

The Ant and the Pigeon

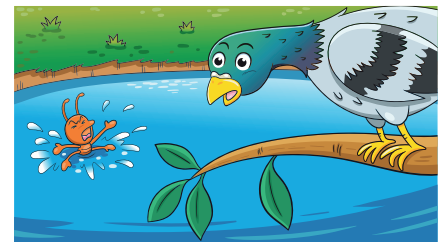
Once there was an Ant, who wandered to the river as he was incredibly thirsty. He scuttled to the very edge and leant down to quench his thirst when suddenly a rush of water swept him up and carried him downstream. He coughed and spluttered in the water and thought that he would surely drown.

A Pigeon was sitting on a branch overhanging the river and saw the Ant in the water below. She picked a leaf and let it fall into the river beside the Ant. He gratefully climbed onto it and floated to the river bank and clambered to safety. He thanked the Pigeon for saving him and vowed to be more careful when beside the river in future.

The following day, a Hunter trekked by the riverbank. He began to make a cage beneath the tree where the Pigeon slept. He silently laid lime-twigs above the cage to trap her.

The Ant saw what the Hunter was doing and scurried over and bit him on the leg. The Hunter shrieked with pain and threw down the rest of the twigs, making quite a racket! The noise woke the Pigeon and she flew away from danger.

Later that day, the Pigeon thanked the Ant for alerting her to the danger and saving her life.



Recall

1. Why did the Ant go to the river?

2. What did the Pigeon pick to help the Ant?

3. What did the Hunter lay above the cage?

4. Where did the Ant bite the Hunter?

5. What woke the Pigeon?

Vocabulary

1. Find and copy a word that means *screamed*.

2. What does the phrase '*...making quite a racket.*' mean?

3. '*... and vowed to be more careful ...*'

What does the word *vowed* mean?

4. Describe how the Ant is moving when he '*scuttled*'.

Inference

1. Why was the Ant coughing and spluttering in the water?

2. Why did the Pigeon pick a leaf?

3. Why was the Hunter laying twigs '*silently*'?

4. Why did the Hunter make lots of noise?

5. Why do you think that the Ant wanted to help the Pigeon?

Explain, referring back to the story.

6. This story is an example of an Aesop's Fable.

These were told in Ancient Greece to teach people a moral lesson.

What lesson do you think this story teaches people?
