**Once in a Lifetime**



**Parental Note: This website has lots of excellent clips which can be used to teach literacy. The website has clips suitable for both primary and secondary age pupils. The clips we have picked are suitable for Key Stage 2 children.**

This unit of work is based on a video clip from The Literacy Shed Plus. It can be accessed via <https://www.literacyshed.com/onceinalifetime.html>. There are spaces to write your answers to the questions in the boxes. If possible, use a different coloured font to make your answers stand out.

**Important: Do not watch the whole clip to begin with. The first lesson asks you to only watch a short section to begin with**.

**Day 1 – Questions**

Before watching the film:

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| What does the title ‘Once in a Lifetime’ mean? What type of things happen once in a lifetime? |

Show the opening scene. Image of the airship in the sky.

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| * What colour is the sky? * What mood or feeling does this give us? * Can you describe the clouds? * What is strange about this ship? |

Pause the film after 12 seconds when the man has his hand on his face.

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| * What happened? * What do we call the object that fell off his boat? * How is the man feeling? * Can you describe someone who is sad, only describing their actions? |

Pause the film as the man looks through his telescope.

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| * What do you think was making that noise? * What is he looking through? |

Pause as the turtle flies over his head.

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| * How is the man feeling? * What words can you think of to describe the turtle? |

Pause at 58 seconds as the man lassoes the turtle.

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| Which parts of a turtle can you name? |

These are nouns.

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| Think of two adjectives for each of these nouns.  E.g. huge, round eye |

Pause the film at 1min 8 secs – when the turtle is towing the ship.

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| * How do you think the man is feeling now? * Where do you think the turtle is taking the man? |

Pause the film just after the rope snaps.

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| * How is the man feeling now? * What will happen next? |

Watch the film until the end.

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| * Where do you think the turtle will take him? * What type of story do you think this is? * If you were telling the story which creature might you choose instead of a turtle? Why? |

**Day 2 – Observational skills and senses**

Re-watch the clip from the last lesson. How many of these things can you spot? Mark them off as you see them. You might need to watch the clip more than once. Some of these are not in the clip. Which are the odd ones out? Write odd one out in the box.

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| Airship | Shadow | Rope | Sword |
| Boxes | Goggles | Headscarf | Map |
| Clouds | Telescope | Toolkit | Flying turtle |
| Flying elephants | Propellers | Compass | Bag |

What might the sky explorer experience while standing on the deck of his boat in the sky?

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| See | Hear | Smell | Taste | Touch |
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**Day 3 – Job description for a Sky Explorer**

Can you create a job description for the job of sky explorer?

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| **Are you looking for adventure within your job? Does the thought of being paid for a ’once in a lifetime’ experience excite you?**  **Then this could be the job for you!** | | |
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| **Job Description** |  | **Location** |
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| **Benefits** |
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| **Working Hours** |

**Day 4 – Reading Comprehension**

Read the following text and then answer the questions below.

**The Sky Turtle**

**Flight**

The sky turtle is well-adapted to its environment and can breathe, and fly, at very high altitudes. Turtles use strong muscles, located in their chest, to ‘flap’ their flippers and give them the thrust to move through the air. Their lightweight shells and hollow bones make it easier for them to take flight and stay airborne, whilst their streamlined design makes them the perfect shape to move through the air with ease. Incredibly, the turtle can remain in the air for lengthy periods of time (several hours) though they tend to only do this while migrating and must ingest 3-4kg of insects as they fly. Without eating as they fly, the sky turtles would need to keep stopping to find food on the land.

**Sleep**

Whilst in flight, it is essential that sky turtles take it in turns to form small groups (around 3 to 4 animals) and allow the weakest in the group to take short sleep breaks on their backs. They do this to keep going over longer distances. At night, they often roost in trees and often use the abandoned nests of dragons to stay safe.

**Predators**

Unfortunately, sky turtles form part of the diet of air orcas, and their shells, despite being strong, are no match for the teeth of an adult shark.

**Did you know…**

**A sky turtle can reverse in the air by altering the direction that their flippers flap.**

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|  | True | False |
| Sky turtles have lightweight shells and hollow bones. |  |  |
| Sky turtles take short naps in the sky. |  |  |
| Sky turtles eat air orcas. |  |  |
| Sky turtles can fly backwards. |  |  |

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| How are sky turtles’ bodies well adapted to flying in the air? Find three things.  1)  2)  3) |

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| What two things do sky turtles need to do when they are in the air so that they don’t need to keep stopping and can fly over longer distances?  1)  2) |

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| Find a word (in the text) that means the same as force. | Find a word (in the text) that means the opposite of solid. |
| Find a word (in the text) that means the same as stay. | Find a word (in the text) that means the opposite of strongest. |

**Day 5 – Sky Explorer’s Log**

Have a look at the sky explorer’s log.

**Sky Explorer’s Log**

**Date:** Monday 4th September 2089

**Location:** 36,500 feet above the Pacific Ocean

A couple of hours ago, I heard the strangest noise. It was like singing, but incredibly high pitched and like nothing I have ever heard before. My heartbeat and breathing quickened, and I reached for my trusty telescope, which confirmed that I hadn’t imagined it. There, at the portside, appeared a bale of sky turtles! It was amazing! All around the ship, they glided majestically, like giant lily pads floating on still water. Their calming scent of salt water filled my nostrils. This was exactly why I took this job, to see such wondrous and beautiful beasts. Who knew that they even existed?! Cautiously and carefully, with trembling fingers, I lassoed a rope around one of their shells, with the intention to let them guide me to land more quickly.

Then, in an instant, my excitement was brought to an abrupt halt. The rope snapped! Not only did I worry I would become stranded, but I also feared that I was going to miss out on accompanying these mystical creatures for part of their journey…

We will speak again later!

Can you write your own version of a sky explorer’s log and explain what happened when you saw something in the sky that you didn’t expect. Perhaps it was a sky elephant or an air orca?

**Things to consider**

* Tell the reader how you felt - what happened to you?
* Use your senses - say what you saw, smelled, heard.
* Think about your openers- are they exciting? Could you use a verb or an adverb?
* Add a question to pose to the reader. It makes them think!
* Can you use language swaps to include better vocabulary.

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| **Sky Explorer’s Log**  **Date:**  **Location:** |

**Extra Activities to complete after watching the clip (these do not need to be handed in):**

* Collect verbs and adverbs to do with floating and sailing gracefully.
* Write an ending to the story – where do the turtles take him?
* Choose a different animal to come floating by. Use ‘show not tell’ sentences to describe the animal rather than just saying what it is.
* Create a sky map of where to find amazing creatures in the sky.
* Design your own airship.
* Imagine this film was a book – design the front cover.
* Create a comic strip for the film.