

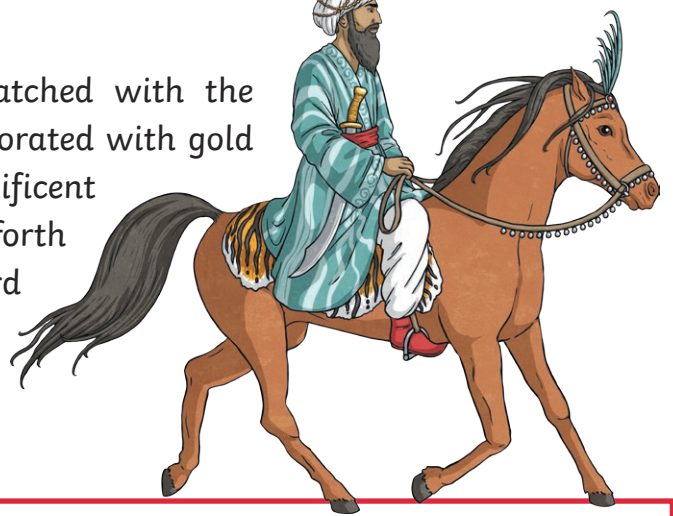
Improving Your Reading with Vocabulary Victor: The Caravan



Once upon a time, there marched through the wilderness a large caravan, laden with passengers and goods. Upon the vast plain, where nothing could be seen but sand and heaven, the clink and chimes of the bells adorning the camels' and horses' necks announced their approach through the thick cloud of dust which preceded them. When a rare gust of wind separated the clouds, glittering weapons and brilliant dresses dazzled the eye.

The leader of the caravan was mounted on a fine Arabian stallion, seated upon a blanket of tiger skin. Silver bells were suspended from the reins and a plume of heron feathers waved atop the horse's head.

The rider looked majestic and his clothing matched with the splendour of his horse: a white turban richly decorated with gold adorned his head and a curved sword with a magnificent handle hung by his side. His dark eyes gleamed forth from under his bushy brows and the long beard which hung down under his arched nose gave him a wild, daring expression.



1. *there marched through the wilderness a large **caravan***

What does **caravan** mean in this phrase? Tick **one**.

- an army marching through the desert
- a group of animals carrying passengers and goods
- a motorised vehicle laden with baggage
- a large group of people travelling on foot

2. *a white turban richly decorated with gold **adorned** his head*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **adorned**? Circle **one** answer.

punished

repulsed

applauded

decorated

3. Find and copy a phrase from the second paragraph which shows that the leader of the caravan was sat on top of a horse.

4. *...where nothing could be seen but sand and heaven.*
How else could the author have written this phrase?

Answers

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| punished | repulsed | applauded | decorated |
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3. Find and copy a phrase from the second paragraph which shows that the leader of the caravan was sat on top of a horse.

mounted on a fine Arabian stallion

4. *...where nothing could be seen but sand and heaven.*

How else could the author have written this phrase?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'where there was nothing to see but sand and sky'.