

**The Ship**

A fierce storm enveloped the old wooden ship. The petrified crew clung to the ship's mast. A break in the weather would be fortunate. Suddenly, the clouds parted and there was an intense beam of light. The Great Western voyage would continue.

1. Select the best word to replace enveloped  
a) Rattled      b) Blocked      c) Smashed      d) Surrounded
2. Select the best word to replace fortunate  
a) Lucky      b) pleasing      c) welcome      d) surprising
3. Select the best word to replace voyage  
a) Ship      b) storm      c) journey      d) experience
4. Select the best word to replace intense  
a) Thin      b) large      c) colourful      d) powerful
5. Select the best word to replace clung.  
a) clutched      b) separated      c) loosen      d) stopped

Read the passage and answer the following questions-

**The Long-eared Owl**

The long-eared owl can be found in pine forests across Europe. It is a shy bird, and it is hard to see because its feathers have a similar colour and pattern to tree bark. The long tufts on its head are not ears but head feathers that pop up when the bird is alarmed. Like many owls, it hunts small animals and birds at night.

In winter, when they are ready to breed, the owl's roosts in a community. Instead of building their own nests, long-eared owls use old ones built by other birds, such as magpies or crows. They also use baskets or bird boxes provided by conservationists who are trying to encourage them to breed. Long-eared owl numbers in some places have gone up because of the increase in pine forest plantations.

The owlets hatch in April or May. When they are born, they are grey and fluffy and have yellow eyes. But as they grow up, their eye colour changes to deep orange. The baby owls make a cry like the sound of an old squeaky gate! If you hear this sound on a summer evening, in a pine forest, and there is no old gate around, look out for long-eared owls.

1. When do long tufts pop up?

- a) When the owl is building a nest
- b) When the owl senses danger
- c) When the owl is hunting
- d) When the owl is eating

2. Which word best describes the long-eared owl?

- a) borrowed
- b) colourful
- c) fluffy
- d) tiny

3. Where do the long- eared owls live?

- a) Long-eared owls use old ones built by other birds.
- b) Long-eared owls live in their own nests.
- c) Long-eared owls live on the trees.
- d) Long-eared owls Live in the roofs of houses.

4. According to the test, why have long-eared owl's numbers increased in some places?

- a) There are fewer animals hunting them
- b) Owls have arrived from other countries
- c) There are more mice for the owls
- d) There are more trees available to the owls

5. Why is an old squeaky gate mentioned in the text?

- A) Adults long-eared owls perch on old gates
- b) Bird boxes are made from old wooden gates
- c) Baby long -eared owls make a good sound like a squeaky gate
- d) The forests where the owls live are surrounded by the squeaky gates

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