Writing from an animal's perspective

Lesson 4



Today we are going to do a little more planning… and tomorrow I will ask you to complete a piece of writing using all that you have planned.

You will be asked to described the events we've discussed from the fox's perspective.

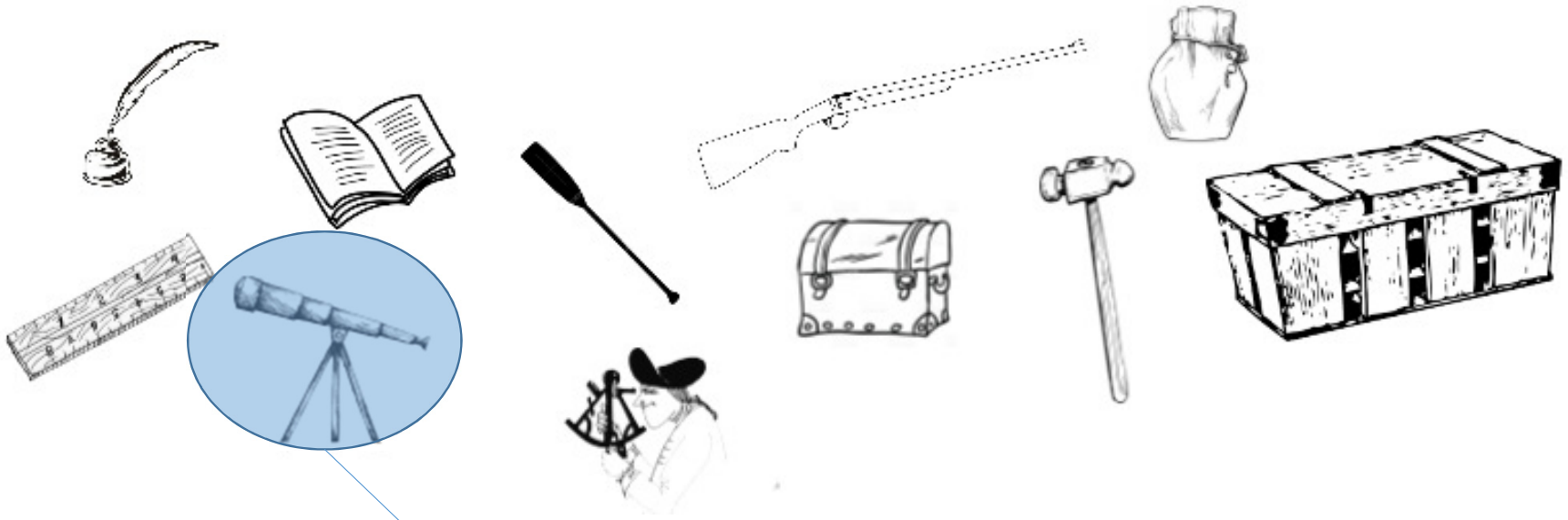


Here is the Fox of Chiloe watching Darwin and some of the crew of HMS Beagle coming ashore.
The fox has seen neither men nor boats before.

We asked you to think about how the fox might describe this scene…



Darwin and the crew brought a lot of strange equipment onto the beach. Darwin was there to study the plants and wildlife, everybody else was there to survey, map and take measurements of the island.



This strange creature stands on three skinny legs which supports its long, thin body. It doesn't have any fur; it's skin lets the sunlight bounce off it which dazzles me. At both ends of its body are single eyes, one bigger than the other which seems to help it to see.



The men from HMS Beagle would have looked and dressed very much like these Victorian sailors.





We asked you to identify things about these three creatures that the fox would have found strange





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They are without tails!



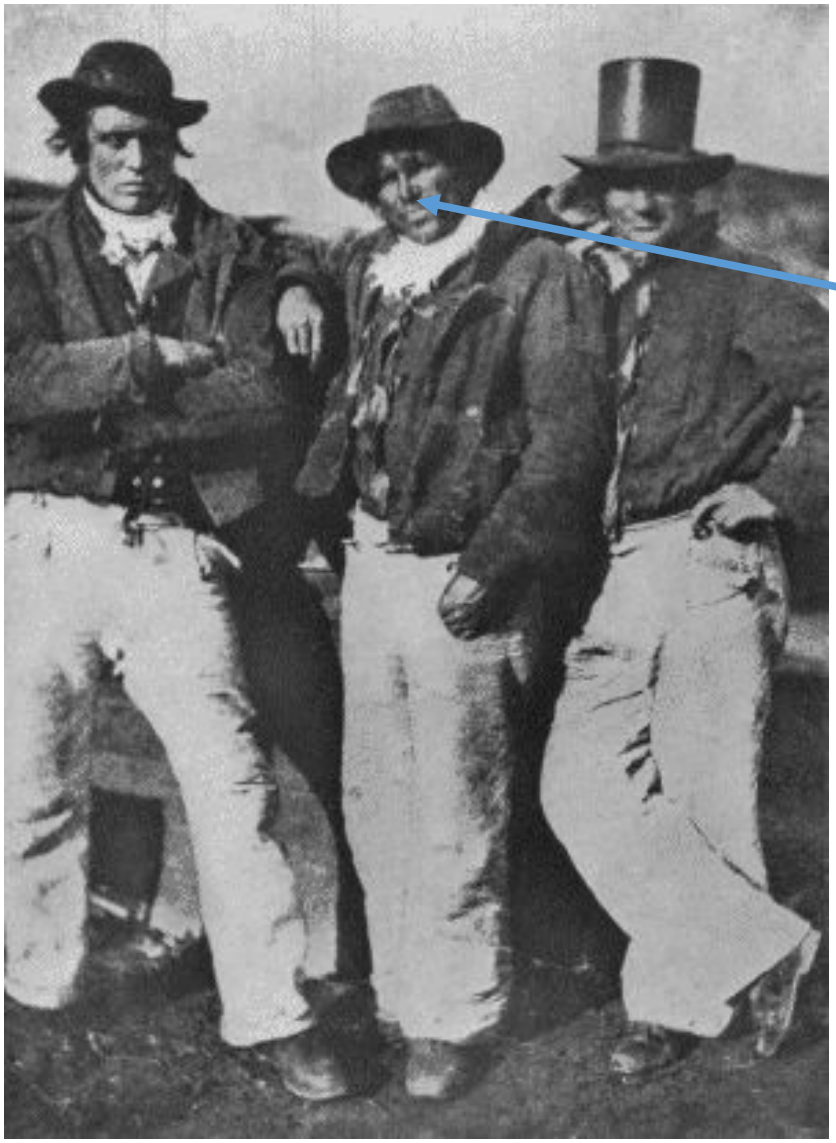
We asked you to identify things about these three creatures that the fox would have found strange



One appeared to have seaweed stuck to its head.



We asked you to identify things about these three creatures that the fox would have found strange



No whiskers on its snout.



We asked you to identify things about these three creatures that the fox would have found strange

Here are other features that you identified







Unlike any animal the fox has seen, they can balance on 2 legs





They can even move on 2 legs

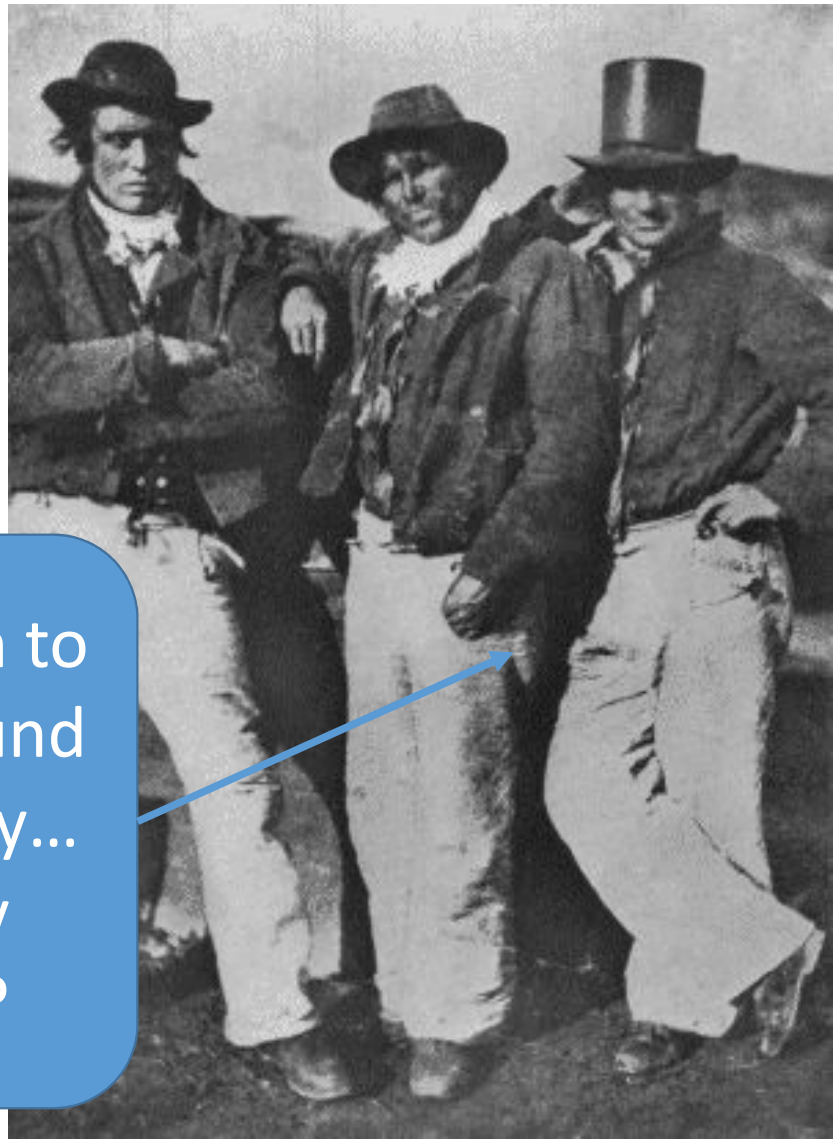




They never seem to put their front paws on the ground



They seem to move around very slowly… are they injured?







They are without fur. Has a terrible accident befallen them?





They are without fur. Has a terrible accident befallen them?





They have no fur on their faces.
Have they been burned – by the sun or a forest fire



They seem to have strange leaves stuck to their bodies





They have tiny ears







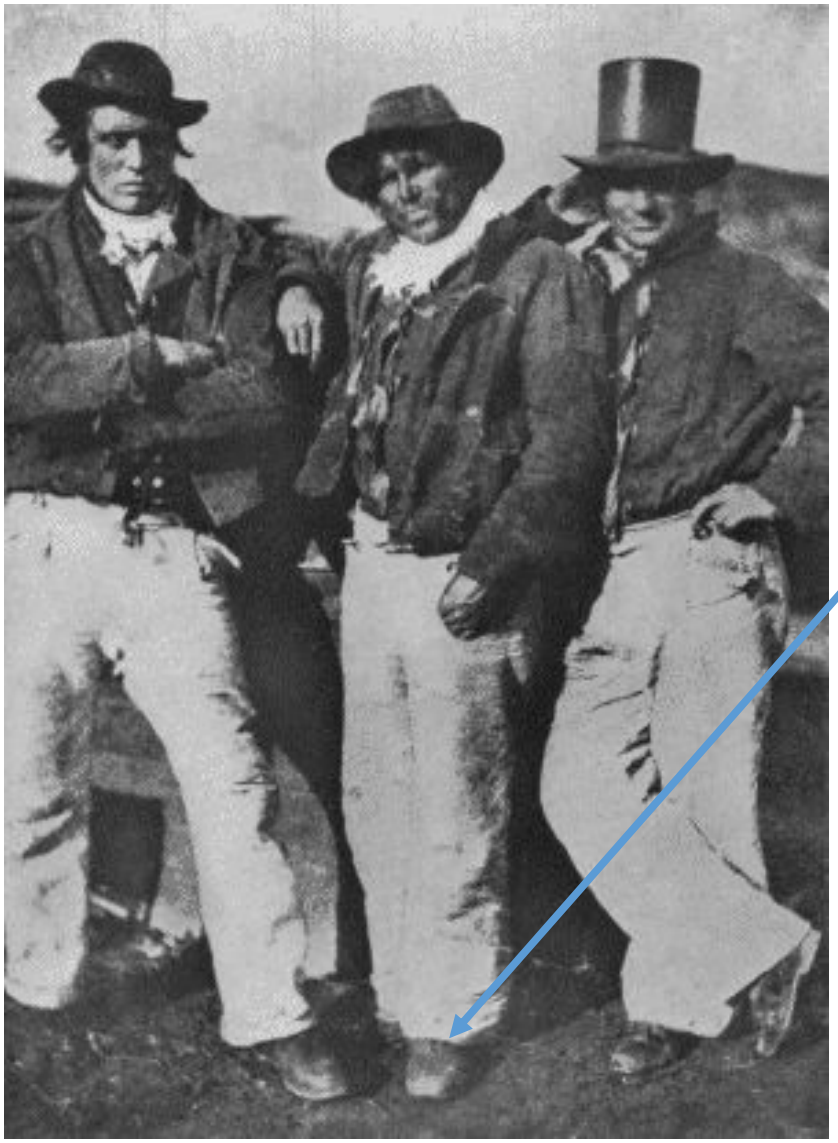
They don’t seem to have claws



They can pick things up with their front paws







Their back paws seem to be stuck inside hardened mud





They have large flaps of skin hanging from their legs



They smell strange







They look a little like the monkeys in the forest





They have only a tiny tuft of hair on their heads



They are huge





They make strange noises.







Your first task:

Scroll back and choose one of the features (or another one of your own) and describe them in detail from the fox's viewpoint. You should write in the first person and in the past tense.

Don't write yet! Go to the next slides for examples.





They have tiny ears

At first I thought that they were without ears, until I spotted the strange, furless protrusions beneath the tufts of hair on their head. They were such pathetic little things that I wondered whether they could truly hear a sound. From what I was able to see, they were not even able to move their ears. It was at that point that I felt a little more safe. If they could not hear me or smell me then I was not to be their prey. In any case, I supposed that as they lacked fangs, they were most probably leaf-eaters.





Your first task:

Scroll back and choose one of the features (or another one of your own) and describe them in detail from the fox's viewpoint. You should write in the first person and in the past tense.

Your go!

If you wrote extended sentences yesterday, choose something else to describe – or rewrite what you have written.

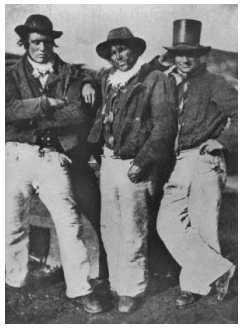




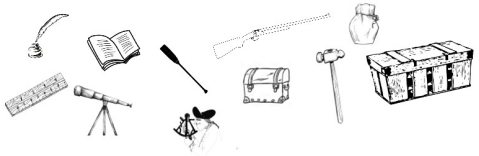
Now scroll back and choose another feature.

Aim to describe features in detail









Task 2: Create a bank of words and phrases to describe how the fox would have felt.

The fox would have experienced a range of emotions.

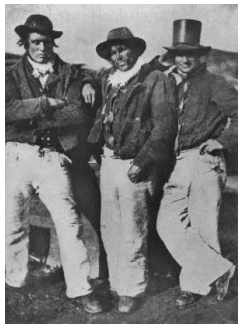
He would have been **puzzled** and **bewildered** by the **peculiar** sights.

He would have been **entranced** and **hypnotised**

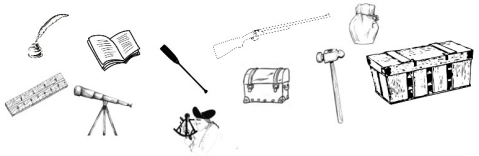
He would have been **anxious** and **fearful**

Use the thesaurus at wordhippo.com to build a bank of interesting words. You could use the highlighted words as a starting point.





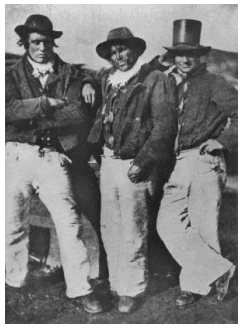




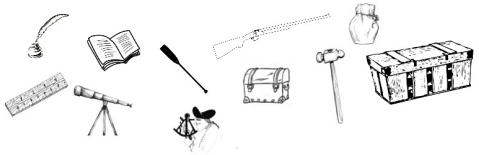
We are going to describe events that happened over a couple of hours.

How can we describe time passing when the fox does not understand time?









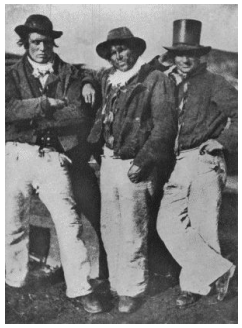
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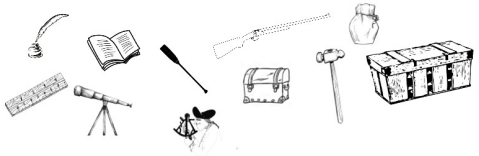
We could describe changes in the tide perhaps:

"In the time that I sat watching the strange creatures the sea had crept to almost its highest point on the beach."







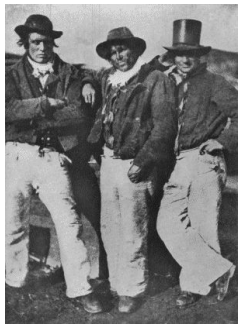


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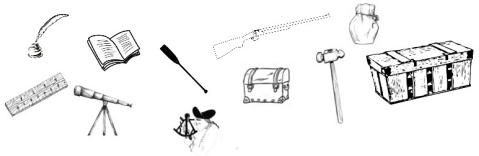
Your final task:
How else could we show time is passing?

Think about changes:
-in the skies
-in the weather
-to the sun
-to the temperature
-to his hunger









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Don’t forget to send your work to us!

Tomorrow we write…

