

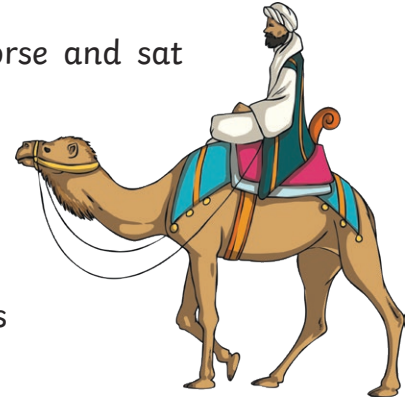
# Improving Your Reading with Vocabulary Victor: The Group



Once upon a time, a large group of people marched through the wilderness. Their camels and horses carried many goods while the bells around their necks clinked and chimed. All around their hooves was a thick cloud of dust. When a rare gust of wind cleared the dust clouds away, glittering weapons and brilliant dresses could be seen.

The leader of the group rode a marvellous horse and sat upon its back on a blanket of tiger skin. Silver bells hung from the horse's reins and feathers waved on top of its head.

The rider looked like a king. He wore a white turban decorated with gold and he carried a curved sword with a magnificent handle. His dark eyes looked out from under his bushy eyebrows and a long beard hung down under his chin.



1. *A large group of people marched through the wilderness.*

What does **wilderness** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

- a busy city full of buildings
- a sandy area with many animals
- an abandoned place with no life
- a large group of people travelling on foot

2. *he carried a curved sword with a magnificent handle.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **magnificent**? Circle **one**.

impressive

long

wooden

disappointing

3. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that the leader of the group was sat on top of a horse.

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4. *When a rare gust of wind cleared the dust clouds away...*

What does the word **rare** mean in this phrase?

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# Answers

1. a large group of people marched through the wilderness.

What does the word **wilderness** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

- a busy city full of buildings
- a sandy area with many animals
- an abandoned place with no life**
- a large group of people travelling on foot

2. *he carried a curved sword with a magnificent handle.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **magnificent**? Circle **one**.

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3. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase which shows that the leader of the group was sat on top of a horse.

**Accept one of the following: rode; on its back.**

4. *When a rare gust of wind cleared the dust clouds away...*

What does the word **rare** mean in this phrase?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Rare means something that isn't seen very often.'**