

# Was there or wasn't there?

## ACTIVITY TYPE

pairwork information gap

## LANGUAGE FOCUS

*Was/Were there any ...?*  
questions, and short answers  
*burger, ice cream, lemonade,*  
*orange juice, sausage*

## LEVEL

3

## AGE RANGE

11–12

## TIME

15 minutes

## MATERIALS

a copy of the *Was there or wasn't there?* worksheet per pair of pupils

## Before class

Make a copy of the *Was there or wasn't there?* worksheet for every pair of pupils. Cut each copy into two parts: A and B.

## In class

- 1 Remind pupils that in questions, instead of *some* we use *any* and give examples by asking questions about the classroom: *Are there any chairs? Is there any cheese?*
- 2 To revise the past forms (and contextualise the activity) say *Last week I had a barbecue. There was a lot of food. Ask me what food there was.* Tell pupils to ask questions to guess what food there was: *Was there any ...? Were there any ...?* If pupils ask grammatically incorrect questions, do not answer but encourage them to ask the question again. Continue eliciting questions (and giving short answers) until pupils feel comfortable with the question forms.
- 3 Arrange the class in pairs: A and B. Give pupils their part of the worksheet, A or B. Explain that the information on their photocopy is 'secret' and pupils can only look at their own piece of paper. Let them read their sheet.
- 4 Explain that pupils are going to find out what food there was at the different children's barbecues. Copy part of the chart from the activity onto the board:

	ice cream	burgers
Jessica's barbecue		

- 5 Ask the question *Was there any ice cream at Jessica's barbecue?* Shake your head to elicit the response *No, there wasn't.* Put a cross in the box on the board.  
Repeat for burgers: *Were there any burgers at Jessica's barbecue?* Nod to elicit the response *Yes, there were.* Put a tick in the box on the board.
- 6 Ask pupils to face their partners. They ask and answer questions to complete the sheet.
- 7 Circulate to monitor and correct.

A

Last week these children all had birthday barbecues.




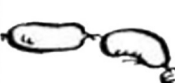

Ask and answer questions and complete the table.

Example: Was there any ice cream at Jessica's barbecue?

No, there wasn't.

Were there any burgers at Jessica's barbecue?

Yes, there were.

	ice cream 	burgers 	orange juice 	sausages 	lemonade 
Jessica	X	✓	✓		X
George		X		✓	
Jane	✓	✓	✓		
Harry	X				X
Julie			X	✓	



B

Last week these children all had birthday barbecues.






Ask and answer questions and complete the table.

Example: Was there any ice cream at Jessica's barbecue?

No, there wasn't.

Were there any burgers at Jessica's barbecue?

Yes, there were.

	ice cream 	burgers 	orange juice 	sausages 	lemonade 
Jessica	X	✓		✓	
George	X		✓		✓
Jane				X	X
Harry		✓	✓	X	
Julie	✓	X			✓



## **6B Puzzles (30 minutes)**

**Individual and pairwork; appearances, colour, past simple *be***

*Each student will need one copy of the worksheet.*

- Give each student a copy of the worksheet and go through one example from each of the activities.
- The students work on their own to complete the puzzles, but allow them to check their answers with a partner.
- Finish by checking the answers with the whole class.

### **Options**

*Fast finishers:* can write their own puzzles. Invite them to share them with the class at the end of the lesson.

### **Answers**

- 1** 1 short   2 curly   3 wavy   4 thick  
5 bald   6 straight   7 blond   8 cute
- 2** red, black, green, brown, blue, grey, pink, yellow

# Puzzles

**1** Rearrange the letters to make words about appearances. You have the first letter for each word.


1 S T O H R  
2 C L U R Y  
3 W V Y A  
4 T I K C H



5 B L D A  
6 S A I T H G R T  
7 B D N O L  
8 C T E U

**2** Find the colours. Colour them.

shredablackhafejgreenevebrownexibluewhgreyhwepinksiwyellowwer

**3** Write the questions and answer them.

1 W \_\_\_\_\_ your hair  when you w \_\_\_\_\_ 3?  
Example Was your hair short when you were three? Yes, it was. / No, it wasn't.

2 W \_\_\_\_\_ you  when you w \_\_\_\_\_ a  ?

3 W \_\_\_\_\_ your dad's hair  when he w \_\_\_\_\_ 18?

4 W \_\_\_\_\_ your mum's hair  when she w \_\_\_\_\_ 20?

5 W \_\_\_\_\_ you  at  today?

6 W \_\_\_\_\_ you in  last year?

**4** Choose three of the questions and ask your partner.



## **Resource G** (Lesson 11)

**Classroom arrangement:** groups of three

**Objective:** to practise talking about the past with *be*

**Context:** famous people

- Photocopy and cut up one sheet for each group.
- In each pair one S is Student A, one S is Student B and one S is Student C.
- Explain that they all have some information about the people on the sheet but they need to ask the other Ss in their group questions to find out the rest of the information. Check that Ss understand the titles of the columns and can pronounce the names of the people. Ss take it turns to ask questions.  
A: *What was John Wayne's job?*  
B: *He was an actor.*
- When they get the information, they write it in the table.
- They finish when they have all the information.

**Resource G** (Lesson 11)**Student A**

Name	Profession	Born	Nationality	Why famous
John Wayne	actor			in a lot of cowboy films
Albert Einstein	scientist			
Emily Brontë		1818		
Margot Fontaine			British	she danced with Rudolf Nureyev

**Student B**

Name	Profession	Born	Nationality	Why famous
John Wayne	actor		American	
Albert Einstein		1879		he won the Nobel Prize for Physics
Emily Brontë	writer			
Margot Fontaine		1919		

**Student C**

Name	Profession	Born	Nationality	Why famous
John Wayne	actor	1907		
Albert Einstein			Swiss and American	
Emily Brontë			British	her book 'Wuthering Heights'
Margot Fontaine	ballet dancer			

# The Marie Celeste

1

Read the story about the Marie Celeste and fill in the gaps with was or were.

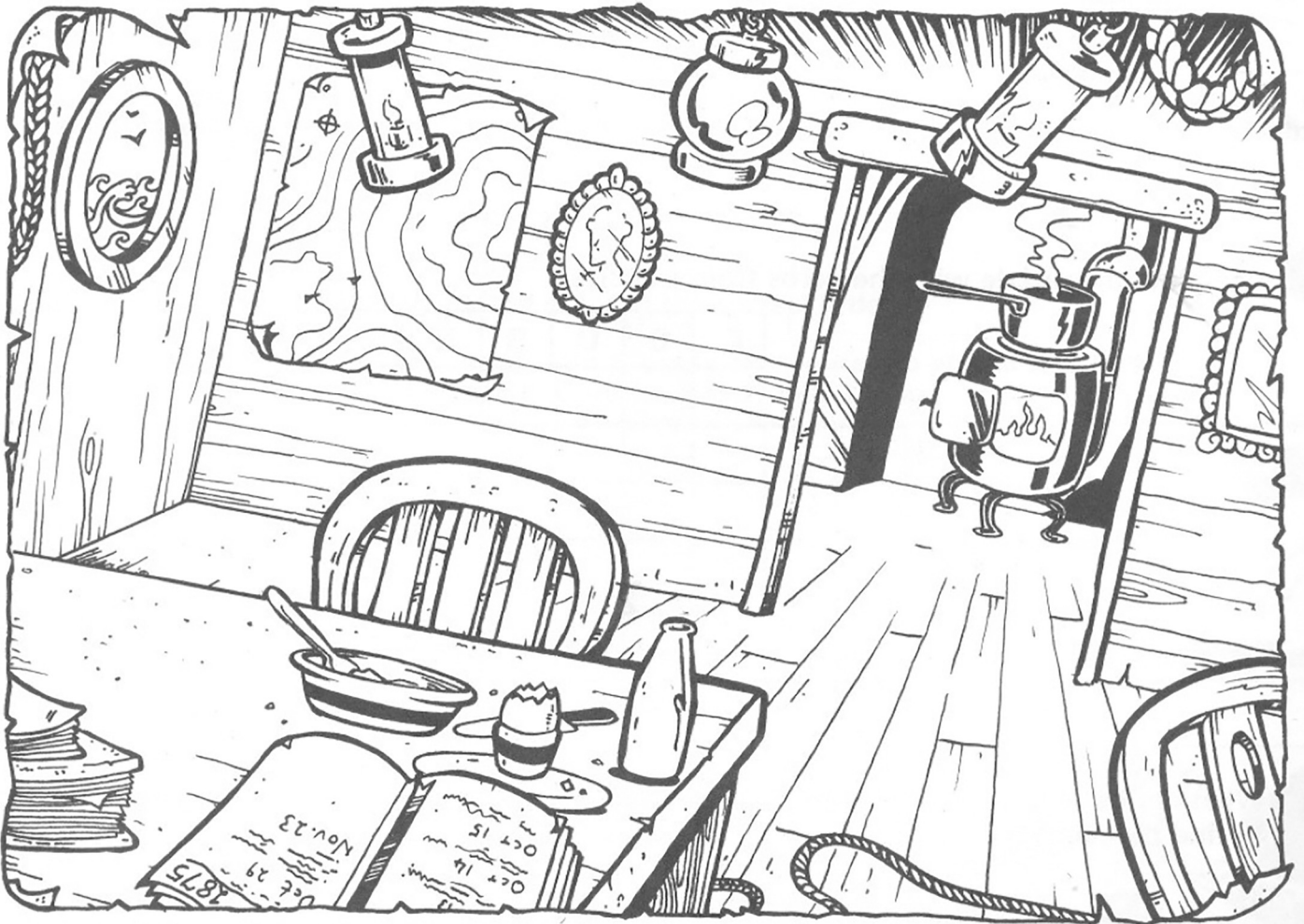
The Marie Celeste (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a ship. On 5 December 1872, the Marie Celeste (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There (3) \_\_\_\_\_ something strange about this ship, so the captain of another ship, the Dei Gratia, stopped his ship and went on board the Marie Celeste with another man. They (4) \_\_\_\_\_ surprised because there (5) \_\_\_\_\_ no people on the ship at all. It (6) \_\_\_\_\_ completely empty.

There (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of food on the ship. And in the kitchen, there (8) \_\_\_\_\_ saucepans of food, half cooked – but the fire (9) \_\_\_\_\_ out. In the captain's room, there (10) \_\_\_\_\_ some half-finished breakfast on the table: there (11) \_\_\_\_\_ an egg and an open bottle of medicine. Everything (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in its place. The men (13) \_\_\_\_\_ not there, but all of their clothes and things (14) \_\_\_\_\_ there. Did the men jump off the ship? But why?

The captain of the Dei Gratia looked at the book on the table. The last date in it (15) \_\_\_\_\_ 25 November. Did the men leave after that day? (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the Marie Celeste in the Atlantic without men for ten days? People wanted to know. So, they looked for information and found that it (17) \_\_\_\_\_ an American ship. It left New York with ten people on it: Captain Briggs, seven crewmen, the captain's wife and young daughter. No one saw them again and no one knows what happened to them.

2

Here is a picture of the Marie Celeste when the captain of the Dei Gratia went aboard. Circle the wrong things in the picture. Why are they wrong?



# What was there...?

## STUDENT A

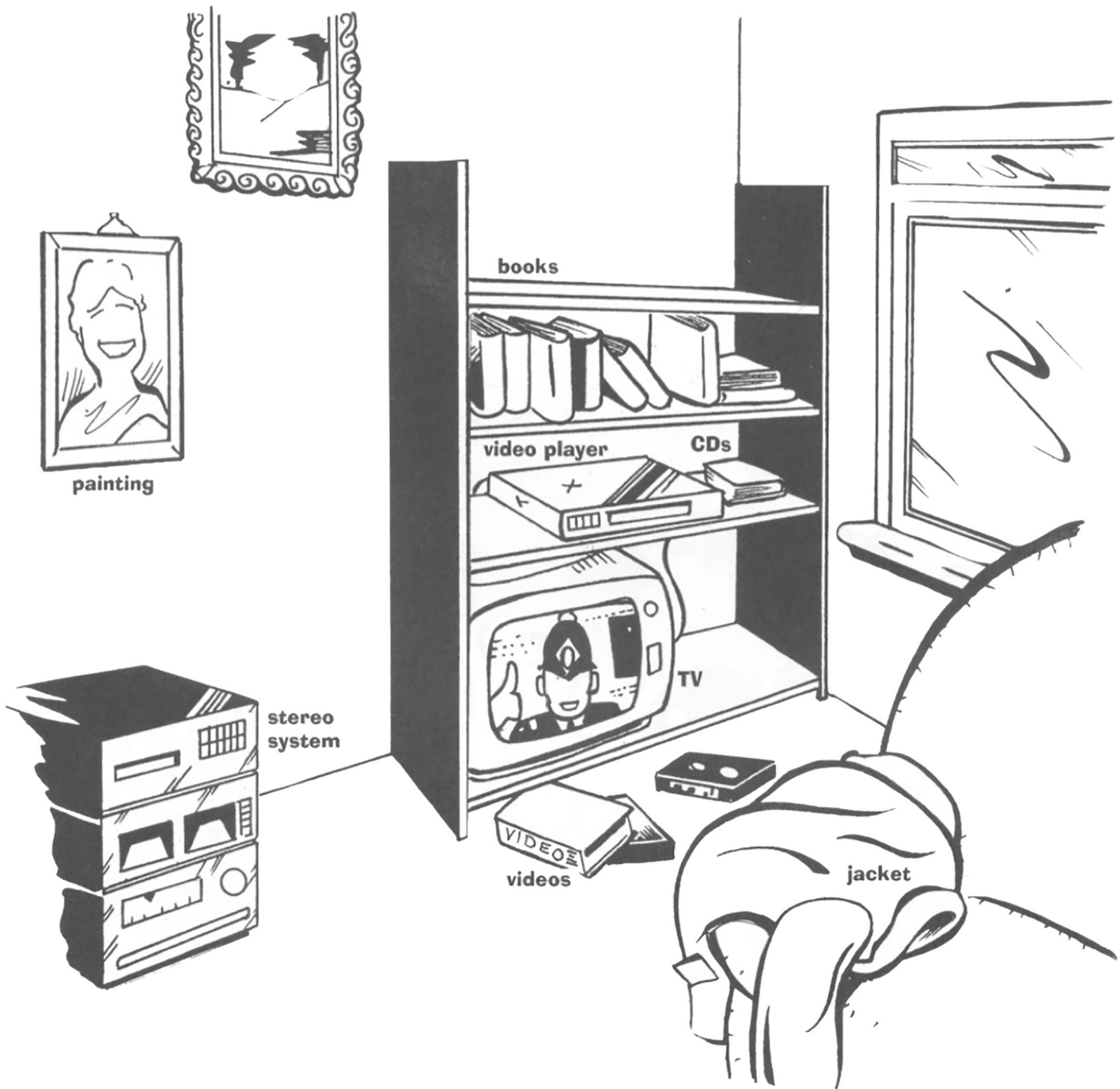
What was there after the robbery?

Look at the picture of what there was before the robbery. Ask Student B questions to find out what there was after the robbery. There are ten differences between your picture and Student B's picture. Read the example and find nine more differences.

**Example:** Student A: There were some paintings on the walls yesterday.

Student B: There aren't any paintings now.

## YESTERDAY



# What was there...?

## STUDENT B

What was there before the robbery?

Look at the picture of what there was after the robbery. Ask Student A questions to find out what there was before the robbery. There are ten differences between your picture and Student A's picture. Read the example and find nine more differences.

**Example:** Student A: There were some paintings on the walls yesterday.

Student B: There aren't any paintings now.

**NOW**

