

English

Monday 6th July

The Ultimate guide to Elves and Sprites!

Information with a touch of 'faction'! This week, you are going to be writing an information text about a type of elf or sprite. Of course, these are mythological figures. Even though this is a non-fiction genre of writing, we can still be inventive and creative. We like calling it FACTION because the form fits information about facts but the content is fiction.

To get you started, here is a model of a fictional information text about a cave elf. When reading, you might want to think about which type of elf or sprite that you will write about.

Cave Elves

Why is it that cave elves have interested elf whisperers over the years? Perhaps it is because the cave elf is such a rare form of elf and little is known about it. Generally, cave elves are only out and about at night. This is because they have grown so used to living in deep, dark caves that they find the sunlight so bright and hot that they can hardly see. A word of warning - do not handle cave elves as they may lash out in defense if they cannot see!

Surprisingly, cave elves are easy to identify as they are the smallest elf in the world being about the size of small cats. Unfortunately, their children are often mistaken for rats. They wear broad-brimmed hats to keep the



sun from their faces and leather clothes. The adult cave elf is a dark green colour which enables it to hide in shadows as well as trees, hedgerows and tall grass. They often wear cloaks, sturdy boots and have long beards and pointed ears. However, juveniles are born with a yellowish tinge and red hair which they lose after their 100th birthday.

Cave elves are found in most mountain ranges and hills where there are plenty of hiding holes. Almost all cave elves live in large groups in underground caverns where they feel safest. However, a minority live as hermits. When out and about foraging for food, they will keep to the shadows and this makes them very difficult to identify. They live in harmony and train mice as their pets. The mice are treated in the same way that humans fuss over dogs or cats.

Whilst most elves are renowned for their magical abilities and precious stones, the cave elf shows no interest in gold, silver or any other valuable stones. They are only interested in playing chess and wiling away their time holding quiz shows and tending to their indoor pot plants. These shy and gentle creatures are vegetarians and grow their own fruit and vegetables on mountainsides close to the entrance to their dens. Cave elves present no danger to humans and several have made friends with shepherds who are often out at night tending to their flocks.

Our 'save the cave elf' campaign has been concerned for many years that these delightful creatures might be mistaken for other less pleasant types of elf and therefore be hunted. David Battenburg suggests that where their cave dwellings and caverns have been discovered, it is important to ensure that the location is kept secret. Our advice is that to preserve these mysterious and gentle creatures, all elf lovers living near caves should make sure that vegetable and fruit peelings are left out during snowy weather.



Activity 1: match the vocabulary to its definition

You might not know all of the vocabulary that is in our model text. Don't worry as this activity will help! Match the word to the correct definition and then check at the end of the booklet on page 25 to see if you have worked them out.

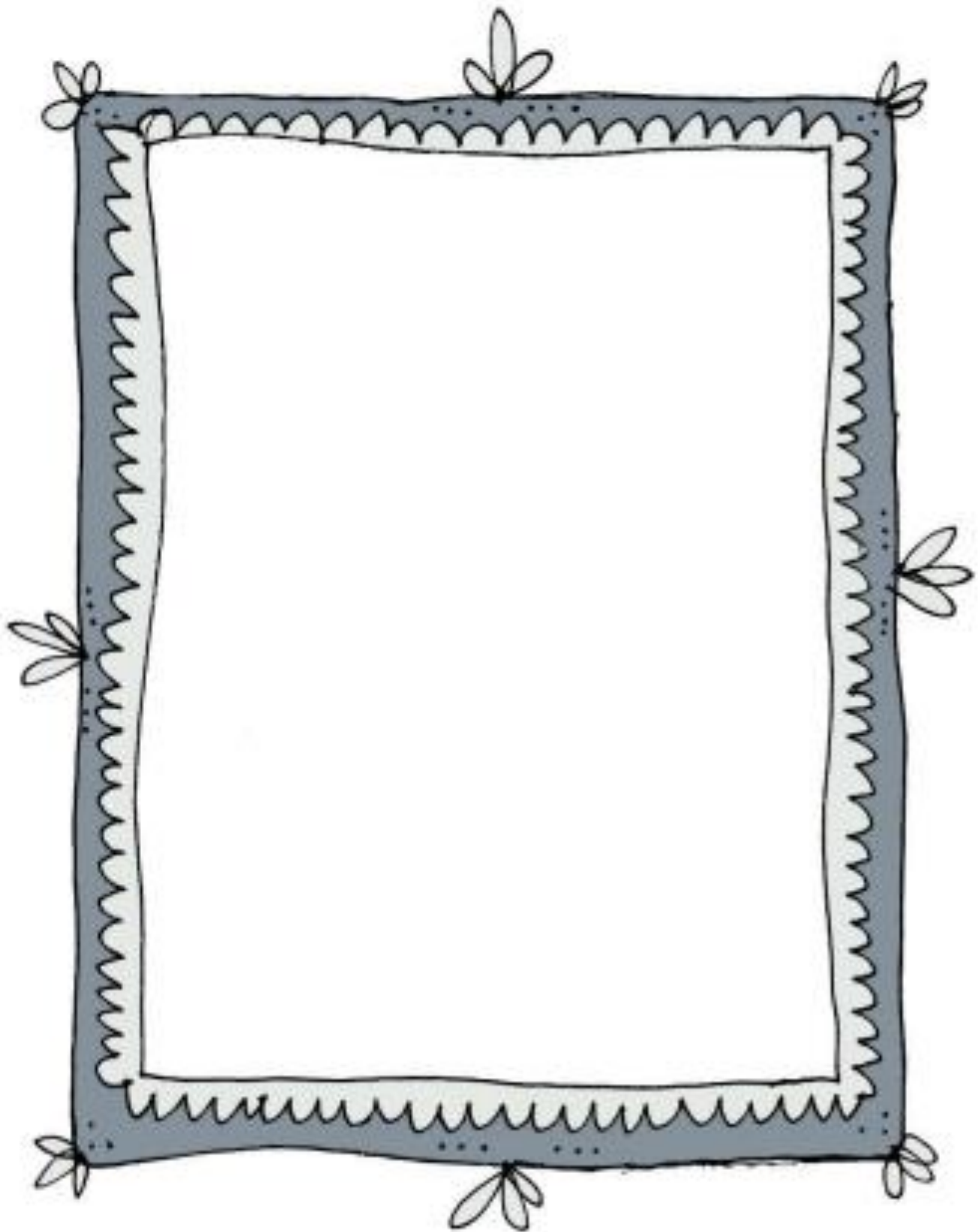
Word from the text	Definition
campaign	a hint or touch of a colour
foraging	very uncommon
hoarding	recognise
tinge	place
flock	a movement
granite	animal who does not eat meat
rare	lots of sheep
vegetarians	determined and obstinate
hermits	store away
renowned	line of mountains
mountain range	look for food
stubborn	live together well
identify	well-known
harmony	person who lives alone
location	hard stone

You could magpie some of these words and use them in your own writing later on.



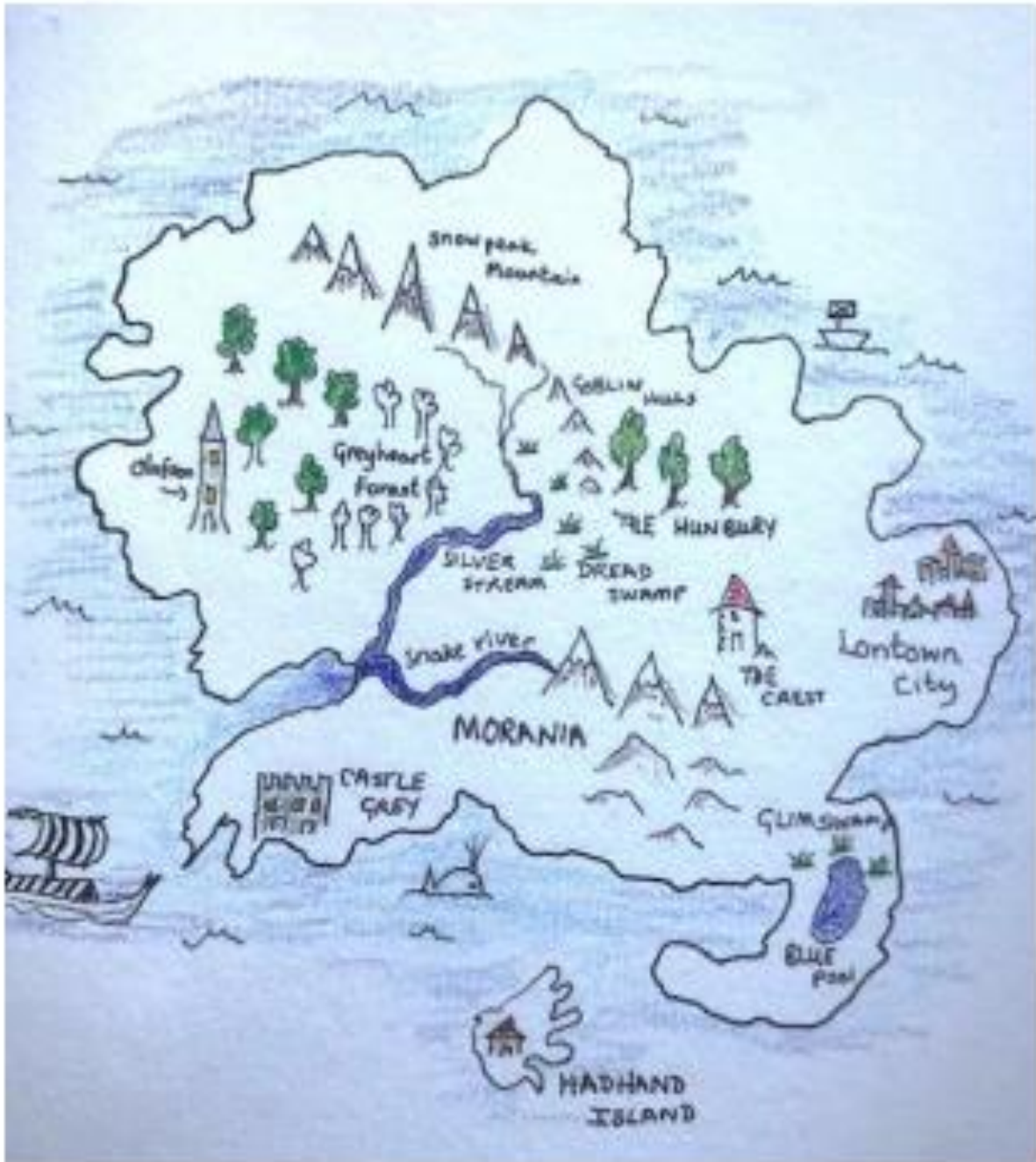
Activity 2: draw a cave elf

In the box below, draw an adult cave elf with a toddler and label them with information taken from the writing.



Activity 3: where do cave elves live?

Look carefully at this map. Mark the spot where you think cave elves might live. Give three reasons for your answer.



Extension: Choose 3 other places on the map and describe (short paragraph) what it's like there? Who lives there? Are there any magical things that happen there?