranded* might be \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. rescued  
B. crippled  
C. left
  
3. Money for the rescue came from  
A. thirty-one states, South Africa, and Brazil.  
B. Washington State, South Africa, and Canada.  
C. Egypt, Great Britain, and Canada.
  
4. From reading this newspaper article, you can conclude  
A. not many people like dogs.  
B. a lot of money was spent to rescue Forgea.  
C. ships are not a safe place for dogs.

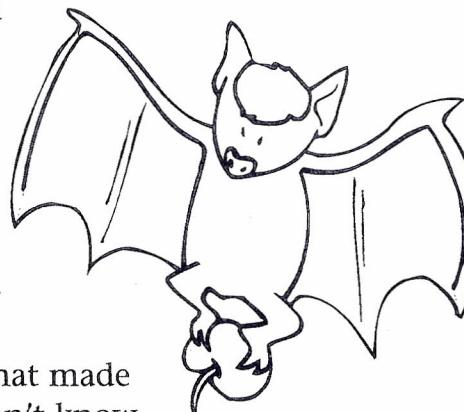
# Batty about Bats

Batty was a Mexican free-tail bat who lived in Bracken Cave, Texas. He was never lonely because 20 million of his relatives also lived in the cave. Most of the time Batty loved being a bat. He loved to see baby bats born and see them nurse for the first time. Each mother had only one baby per year.

He loved being the only mammal that truly flies. Batty used his hands and wings to hover, soar, and fly slowly. While he flapped his wings, he could go up or down by moving the skin between his body and fifth finger. Going up or down is called *lift*. When he wanted to move forward, he changed the shape of the skin between his second and fourth fingers.

Batty loved flying at night because it was cooler, and he didn't get thirsty and dry up from the heat. Dehydration was always a problem for bats. The night also brought out more insects—yum! Batty knew the saying “blind as a bat,” but he knew it wasn’t true. There are no blind bats—many can see very well. He and his friends also used sonar, or *echolocation*, to “see” in the dark by hearing. They sent out a high-frequency sound that came back as echoes. That way they knew what, where, and how far away something was. They liked to travel in total darkness—it was fun to be nocturnal.

But there were some things that made Batty unhappy. Most humans don’t know that bats are very clean and groom their fur or hair by licking regularly—like a cat. Bats are also very helpful in controlling insects. If you don’t want mosquitoes, one brown bat can catch 600 in one hour. Batty and his friends in his cave could eat 250 tons of insects in that amount of time! He hoped more people would learn to be “batty about bats.”



## Reading Comprehension

1. Paragraph two tells us that bats are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. birds
  - B. mammals
  - C. rodents
2. What happened when Batty changed the shape of the skin between his second and fourth fingers?
  - A. He moved forward.
  - B. He could lift himself up or down.
  - C. He was able to soar.
3. Which is the main idea of paragraph three?
  - A. Becoming dehydrated was always a problem for bats.
  - B. Batty and his friends used sonar, or echolocation.
  - C. Bats fly at night for several reasons.
4. In the third paragraph, what is the best meaning of the word *dehydration*?
  - A. cooler
  - B. drying up
  - C. problem
5. A good meaning for the saying “batty about bats” might be
  - A. to like bats and how helpful they are.
  - B. to hate bats because you are afraid.
  - C. to keep bats away with a baseball bat.

## The Golden Age of Pirates

Courtney sat at her desk writing a report about pirates when her mom came in to remind her it was late. But she wanted to finish. She thought it would have been an adventure to be a mate to Calico Jack, a famous pirate. After all, Anne Bonny had been a woman pirate who sailed with him on the Caribbean Sea. "Ah, the 1700s, the golden age of pirates," Courtney sighed...

"Ahoy, matey—are you the new deck hand?"

"Aye, sir," Courtney answered in a deep voice, hoping the mate wouldn't notice she was a girl. "No need to worry," she thought as she looked down at her bare feet and leather knickers. She felt for her hair—it was covered with a scarf. Good, she looked like the rest of the hardy sailors.

"Here's your share of the booty we stole," her mate said as he handed her two dubloons.

"Wow!" Courtney thought, "these are worth two years' pay for a sailor. But these can't be from buried treasure—it was rarely buried. They must have plundered a ship from Spain."

As she gazed at the sails billowing in the wind, she saw the *Jolly Roger*. She recognized Calico Jack's flag—with its skull above two crossed swords—flapping in the breeze. "This is what I've dreamed of—I'm sailing with Calico Jack," she said aloud in her normal voice.

"Shiver me timbers! This one's a girl. Let's make her walk the plank."

"I read pirates never made people do that!" Courtney shouted as they blindfolded her and tied her hands with rope.

"You're just a lousy landlubber," Jack shouted. "You're going to visit Davey Jones's locker!"

Courtney broke through the rope, ripped off the blindfold, and jumped into the motorboat Anne Bonny had waiting. Off they sped into the sinking sun.

Just then, Courtney woke up in her dark room. "Boy," she thought, smiling, "talk about the sun sinking fast!"

## Reading Comprehension

1. Which of these could probably not really happen?
  - A. A girl writes a report about pirates.
  - B. A girl has a dream.
  - C. A girl breaks through ropes tied around her hands.
2. In paragraph three, which clue word is a synonym for *plundered*?
  - A. booty
  - B. buried
  - C. stole
3. What did Courtney do immediately after she received her two dubloons?
  - A. She saw the *Jolly Roger* of Calico Jack.
  - B. She broke the rope around her hands.
  - C. She jumped into the motorboat.
4. Which of the following resulted in the pirates ordering Courtney to walk the plank?
  - A. She didn't believe the dubloons were buried treasure.
  - B. She was dreaming.
  - C. She spoke in her own voice and revealed that she was a girl.

## A Greek Myth—The Story of Arachne

Arachne lived in the days when cloth was made by hand. Even though she was only mortal and not very beautiful, wealthy, or clever, she was famous for her spinning. No one spun cloth as fast or made it as supple and flowing.

Often Arachne could be found admiring her slender hands, their long fingers, and the light, airy gauze they wove. She was certain no one could create anything as lovely. She wove tapestries with scenes fit for palaces. Wherever she spun, all would come to watch. It was like a ballet, with the shuttle dancing across the loom and the threads leaping as they wove into place. Arachne boldly exclaimed that "not even the goddess Athena could teach a born artist like me."

At that moment an old woman at the edge of the crowd rose up tall and magnificent. As her worn, brown robes fell away, the glittering gown of the goddess Athena appeared. Instead of begging forgiveness, Arachne challenged Athena to a weaving contest. Looms were set up at opposite ends of the room. Not a sound was heard for a time except the clicking of the shuttles. When all was quiet the onlookers seemed embarrassed. All could see that Arachne's work was better than that of the goddess.

Athena was furious. She ripped apart Arachne's cloth and struck her with a spell. "You will weave forever, yet no one will want your tapestries on their walls." At once, Arachne's slender body became round and bulbous. All that remained of her hands were her fingers, which sprouted from her shoulders.

Arachne the spider scuttled to hide in a crevice until night. Only then did she dare to spin her web in a corner of the room. Alas, when someone found her work they would exclaim, "Oh, another cobweb!" and brush it away.

## Reading Comprehension

1. "No one spun cloth as fast or made it as supple and flowing." Another word for *supple* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. stiff  
B. flexible  
C. simple
2. "At once, Arachne's slender body became round and bulbous." The word *bulbous* means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. shaped like a bulb  
B. bumpy  
C. long
3. "She wove tapestries with scenes fit for palaces." A *tapestry* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a woven cloth with a picture  
B. woven tape used for repairs  
C. a story told to royalty

A simile uses *like* or *as* to compare two things. Find the simile in paragraph two. Then answer the following:

4. The two things being compared are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Arachne and Athena  
B. dancing and tapestries  
C. a ballet and weaving

