

Year 8 non fiction parent guide

KEY VOCABULARY	Meaning	In as sentence	Synonyms
Anguish	severe mental or physical pain or suffering.	"she shut her eyes in anguish "	Agony, pain, torment
Grotesque			
Distortion			
Articulate			
Derived			
Surge			
Inadequate			
Presumed			
Distribute			
Fluctuate			

Rules for using a comma

- Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*.
- Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause. **While I was eating, the cat scratched at the door.**
- Use commas wherever necessary to prevent possible confusion or misreading: **Let's eat Dad or Let's eat, Dad**
- Use commas to separate items in a series

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EXCERPT TITLED: 'big roar', TAKEN FROM 'national GEOGRAPHIC NEWS'

It's the end of the dry season on the Araguari River in Brazil, and the water level is low. The moon is full. Suddenly an ominous roar rolls through the jungle, like the rumble of an oncoming train. A vast wall of water comes hurtling straight up the river. The native Tupi Indians call it poroc-poroc – big roar. It's a tidal wave.

The phenomenon is "a wave that forms at the head of the incoming tide in rivers or estuaries", explains surfer and researcher Tom Wright. "It's a tidal wave or bore, not to be confused with a tsunami."

A tidal bore can travel more than 20 miles an hour and gets stronger as the river gets stronger as the river gets narrow and shallower, reaching recorded heights of up to 30 feet. The pororoca, as the bores are called in Brazil, has been known to reach more than 180 miles inland. "Two principal factors affect the size and strength of bores," said Victor Miguel Ponce, a professor at San Diego State University. "The magnitude of the tidal range and the shape of the river at its estuary".

The Earth's tides are caused by the gravitational pull of both the Sun and Moon on the Earth's waters. High spring tides occur whenever the Earth, Moon and Sun line up and reinforce each other. Weather and coastal effects also have an impact on tides. Strong winds sweeping in from the sea can cause higher-than-expected water levels. "Extreme conditions leading to a storm surge can also produce a tidal bore in a river that might not usually have one," Wright said.

But not every river has a bore, no matter how spectacular the local tides. "For a bore to occur, the shape of a river at its estuary – near its mouth – has to be shallow and uniform, with just the right depth to accommodate the incoming wall of water", Ponce noted.

Example questions

1. a) *"Suddenly an ominous roar rolls through the jungle..."*

What **two** language features does this quotation include? Tick **two**:

A rhyme	
Alliteration	
A metaphor	
Onomatopoeia	
An idiom	

b) What does this quotation suggest about the noise of the tidal wave?

Give **two** things.

- 1.
- 2.

2. What is a "poroc-poroc"?
3. What two things affect the size and strength of a tidal bore?
4. Complete this fact file about tidal bores. One has been done for you:

Speed of a tidal bore.	More than 20 miles per hour
Height of a tidal bore.	
Number of river where tidal bores occur.	
What Tupi Indians call a tidal bore.	
The name of the largest tidal bore in the world.	

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Key knowledge

Adjective: a word naming an attribute of a noun, such as *sweet, red, or technical*.

Adverb: a word or phrase that modifies or qualifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb or a word group, expressing a relation of place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree such as *gently, quite, then, there, suddenly*.

Abstract noun: a noun denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object, e.g. *truth, danger, happiness*.

Pronoun: a word that can function as a noun phrase used by itself and that refers either to the participants in the discourse (e.g. *I, you*) or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (e.g. *she, it, this*).

Conjunction: a word used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause (e.g. *and, but, if*).

Preposition: a word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause, as in 'the man *on* the platform', 'she arrived *after* dinner', 'what did you do it *for*?'.

Metaphor: figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

Simile: a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid (e.g. *as brave as a lion*).

Personification: the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human: 'the wind howled'

Tips for supporting your child

- Discuss the key vocabulary on the first page: quiz them and complete the table
- Can they recall key **vocabulary** from the list and then place the word correctly into a sentence?
- If your child likes music, they could try listening to the BBC Ten Pieces while they revise.
- Walk and talk. Go out for a walk and talk through their revision or subjects. Test their spellings etc. as you walk.
- Revise the different rules for when using a **comma**