

READING ACTIVITY

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TALES FROM THE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

Read the excerpt and then do the activities below.

There was once a sailor from Baghdad called Sindbad. He made seven long voyages in his life. They were all full of adventures. He met many strange people and saw many strange things. When he was old, he liked telling people about his adventures and they liked listening. This is the story of his second voyage. 'When I returned home from my first voyage, I lived a comfortable life in the city for some years. Then I began to get bored. I dreamt of sailing the seas again. I wanted new adventures. One morning I packed my chest and travelled to the port of Basra.

'There was a good, strong ship in the harbor and it was ready to sail. I got on it. We travelled from port to port and from island to island. The other passengers on the ship were merchants and, when we stopped, they bought and sold things. Soon I began to do the same. Weeks and months passed pleasantly but without adventure.

Then one day the wind took our ship to a strange and beautiful island. There were trees with delicious fruit, flowers of many colours, and streams of sweet water. The air was full of the songs of birds, but there weren't any people. The other passengers started to explore the island. I was tired so I sat under a tree. I ate some of the delicious fruit from the trees and drank some of the sweet water from the streams. Then I fell asleep. When I woke up, I looked around. I was alone on the island! I looked out to sea and saw my ship on the horizon. I began to feel afraid. "Oh, poor me!" I said. "What shall I do now?"

'I walked around the island for an hour or more. Then I climbed a tall tree. "I can get a better view of the island from the top of a tree," I thought. I looked left and right but I saw only trees, flowers, birds, the sea and the sky. Then I looked more carefully. There was a big, white object in the distance. I decided to go and have a look at it.

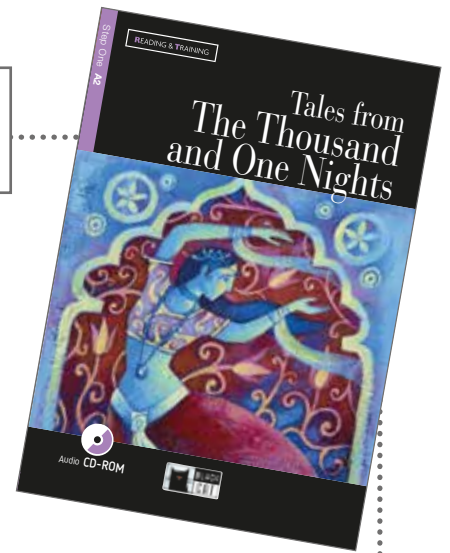
'When I got nearer, I saw that it was a dome. I touched it and walked around it. It was very smooth and very big, but there were no doors or windows on it. Suddenly, it became dark. I looked up and I saw an enormous bird above me. It covered the sun.

(from Part One of *The Second Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor*)

1 **streams** : small rivers.

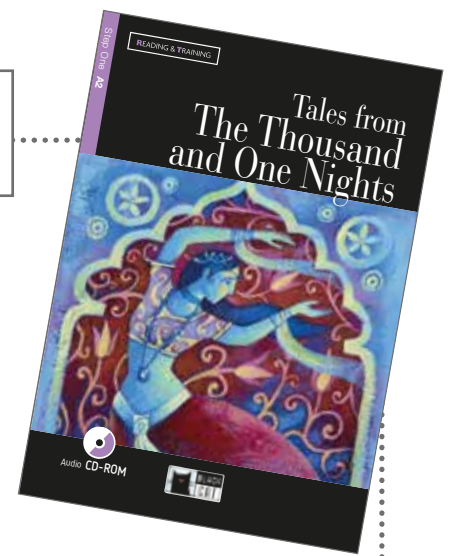
3 **smooth** : completely flat.

2 **horizon** : where the sky meets the land.



READING ACTIVITY

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ACTIVITIES

1 Choose the correct answer – a, b, or c.

1. How many long voyages did Sindbad make in his life?

- a. seventeen
- b. seven
- c. eleven

2. Sindbad wanted to go to sea for the second time

- a. because he was bored.
- b. because he needed money.
- c. because he wanted to visit another city.

3. The passengers on Sindbad's ship

- a. were soldiers.
- b. were sailors.
- c. were merchants.

4. Sindbad was suddenly alone on a strange island,

- a. and he went swimming in the beautiful sea.
- b. and he went to buy some things.
- c. and he climbed a tall tree to look around.

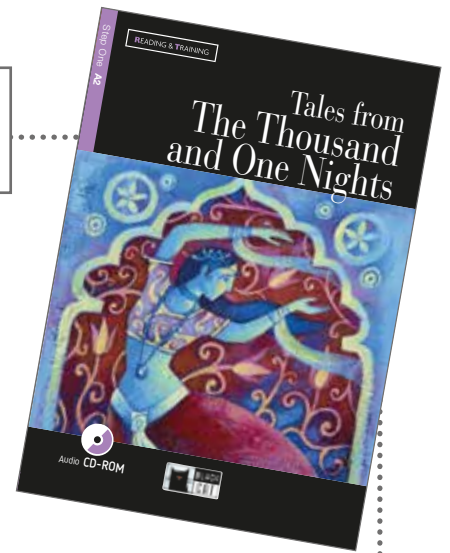
5. Sindbad saw a big, white object in the distance

- a. and it was a big, smooth dome.
- b. and it was a big piece of fruit.
- c. and it was an enormous bird.



READING ACTIVITY

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2 Circle the correct answer in italics.

1. Sindbad the sailor lived *in Baghdad/on an island*.
2. Sindbad's ship was in the port of *Baghdad/Basra*.
3. The captain *of the ship/wind* took the ship to a beautiful island.
4. There was a lot of fruit, flowers and sweet water on the island, but there were no *animals/people*.
5. Sindbad fell asleep and when he woke up, he was *alone on the island/ back on the ship*.
6. It suddenly became dark because there was an *enormous dome/enormous bird* above Sindbad.

