

Remember What You Read

1. Why did the squirrels bring gifts to the owl?
2. What did Nutkin keep doing to the owl, Old Brown, instead of bringing gifts?
3. How did the squirrels get back and forth to the island?
4. List three of the gifts the squirrels brought for the owl. What did Old Brown do with these gifts?
5. What did Nutkin do that finally provoked Old Brown to grab him?
6. How did Nutkin escape the owl?



Consider What You Read

1. Why do you think the owl was always so sleepy?
2. Would you call Old Brown a *patient* or an *impatient* creature? Why?
3. Do you think the other squirrels brought gifts for the owl Brown because they were polite, or afraid, or both? Or do you think they had another reason?
4. Nutkin told many riddles; did you figure them out? Read them again, and write the answers to three of them here. They're fun to read out loud (*If you need help, ask for the hints*).
5. Was it okay for Nutkin to behave as he did to the owl? Explain your answer.
6. Does Nutkin seem to have changed his ways after escaping with half his tail? Explain your answer.



Name: _____ Date: _____

The World of Beatrix Potter

1. How did Nutkin play ninepins? Is this a game we play, and if so, do you know another name for it?
2. Look at the details in the picture of Nutkin playing ninepins. Nutkin looks realistic, of course, like all the other animals. But what other details look real? Give three.
3. How can you tell that the lake between Owl Island and the squirrels' wood is very wide?
4. Describe the room where the owl eats the honey. Is he perched on a branch?
5. The squirrels seem to have fine English skills. Give an example of their polite speech.
6. Why might you think that humans had once visited the island and cut down some trees? (Hint: Look at the pictures.)



Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw Your Own Island

1. Do you know any riddles? Let's make one up!

Nutkin's riddles were all *poems*. They had *rhythm* and *rhyme*. You know about rhyme—*tote* rhymes with *coat*, *me* rhymes with *sea*. But do you know about rhythm? Say these lines from the first riddle:

Riddle me, riddle me, rot-tot-tote!

A little wee man, in a red red coat!

Do you hear the pattern? The lines are like this:

BOOM-bah-bah BOOM-bah-bah BOOM BOOM BOOM.

bah-BOOM-bah-bah BOOM-bah-bah BOOM BOOM BOOM.

Say the lines again. Don't they sound great, like drums beating? Rhythms are at least as important for poetry as rhyme is. See if you can make your riddle have both rhyme and rhythm.

You can make your clue as hard or easy as you like. Of course, if it's too hard, no one will ever guess the answer!

2. Draw a map of Owl Island. Get as many details as you can from the story, and make up the rest. You might include things like Mr. Brown's hollow oak, the lake, the hazelnut forest, the beech stump where Nutkin sat, the briar bush, and the flat rock.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer Key

Remember What You Read

1. So they could gather nuts on his island.
2. Singing him riddles.
3. They sailed on rafts.
4. Any 3 of: three fat mice, a fine fat mole, seven fat minnows, six fat beetles, wild honey, and a new-laid egg. The owl ate them.
5. Nutkin leapt at his head.
6. Old Brown held Nutkin by the tail, but the squirrel pulled away until his tail snapped in two.

Consider What You Read

1. Answers vary. (But owls are usually active at night and sleep in the day.)
2. Answers vary.
3. Answers vary.
4. The answer to each riddle is the *emphasized* word nearby. For instance, for the first riddle, Nutkin bobs up and down like a *cherry*. Thus the answers are: cherry, nettle, smoke, plum-pudding, bees, egg, sunbeam, wind. (Not counting the riddle Nutkin answered himself.)
5. Answers vary. (But Nutkin was quite rude.)
6. Answers vary. We don't know whether Nutkin teased the owl again, but he seems to have been just as rude or worse to everyone else thereafter; at least, everyone who asked him a riddle.

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1. With a crab apple and green fir cones. Bowling. (American bowling uses ten pins, and so can be called, or at least used to be called, *tenpins*.)
2. Answers vary. For instance: the pine cones, the rock, the leaves.
3. The picture where the squirrels first sail across shows it as quite a journey.
4. The room is inside his tree, with a window on a table. He's not perched anywhere, he's sitting in a rather nice chair!
5. Answers vary. For instance, "Mr. Brown, will you favour us with your gracious permission to gather some more nuts?"
6. When Nutkin sits on the beech stump playing marbles, the smooth stump looks like the tree was cut, as opposed to how a tree would look if it had been blown over.

Draw Your Own

Riddles and pictures vary.

