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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

C. White Adapting the
original by Jonathan Swift



KNOWLEDGE
BOOKS

36

Reading Recovery Level: 18

Word Count: 2,575

Content: Fiction, historical recount, satire.

ACARA F-10 References: Literacy and English studies.

Learning Areas:

English, Literacy, Humanities and Social Sciences.

General Capabilities:

Literacy and comparative cultures.

Cross Curriculum Priorities:

Asia.

Some useful references via QR codes:

Gulliver's Travels ebook (Project Gutenberg Australia):



Fleischer Brothers Animated Film (YouTube):



Study Notes (Smart English Notes):



Further information on Lilliput and Blefuscu (Wikipedia):



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Teacher Notes:

There are many opportunities to discuss the way the people reacted to the unknown. Finding this colossal person washed ashore would be terrifying to most people. How do people react to differences in people and unknown information? This story can be used to describe the historical times when Swift wrote this satirical story and how the little peoples reacted to the foreign intruder. The map in the story shows the distant place of Lilliput in the Indian Ocean. This would have been considered a very remote and unknown country. Australia's East Coast had not been charted at this stage.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. How would you feel to find a giant person in your park?
2. Why were the people of Lilliput so scared of Gulliver?
3. How was a friendship made with the people of Lilliput?
4. The map shows Lilliput in the Indian Ocean near to Australia. What would British people know about Australia? Look at the map on the title page. Remember this was 70 years before Captain Cook reached the east coast of Australia.
5. Jonathan Swift wrote about egg cracking differences between two countries – Lilliput and Blefuscu. The countries were ready to go to war over how eggs were cracked. This is a very ridiculous reason for creating a war. The author was making a satirical comment about 17th Century England's wars with France and Spain. What do you think the author's message is to us today?

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Gulliver, punished, impressive, wonderful, England, leaves, enough, ground, needles, attacking, hungry, bringing, brought, important, prisoner, agreed, potion, Lilliput, understand, angry, pretended, frighten, arranged, dangerous, amazed, terrified, language, impressed, favourite, sometimes, damage, thousand, troubles, distance, something, capsized.

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8. Gulliver Leaves for Blefuscu
9. Gulliver Leaves for England





1. Shipwreck

Lemuel Gulliver was a doctor. He could not get enough work. He went to work out at sea.

In 1699, Gulliver was on a ship sailing to the East Indies. The East Indies is now called Indonesia. The ship hit a bad storm. The wind was so strong it pushed the boat into a big rock. The ship broke apart on the rock.

Gulliver made it to a lifeboat with some other men. The lifeboat tipped over and Gulliver had to swim! He lost sight of the other men.

He let the water carry him. It carried him a long way.

Gulliver found solid sand beneath the water. He walked slowly to shore.



2. Captured on the Island of Lilliput

Gulliver laid down on the soft grass. He was very tired. He soon fell asleep.

He woke up after a great rest. He tried to get up, but he could not do it. His arms and legs were tied down to the ground. His body was tied down too. Even his hair was tied down. He could not move.

The sun shone into his eyes. It was very bright.

Soon he felt something moving on his leg. It moved up his chest. Gulliver looked down. It was a very small man, not fifteen centimetres high! He held a small bow and arrow.



The arrows hit him. They felt like needles in his skin. Gulliver tried to get up again. The tiny people jabbed him in the side with spears. Luckily, he was wearing tough clothes!

Gulliver stopped moving. The tiny people stopped attacking him. Soon he heard banging sounds. After an hour he turned his head to look. They had built a stage.

One tiny person stood on the stage. He gave a speech. This person was in charge. Gulliver did not know what he was saying.



3. Gulliver Goes to the King

Gulliver was very hungry. With his free hand, he pointed to his mouth. The tiny people climbed on Gulliver, bringing food.

Next, they brought him drink.

Another important person came to meet Gulliver. He had a ring that showed he came from the king.

He wanted to take Gulliver to meet the king. Gulliver would have to go as a prisoner. He did not like this, but he agreed. He did not want the tiny people to attack him again.

Soon, Gulliver fell asleep. Doctors had put a sleeping potion in the drink!



The tiny people built a large cart to take Gulliver to the king. With great effort, they loaded Gulliver on to the cart. Still, he slept.

Gulliver could have easily walked to the king's city. With the tiny people's tiny horses pulling him, it took all night.

They reached an old church. It was just outside the city. The church was huge to the tiny people, but not to Gulliver. It was only just big enough for him to crawl into. This would be his house.

They made chains to hold him. Lots of people came from the city to see him.