

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-6 : Mijbil the Otter

Part – 5

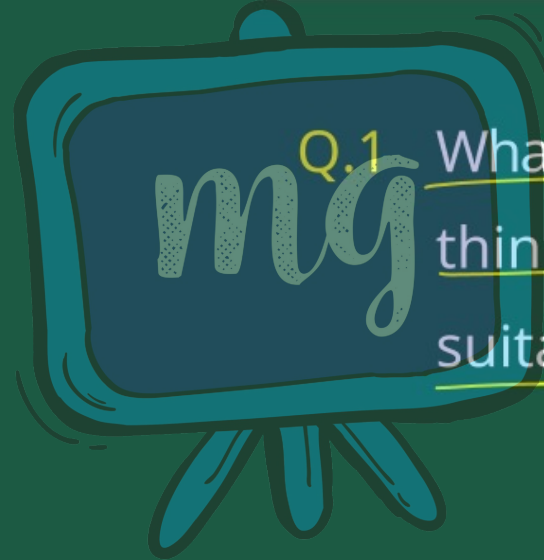
Comprehension

KOMAL IETWANT



COMPREHENSION CHECK

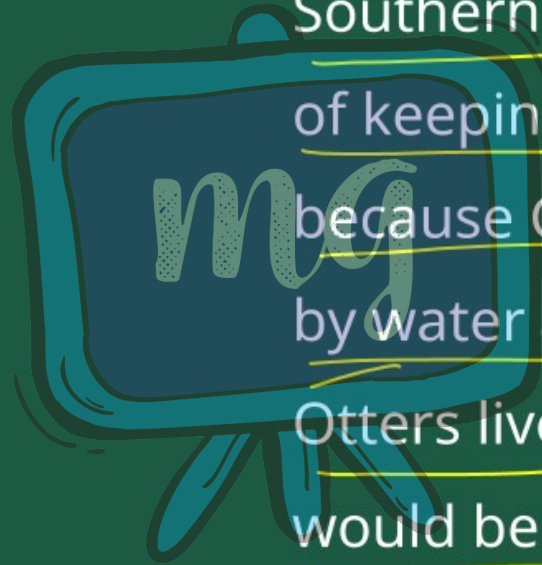
II



Q.1

What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?

Answer: Maxwell had travelled to Southern Iraq in 1956 and thought of keeping an otter as a pet. It was because Camusfearna was ringed by water at a very short distance. Otters live mainly in water. So, it would be an eminently suitable spot for this experiment.



Q.2 Why does he go to Basra?
How long does he wait there,
and why?



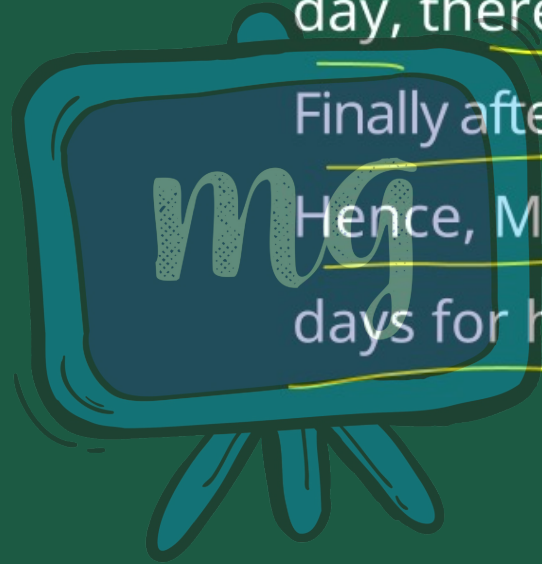
Answer: The author went to Basra
to the Consulate-General to collect
and answer mail from Europe. He
waited there for five days. It was
because there were various problems
in getting the mail.

He cabled to England and three days
later, he made a phone call. On the
first day the line was out of order;
the exchange was closed for a

religious holiday and on the third
day, there was another breakdown.

Finally after five days his mail arrived.

Hence, Maxwell had to wait for five
days for his mail.

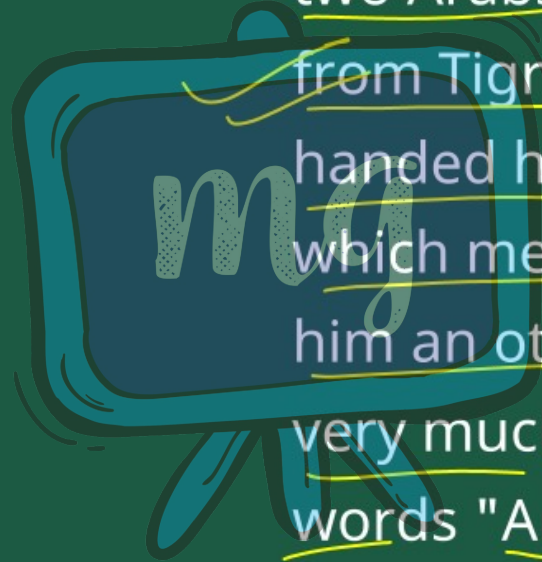


Q.3 How does he get the otter?

Does he like it? Pick out the
words that tell you this.



Answer: He got the otter from the two Arabs who got it for the author from Tigris marshes in a sack. They handed him a note from his friend, which mentioned that he had sent him an otter. The author liked it very much. We know this from his words "An Otter fixation" used to describe his feelings towards the otter.



Q.4 Why was the otter named
'Maxwell's otter'?



Answer: The otter was named by

zoologists as Lutrogale Perspicillata

Maxwelli. Hence, it was called

Maxwell's otter in short.



Maxwell had put
willful efforts to transport
my from its native place
to a foreign land.

Q.5 Tick the right answer. In the beginning, the otter was



Aloof and indifferent

Friendly

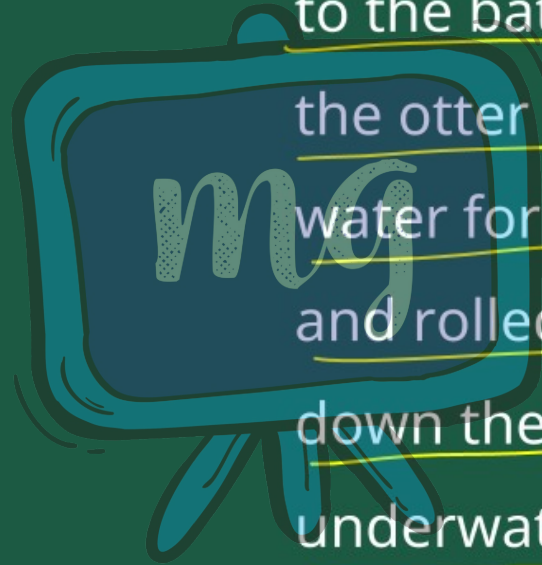
hostile

Q.6 What happened when Maxwell
took Mijbil to the bathroom?

What did it do two days after
that?

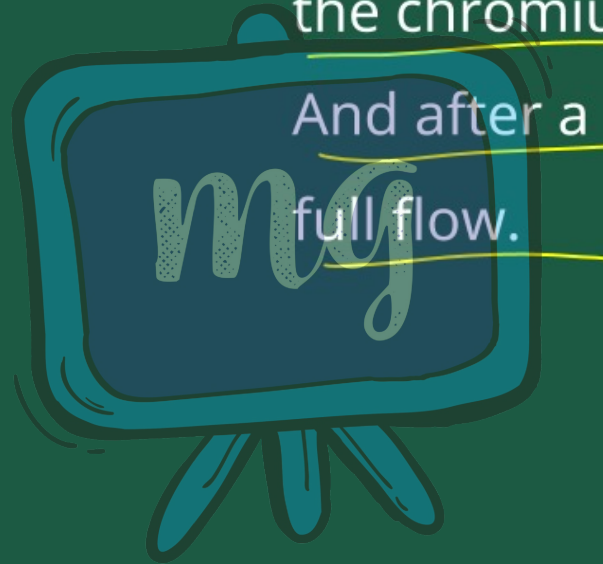


Answer: When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom for the first time, the otter went wild with joy in the water for half an hour. He plunged and rolled in it. He shot up and down the length of the bathtub underwater. He made enough slosh and splash. After two days he escaped from. He entered the bathroom to



play in water and was fumbling at
the chromium taps with his paws.

And after a moment, achieved the
full flow.



III

Q.1 How was Mij to be transported
to England?



Answer: Mij was to be transported to England by air. The British airline didn't fly animals. So the author booked a flight to Paris on another airline and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be carried on the floor at the writer's feet, packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square.



Q.2 What did Mij do to the box?



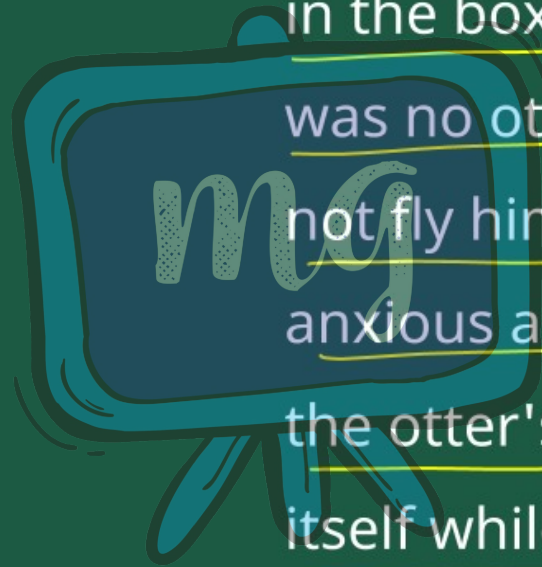
Answer: Mij had torn the lining of
the box to pieces in his efforts to
escape from it, hurt himself and
started bleeding.



Q.3 Why did Maxwell put the otter
back in the box? How do you
think he felt when he did this?



Answer: Maxwell put the otter back
in the box because he knew there
was no other way. The airline would
not fly him without the box. He was
anxious and felt sorry by looking at
the otter's condition as it had hurt
itself while trying to escape from the
box. *miserable*



Q.4 Why does Maxwell say the
airhostess was “the very queen
of her kind”?



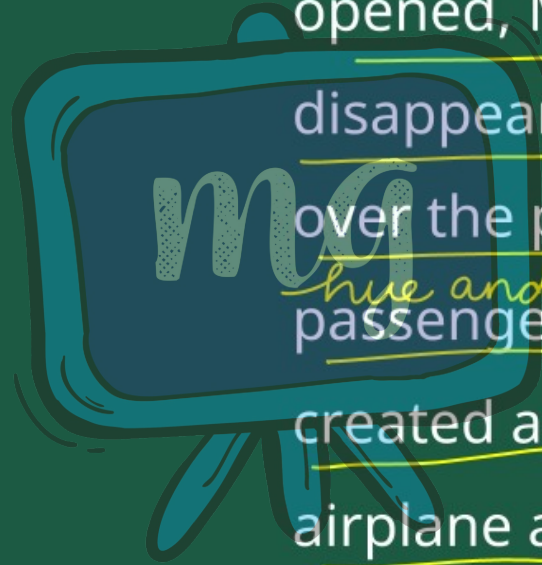
Answer: The airhostess was very friendly and showed sympathy to Maxwell after listening to his story. She respected his feelings and concern about the incident with the box and suggested that he should keep his pet on his knees.

Hearing this, the author developed a profound admiration for the kind lady and referred her as "the very queen of her kind".

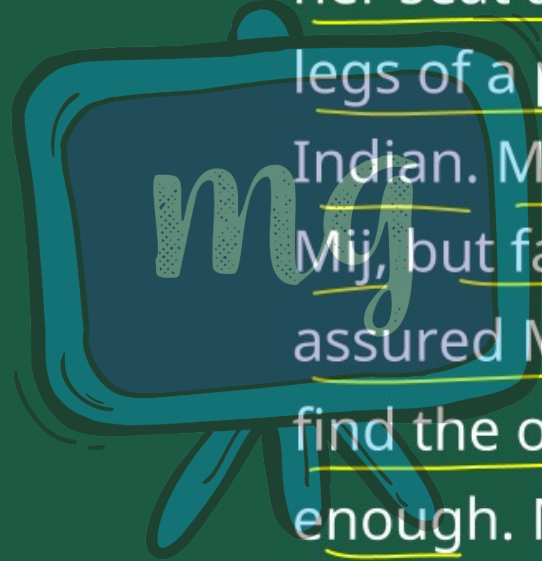
Q.5 What happened when the box
was opened?



Answer: As soon as the box was opened, Mij jumped out of it. He disappeared in no time and ran all over the place, scaring other passengers on the flight. The otter created a lot of chaos in the airplane and the co-passengers got scared looking at the little creature.



Out of fear, a woman stood up on
her seat as he went beneath the
legs of a portly white-turbaned
Indian. Maxwell tried to get hold of
Mij, but failed. The air hostess
assured Maxwell that she would
find the otter for him. Soon
enough. Mijbil returned to the
author, clung to his knee, and
began to nuzzle his face and neck.

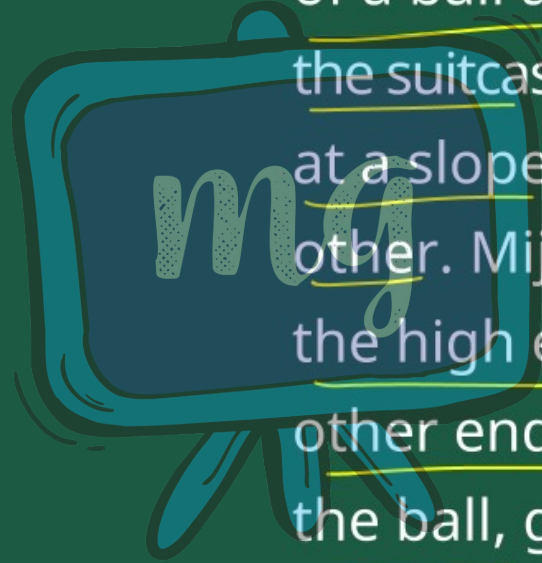


IV

Q.1 What game had Mij invented?



Answer: Mij had invented the game of a ball and a suitcase. The lid of the suitcase, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other. Mij would place the ball on the high end. He would run to the other end to ambush the arrival of the ball, grab it and trot off with it to the high end once more.



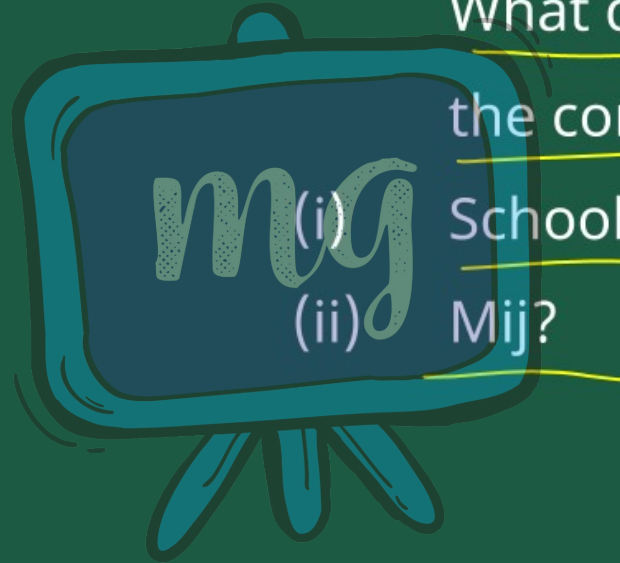
Q.2 What are 'compulsive habits'?

What does Maxwell say are

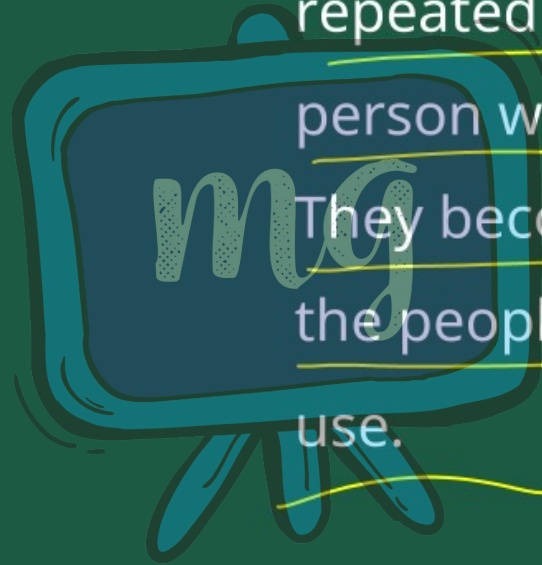
the compulsive habits of

(i) School children

(ii) Mij?

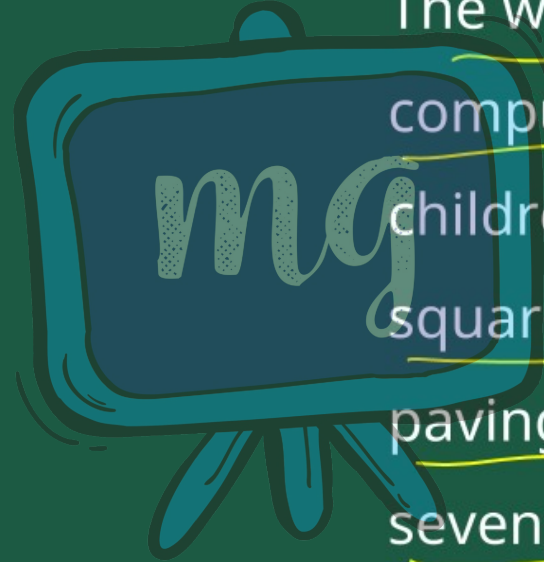


Answer: Compulsive habits are
repeated action or behavior by a
person without any clear reason.
They become the integral part of
the people's lives through constant
use.



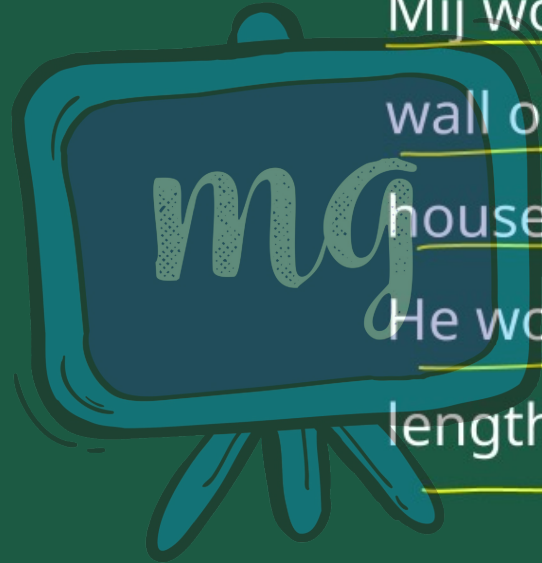
(i) School children :-

The writer described some of the compulsive habits of school children. As they place their feet squarely on the centre of each paving block. They touch every seventh upright of the iron railings. They pass to the outside of every second lamp post.



(ii) Mij :-

Mij would tug the author to the
wall of the school near his
house. He would jump on to it.
He would then gallop the full
length of its thirty yards.



Q.3 What group of animals do
otters belong to?



Answer: Otters belong to the small group of animals called Mustellines.

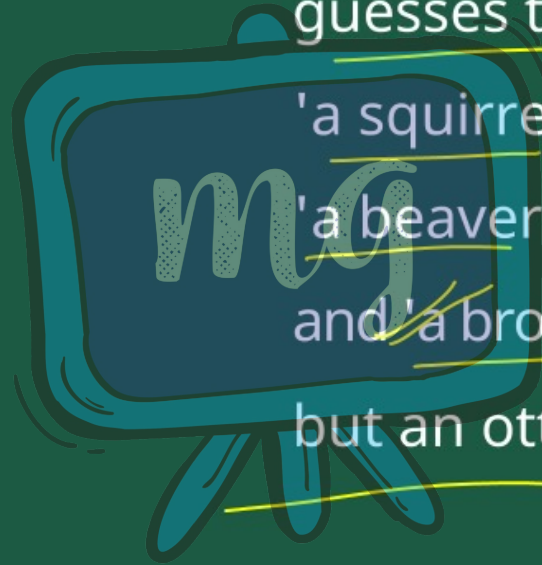
These are shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink etc.



Q.4 What guesses did the Londoners
make about what Mij was?

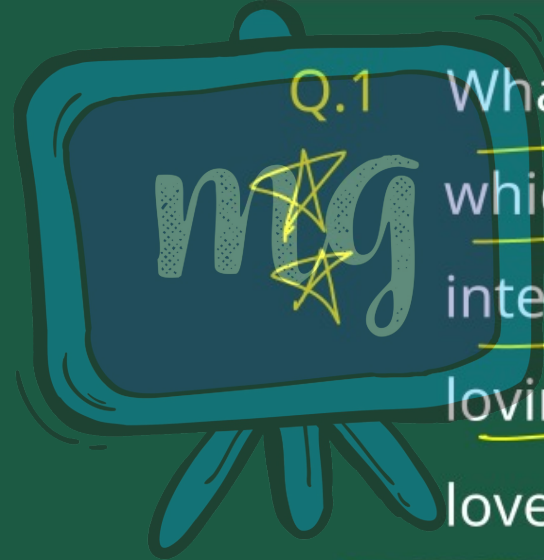


Answer: The Londoners made guesses that Mij was 'a baby seal', 'a squirrel' or 'a walrus'. It was also 'a beaver', 'a bear cub', 'a leopard' and 'a brontosaur'. Mij was anything but an otter.



otter

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT



Q.1

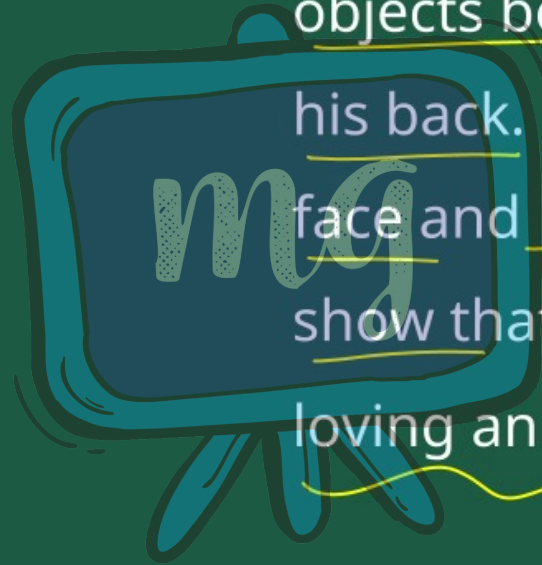
What things does Mij do
which tell you that he is an
intelligent, friendly and fun-
loving animal who needs
love?

Answer: Mij proved his intelligence
when he invented his own game of
ping-pong ball on a worn out suitcase
of Maxwell.

Another instance of his intelligence
was when he opened the tap in the
bathroom and got into the tub to
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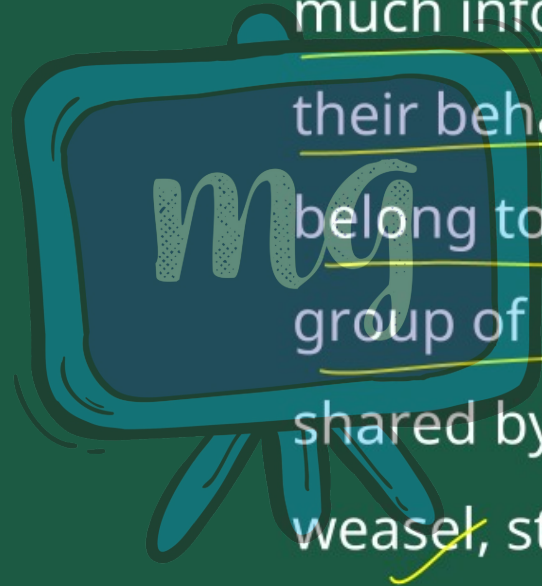
He used to play and juggle small objects between his paws lying on his back. He nuzzled the author's face and neck. All these things show that he is friendly and fun loving animal.



Q.2 What are some of the things
we come to know about otters
from this text?



Answer: From this text we got so much information about otters and their behaviour aspect. Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.



They are found in large number in marshes.

Arabs keep them as pets. Otters

love to spread water and splash in it. They are friendly, fun loving and

playful animals.

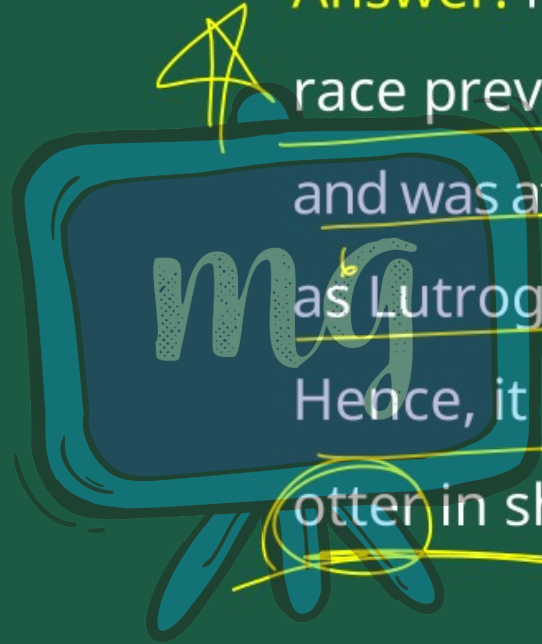


tame them

Q.3 Why is Mij's species now known
to the world as Maxwell's otter?



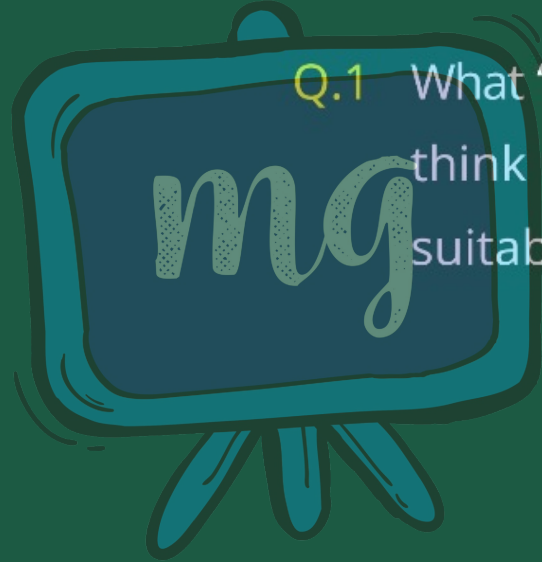
Answer: Maxwell's Otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists as *Lutrogale Perspicillata Maxwelli*. Hence, it is known as Maxwell's otter in short.



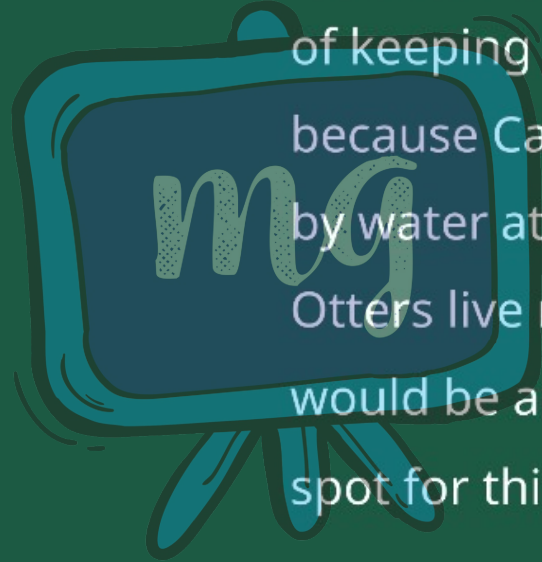
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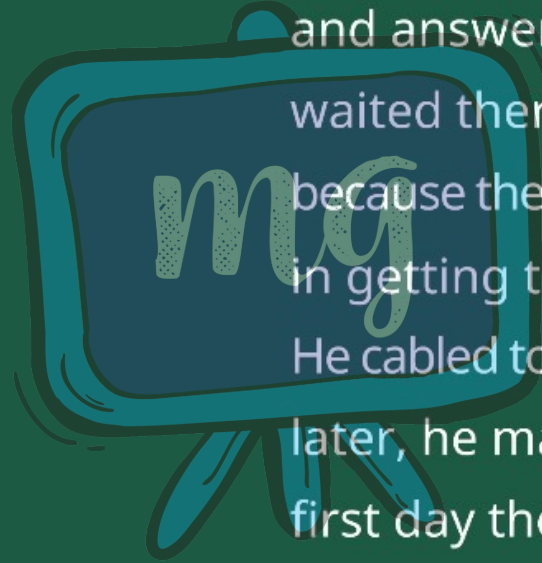


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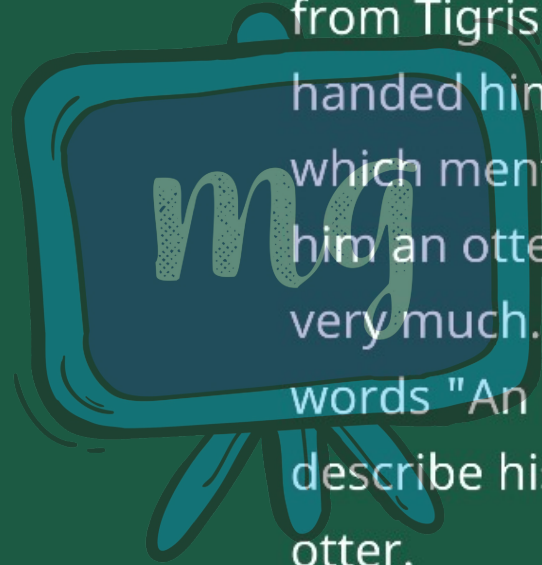


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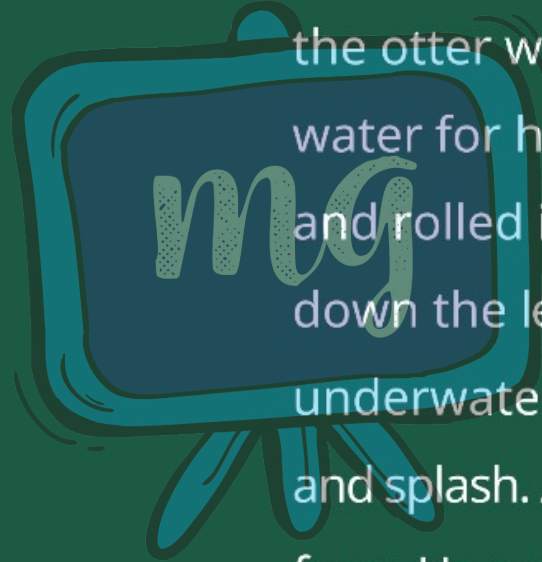


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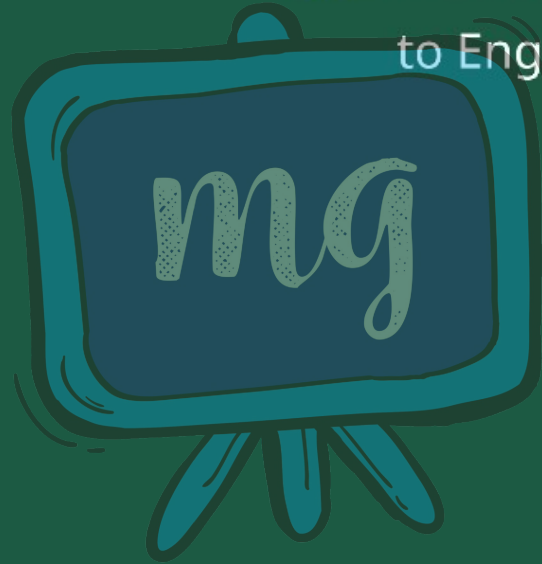
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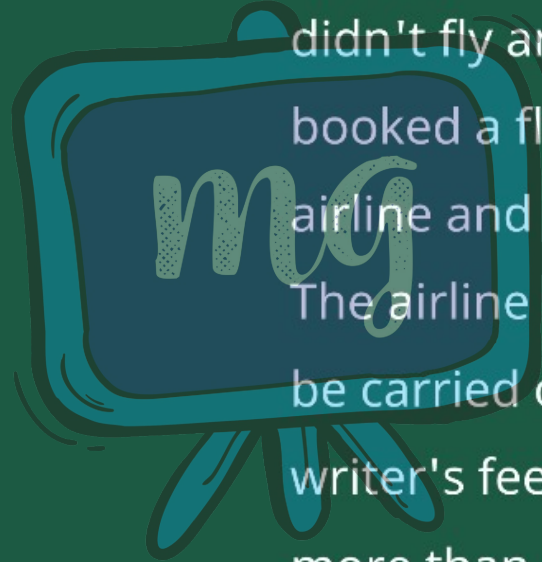


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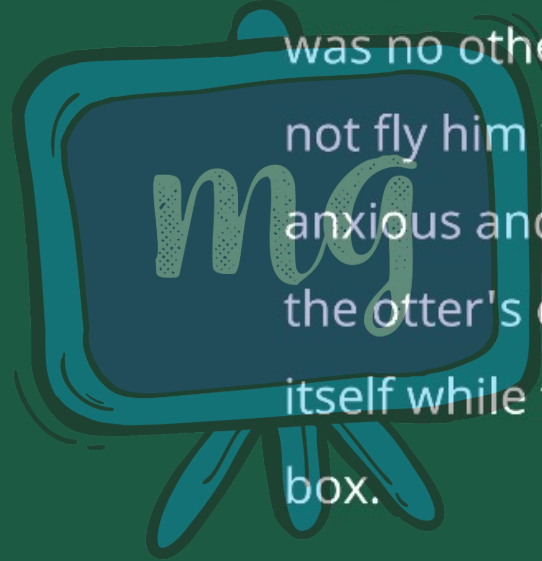
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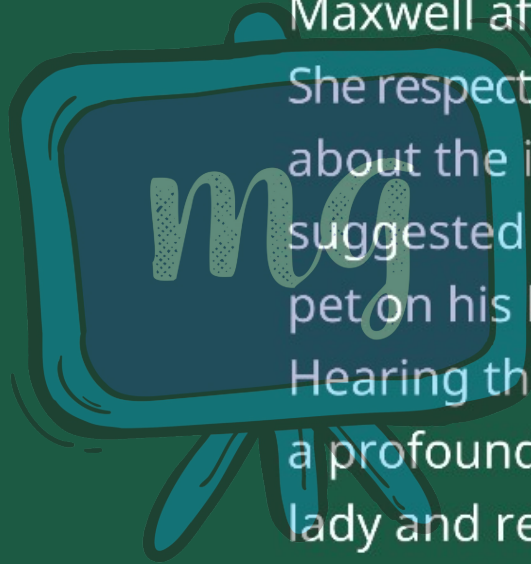


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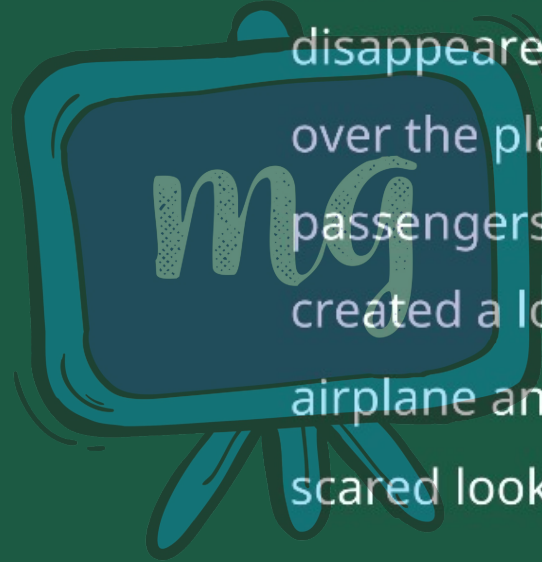
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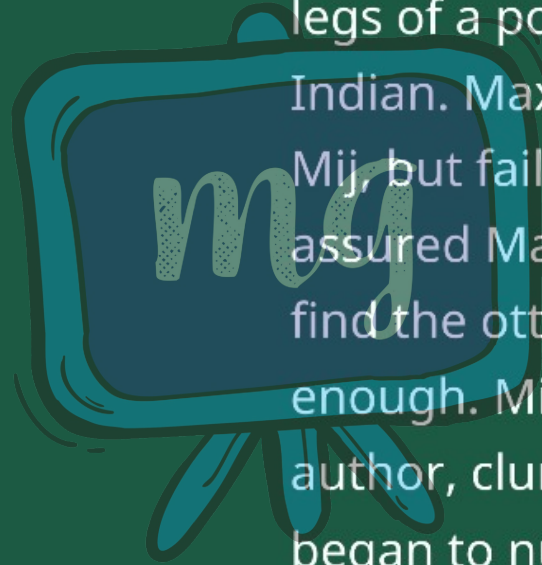
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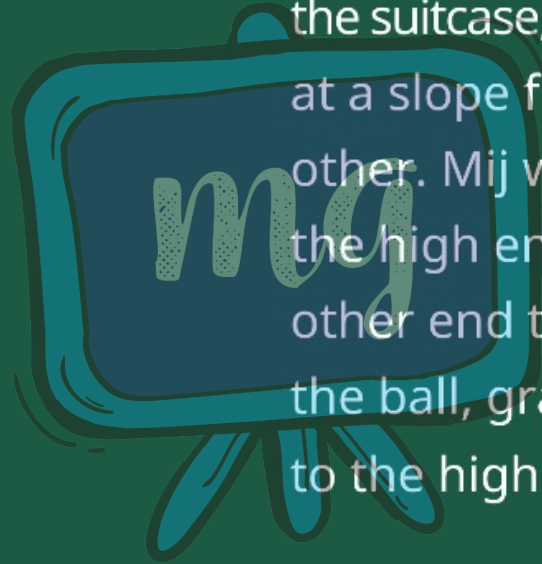


IV

Q.1 What game had Mij invented?



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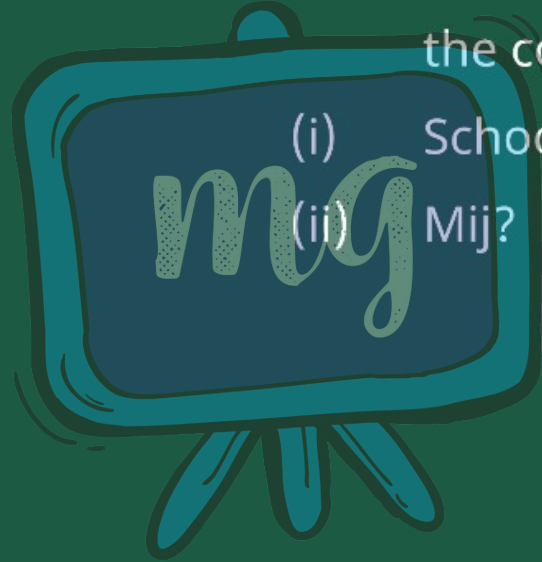
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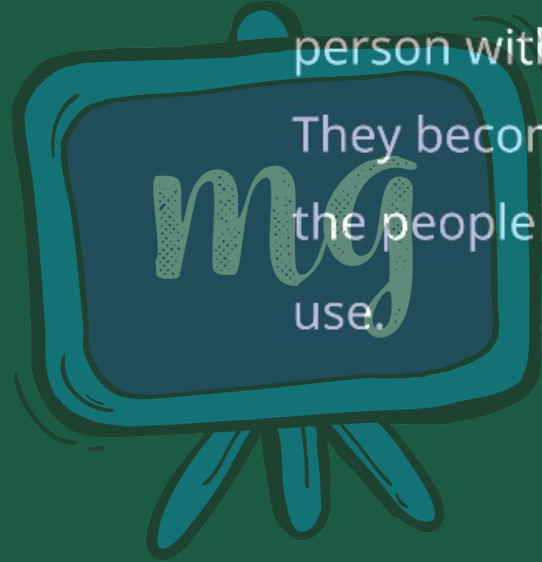
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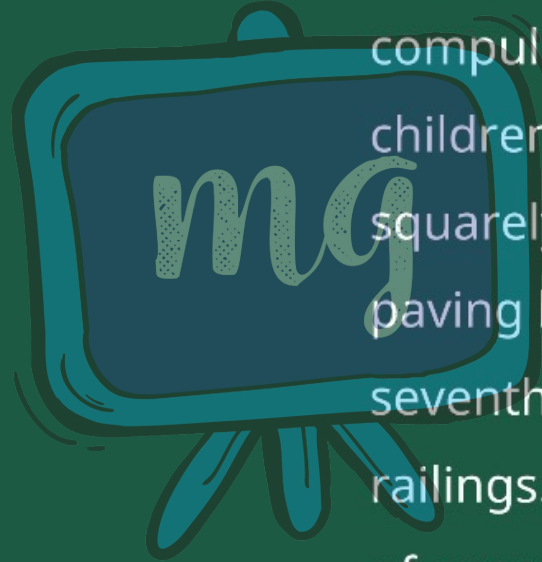
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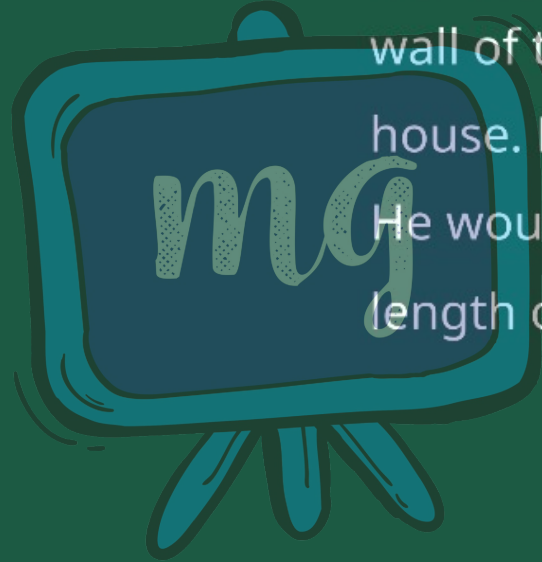
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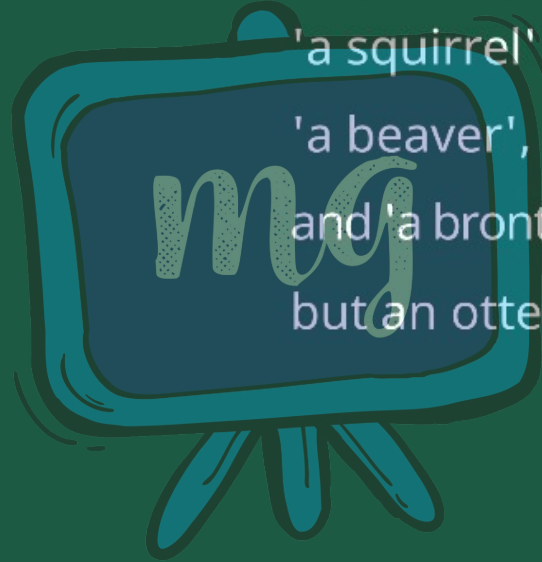
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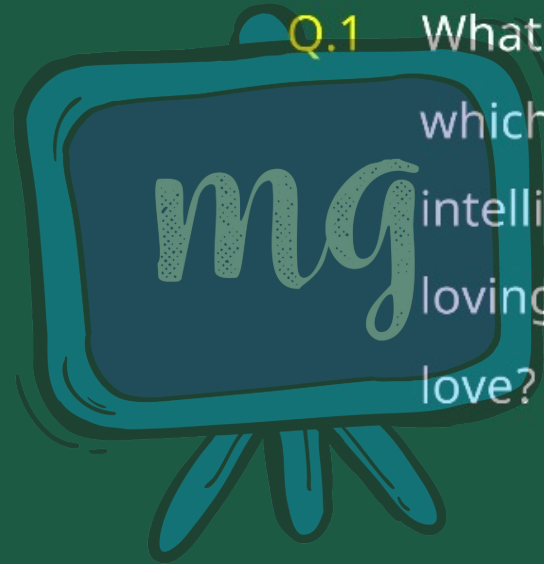
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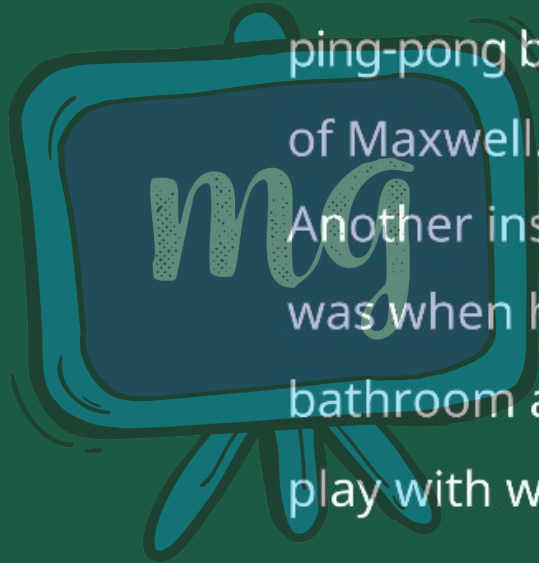
THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT



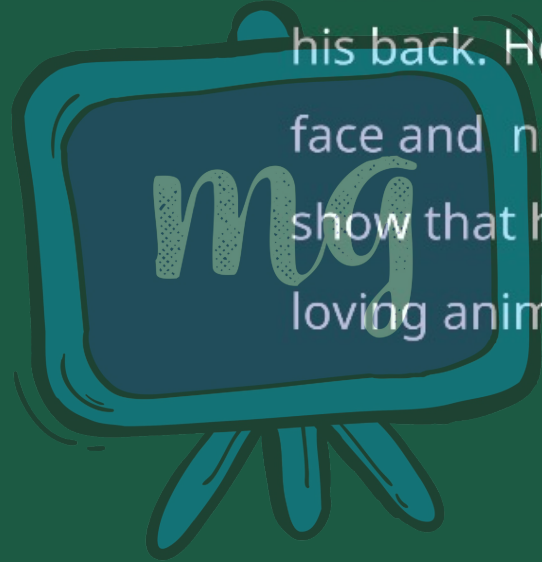
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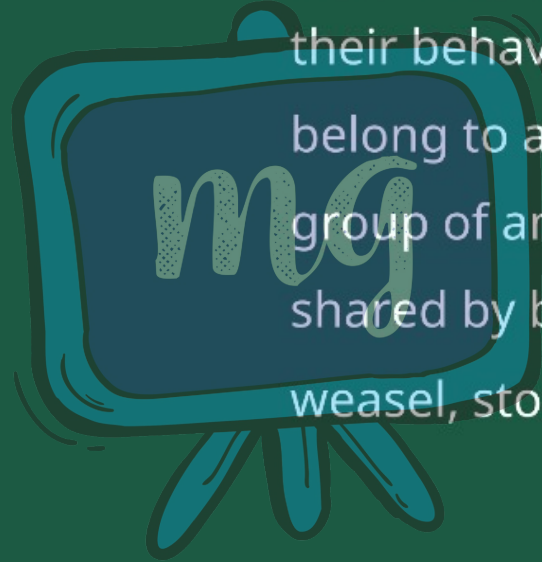
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