

Introduction

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<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-podcasts-stories-poems.htm>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- the poem that you can listen to in the podcast
- a vocabulary activity based on the poem.

Read the poem

Danger in the Wet

Author unknown

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In the far, far north of Queensland,
Where the cane and stubbies grow,
I met this bloke called Harry,
In a pub at Bungalow.

I asked him as a tourist,
As the place seemed pretty mild,
Are the animals and reptiles,
In the tropics really wild?

He fixed me with a steamy look
"You're new here aren't you mate?
I'll tell you something no-one knows,
If you've got time to wait!

We got taipans and flying fox,
And giant toads that leap,
But there's one you'll never hear about,
And it makes me hair all creep.

His eyes looked furtive 'round the bar
He stopped breathing for a while,
Then he spoke these words real scary,
There's this giant crocodile.

He's the biggest croc in all the world,
Two hundred foot they say,
His teeth are nearly three feet long,
And he lives up Weipa way.

Most of the time he's pretty quiet,
In the river lying low,
But he seems to get real stirred up,
In the Wet when cyclones blow.

In the summer when it's pourin' down,
And the winds a howlin' wail,
He crashes down from up the Cape,
To Cairns and Innisfail.

He rips up trees with giant claws
As he races through the rain,

He swings his tail real vicious,
And flattens all the cane.

You can hear the sound of thunder
As he snaps his giant jaws,
And no-one's ever seen him -
They're not game to come outdoors.

Is he a maneater? Is he?
I can hear you askin' me,
Well, he eats 'em by the hundred,
But it's strange as strange can be.

Have you noticed mobs of tourists
In the middle of the year,
But when the cyclone season comes,
They all but disappear.

Well this croc is who's responsible
For the numbers gettin' thin
He's a taste for southern tourists
And their pale and off white skin.

He likes safari buses
Full of ladies and their gents,
In the dead of night he chomps 'em
As they sleep in little tents.

This crocodile's a brainy bloke
He don't fancy locals much,
He only feeds on tourists,
For they're a real soft touch.

This story Harry told me
It filled me with fear,
I left the bar as Harry said
These words, I still can hear.

Just tell your mates be careful
If they dare to venture forth,
Beware the rainy season,
And the reptile of the north!

After reading

Exercise 1

In the table are 25 words or phrases from the text. Below are definitions of these words and phrases. Can you match the words and phrases to their definitions?

brainy	chomp	claw	cyclone	dare
flatten	forth	furtive	howl	jaw
leap	mild	mob	pour	scary
snap	soft touch	steamy	stirred up	swing
the Tropics	thunder	venture	vicious	wail

1. a group of people who are friends or who are similar in some way
2. be brave enough to do something difficult or dangerous
3. become level or cause something to become level
4. (cause to) feel frightened
5. chew food noisily
6. describes people or actions that show an intention or desire to hurt someone or something very badly
7. either of the two bones in the mouth which hold the teeth
8. excited
9. (from a place) out or away, or (from a point in time) forward
10. hot and wet like steam
11. intelligent
12. make a large jump or sudden movement, usually from one place to another
13. make a long sad noise like a wolf
14. make a long, high cry, usually because of pain or sadness
15. move easily and without interruption backwards and forwards or from one side to the other
16. move into a position quickly, producing a brief noise as if breaking
17. not violent, severe or extreme
18. (of actions) done secretly and often quickly so that people do not notice
19. one of the sharp curved nails at the end of each of the toes of some animals
20. rain very heavily
21. risk going somewhere or doing something that might be dangerous or unpleasant
22. someone who you can easily persuade to do what you want
23. the hottest area of the Earth, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
24. the sudden loud noise which comes from the sky especially during a storm
25. type of tropical storm

Answers

Exercise 1: 1. mob; 2. dare; 3. flatten; 4. scary; 5. chomp; 6. vicious; 7. jaw; 8. stirred up; 9. forth; 10. steamy; 11. brainy; 12. leap; 13. howl; 14. wail; 15. swing; 16. snap; 17. mild; 18. furtive; 19. claw; 20. pour; 21. venture; 22. soft touch; 23. the Tropics; 24. thunder; 25. cyclone