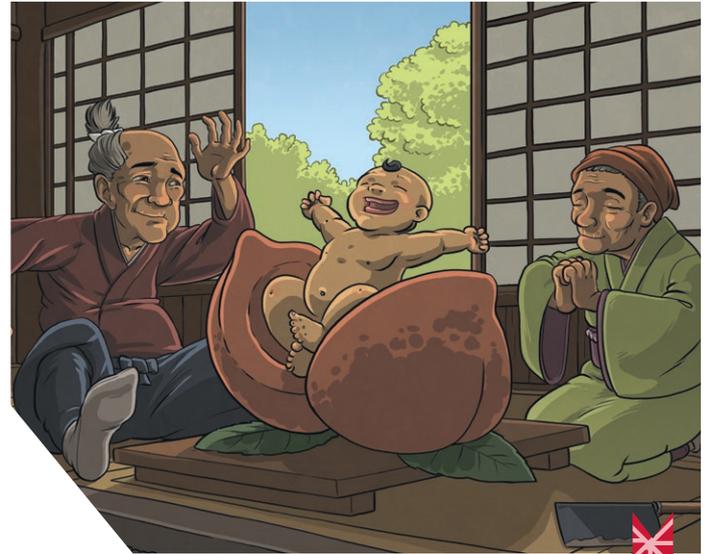


# Momotaro



An old woman was standing by a river when she noticed a giant peach floating in the water. She reached out and caught the amazing fruit before taking it home. Her husband couldn't believe it. The peach was huge! They decided to see how it tasted so they made a small hole in the top of the fruit.

Just then, the peach started to cry! Slowly, the couple peered inside and saw a tiny baby boy. The old man carefully lifted up the child and said, "We will call him Momotaro."



When Momotaro was older, a group of ogres raided the village. They stole everyone's treasure and took it to their cave. Momotaro told everyone that he would find the cave and get their treasure back. The old couple were very proud and they gave Momotaro a bag of his favourite dumplings.

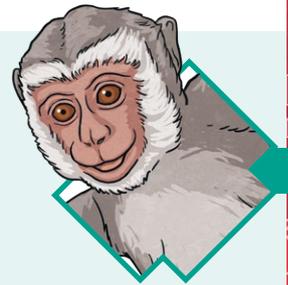


Momotaro started to walk along the path that led to the ogres' cave. Suddenly, a dog appeared. "May I have a dumpling?" it asked.

"Of course!" replied Momotaro.

The dog ate the dumpling and offered to help Momotaro.

The boy and the dog carried on until a monkey appeared. "May I have a dumpling?" it asked.



"Of course!" replied Momotaro.

The monkey ate the dumpling and offered to help Momotaro.



The boy, the dog and the monkey carried on until a pheasant appeared. "May I have a dumpling?" it asked.

"Of course!" replied Momotaro.

The pheasant ate the dumpling and offered to help Momotaro.

It was very dark when the group reached the ogres' cave and they could hear loud snores coming from inside. Momotaro and the animals crept inside and tied up the ogres' hands and feet with rope. The ogres roared when they woke up and tried to get free.

They begged Momotaro to let them go when they realised that the rope was too tight.



“I will let you go,” he said, “if you give me all of your treasure.” The ogres agreed and Momotaro gathered up all of the treasure.

When Momotaro got back home, everyone was very happy to see him. There was even a plate of millet dumplings waiting for him!

# Questions

1. What type of fruit did the old woman see floating in the water? Tick one.

- an orange
- a mango
- an apple
- a peach

2. Which animal asked for a dumpling first? Tick one.

- the ogre
- the dog
- the monkey
- the pheasant

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.  
The first one has been done for you.

- Momotaro and the animals tied up the ogres' hands and feet.
- 1 The ogres stole everyone's treasure.
- Momotaro gathered up all of the treasure.
- Momotaro said that he would get the treasure back.

4. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

The couple peered inside and saw...	to let them go.
The monkey asked,...	"May I have a dumpling?"
The ogres begged Momotaro...	a tiny baby boy.

5. What did Momotaro and the animals use to tie up the ogres' hands and feet?

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6. Find and copy one word that describes the ogres' snores.

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7. Do you think that Momotaro was scared when he saw the ogres? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What type of fruit did the old woman see floating in the water? Tick one.

- an orange  
 a mango  
 an apple  
 **a peach**

2. Which animal asked for a dumpling first? Tick one.

- the ogre  
 **the dog**  
 the monkey  
 the pheasant

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

The first one has been done for you.

- 3** Momotaro and the animals tied up the ogres' hands and feet.  
 **1** The ogres stole everyone's treasure.  
 **4** Momotaro gathered up all of the treasure.  
 **2** Momotaro said that he would get the treasure back.

4. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

The couple peered inside and saw...	to let them go.
The monkey asked,...	"May I have a dumpling?"
The ogres begged Momotaro...	a tiny baby boy.

5. What did Momotaro and the animals use to tie up the ogres' hands and feet?

**Momotaro and the animals used rope to tie up the ogres' hands and feet.**

6. Find and copy one word that describes the ogres' snores.

**loud**

7. Do you think that Momotaro was scared when he saw the ogres? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Momotaro was scared when he saw the ogres because they might have hurt him if they had woken up before he had finished tying the ropes.**

# Momotaro



One day, an old woman was washing her clothes in the river when she noticed a giant peach travelling through the water. Lying on the riverbank, she caught the amazing fruit as it floated by. When she arrived home, her husband couldn't believe it. Together, they inspected the peach before deciding to see how it tasted.



Just as they had made the first hole in the top of the fruit, the peach started to cry! Slowly, the couple peered inside. Curled up inside the peach was a baby boy. The old man carefully lifted up the child and smiled. "We shall name him Momotaro," he announced.



Over the years, Momotaro grew up to be healthy and strong. One night, a group of ogres visited the village. By morning, the villagers had woken up to discover that all of their treasure had been stolen.

Immediately, Momotaro offered to track down the ogres and return the treasure. The old couple were proud of their son and they sent him on his way with a bundle of his favourite millet dumplings.

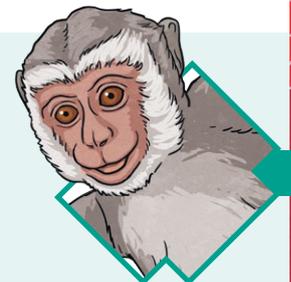


At the start of his journey, Momotaro saw a large dog on the road. "Can I have a dumpling?" it asked.

"Of course!" replied Momotaro and he threw a dumpling on the ground. After eating, the dog offered to join Momotaro.

The boy and the dog continued until they were stopped by a monkey. "Please can I have a dumpling?" it asked.

"Of course!" replied Momotaro, throwing a dumpling on the ground. Before long, the monkey offered to join the pair.





When the group were close to the ogres' cave, a pheasant stepped onto the path. "May I have a bite of that dumpling?" it asked.

"Of course!" replied Momotaro. Hearing what the group was planning to do, the pheasant decided to join them.



As night fell, the group arrived at the ogres' cave. They could hear loud, rumbling snores coming from inside. Acting fast, each grabbed a piece of rope and began silently tying up the ogres' hands and feet. When the last ogre had been trapped, the dog barked loudly.



Immediately, the ogres woke up. They roared and tried to get free but the knots were too tight. The giant creatures begged Momotaro to free them. "I will release you," he explained, "if you give me all of your treasure and if you promise that you will never hurt another human." Reluctantly, the ogres agreed.



After collecting every item from the ogres' cave, Momotaro made his way back to the village.

When he arrived, everyone thanked their new hero and cheered for the brave boy who had returned their precious treasure.



# Questions

1. What was the old woman doing when she noticed the giant peach? Tick one.

- swimming in the river
- having a picnic
- washing her clothes
- searching for fruit

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The group tied up the ogres.
- Momotaro saw a large dog on the road.
- Momotaro made his way back to the village.
- Momotaro was stopped by a monkey.

3. Which **two** words are used to describe Momotaro? Tick **two**.

- healthy
- strong
- large
- loud

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

The old man...

offered to track down the treasure.

The old couple were...

proud of their son.

Rumbling snores were...

carefully lifted up the child.

Momotaro...

coming from inside the cave.

5. What did the old couple send Momotaro on his way with?

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6. Look at the paragraph beginning **Immediately, the ogres...**

Find and copy one word which shows you that the ogres didn't want to agree.

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7. How do you think the old couple felt when the peach began to cry? Explain your answer.

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8. Do you think that the ogres will keep their promise? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What was the old woman doing when she noticed the giant peach? Tick one.

- swimming in the river
- having a picnic
- washing her clothes**
- searching for fruit

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The group tied up the ogres.
- Momotaro saw a large dog on the road.
- Momotaro made his way back to the village.
- Momotaro was stopped by a monkey.

3. Which **two** words are used to describe Momotaro? Tick **two**.

- healthy**
- strong**
- large
- loud

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

The old man...	offered to track down the treasure.
The old couple were...	proud of their son.
Rumbling snores were...	carefully lifted up the child.
Momotaro...	coming from inside the cave.

5. What did the old couple send Momotaro on his way with?

**The old couple sent Momotaro on his way with a bundle of his favourite millet dumplings.**

6. Look at the paragraph beginning **Immediately, the ogres...**

Find and copy one word which shows you that the ogres didn't want to agree.

**reluctantly**

7. How do you think the old couple felt when the peach began to cry? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the old couple were probably shocked and a little bit frightened because they wouldn't have been expecting the peach to start crying.**

8. Do you think that the ogres will keep their promise? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I do not think that the ogres will keep their promise because they won't be happy that Momotaro has taken all of their treasure and they might want revenge.**

# Momotaro



One day, an old woman was washing her clothes in the river when she saw a remarkable sight. Flowing downstream was a giant peach! Intrigued by such an unusual object, she lay on the riverbank and stretched to catch the fruit as it floated by. Safely in her arms, she took it home to inspect it.

When she arrived home, her husband was astonished. Together, the pair inspected the peach before deciding that it would make a wonderful snack. Carefully, they began to make a hole in the top of the peach until an unusual sound made them jump back in shock. The peach had started to cry! Slowly, the couple leant over the giant fruit and peered inside. Nestled inside was a baby boy. The old man carefully lifted up the child and smiled.



"We shall call him Momotaro," he announced.

For many years, Momotaro and the old couple lived happily together in the village. Life was quiet and happy until a band of ogres stormed the village one night. By morning, the villagers awoke to find that all of their treasure had been stolen. "Don't worry!" shouted Momotaro to the concerned villagers. "I will follow the ogres and track down your treasure."

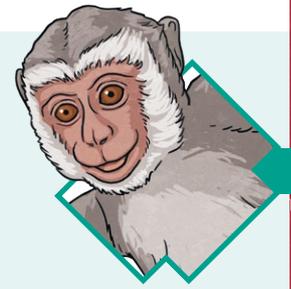


The old couple were proud of the brave person that their son had become and they sent him on his way with a bundle of his favourite millet dumplings.



A short while into his journey, a large dog stood on the road in front of Momotaro. "Those dumplings look tasty," it remarked. "Can I have one?" "Of course!" replied Momotaro and he threw a dumpling on the ground. After eating the tasty treat, the dog offered to join Momotaro on his quest.

The boy and the dog continued along the path until they were stopped by a monkey. "Please can I have a dumpling?" it asked. "Of course!" replied Momotaro, throwing a dumpling on the ground. Before long, the monkey offered to join the pair.



As the boy, the dog and the monkey neared the ogres' cave, a pheasant appeared on the path. "May I have a bite of that dumpling?" it inquired. "Of course!" replied Momotaro. After hearing where the group was heading, the pheasant decided to join them.

Just as the sun was setting, the group arrived at the ogres' cave. They could hear loud, rumbling snores coming from inside and they knew that they had to act fast. Each grabbing a piece of rope, Momotaro and the animals began silently tying up the ogres' hands and feet. When the last ogre had been secured, the dog let out a loud bark. Immediately, the enormous beasts woke up. They roared and thrashed but the knots were too tight and they were trapped by the ropes.



The foul creatures begged for Momotaro to release them. "I will release you," he explained, "in exchange for all of your treasure and the promise that you will never harm another human." Reluctantly, the ogres agreed.

After collecting everything that he could find in the ogres' cave, Momotaro made his way back to the village.

**When he arrived, everyone thanked their new hero and cheered for the brave boy who had returned their precious treasure.**

# Questions

1. **One day, an old woman was washing her clothes in the river when she saw a remarkable sight.**

What does the word **remarkable** mean? Tick one.

- heavy  
 enormous  
 incredible  
 edible

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The villagers awoke to find that their treasure had been stolen.  
 A pheasant appeared on the path.  
 Momotaro was stopped by a monkey.  
 Momotaro was discovered inside a peach.

3. What is Momotaro's favourite food?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

Just as the \_\_\_\_\_ was setting, the group arrived at the ogres' \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **For many years...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as worried.

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6. If Momotaro could have only taken one animal with him, which animal do you think he would have chosen? Explain your answer.

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7. What type of adventure do you think Momotaro will go on next? Explain your answer.

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8. Explain how the author makes the ogres sound frightening.

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# Answers

1. **One day, an old woman was washing her clothes in the river when she saw a remarkable sight.**  
What does the word **remarkable** mean? Tick one.

**incredible**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

**2** The villagers awoke to find that their treasure had been stolen.

**4** A pheasant appeared on the path.

**3** Momotaro was stopped by a monkey.

**1** Momotaro was discovered inside a peach.

3. What is Momotaro's favourite food?

**Momotaro's favourite food is millet dumplings.**

4. Fill in the missing words.

Just as the **sun** was setting, the group arrived at the ogres' **cave**.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **For many years...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as worried.

**concerned**

6. If Momotaro could have only taken one animal with him, which animal do you think he would have chosen? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Momotaro would have chosen the dog because it is the strongest of the animals and it could have helped to protect Momotaro if he had gotten into trouble with the ogres.**

7. What type of adventure do you think Momotaro will go on next? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Momotaro will go and help another village whose treasure has been stolen because he likes to help people. I think that the treasure will have been stolen by the ogres who didn't keep their promise.**

8. Explain how the author makes the ogres sound frightening.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The author makes the ogres sound frightening by describing them as 'enormous beasts'. They also say that the animals are working 'silently', which gives the impression that they are afraid of what the ogres will do if they are woken up.**