

GULLIVER THE GIANT



When I first woke up, I could see nothing but blue sky. Then I felt something moving on my chest.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

- You learned from your preview that a sailing ship cracked up and
- a. everyone swam to shore.
 - b. Gulliver was the only one to reach safety.
 - c. everyone got into life boats.
 - d. everyone died.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out about the tiny island Gulliver found himself on.

GULLIVER THE GIANT

The sailing ship was in terrible danger! Strong winds blew it toward the rocks. The sailors and passengers were afraid. What would happen when the ship struck?

One of the passengers, Lemuel Gulliver, was very frightened, but he knew he had to try to save himself.

Crrraaa—aack! The ship was dashed against the rocks and began to break apart. Some of the men jumped into the water, swimming for their very lives. Of them all, only Gulliver reached safety. Climbing out of the water onto the shore of a tiny island, he walked for awhile. Then, worn out, he laid down and fell into a deep sleep.

At last Gulliver awoke.

He tried to get up, but found he could not move. What was wrong? He looked down at his body and discovered that he was tied to the ground. It was not rope that held him, but thin cord — a lot of it. Even his hair was fastened to the ground.

Gulliver felt something moving on his leg. He struggled to see, and was astonished by what he saw. It was a tiny man less than six inches tall. The man, armed with bow and arrow, was walking on Gulliver's leg. He was followed by many others just like him.

Startled, Gulliver cried out.

The band of tiny men jumped off his body in a hurry. To them, Gulliver was a giant and his cry of surprise was a roar.

Gulliver struggled against the cords. He was able to free his left arm. At this, shouts of alarm rose around him. Hundreds of tiny bows were raised. Gulliver was showered with arrows. They felt

like needles in the skin of his arm.

Gulliver lay back, his arm hurting terribly. He would do nothing more to frighten the little folk around him. He waited quietly.

A man wearing robes and a crown came. He stood on a stage the little men had built near Gulliver's head.

"I am Golbasto Gue, mighty King of Lilliput. You have entered my kingdom," he shouted.

"My name is Lemuel Gulliver," said Gulliver. He spoke softly so that he would not hurt the king's ears. "I am a poor traveler from England. My ship has crashed on the rocks, and I fear that all on board have died. Please bring me food. I am very hungry."

The king called for food.

The people brought barrels of drink and brought baskets of meat and bread. These they emptied into Gulliver's mouth. He ate and drank all of it and asked for more.

Once again, Gulliver fell into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, the little folk brought a huge wagon. In this way, Lemuel Gulliver was dragged to their city.

When he woke, he found that all the cords were gone. Instead, he was chained fast by one leg so that he could not go far.

At least he could stand. He did so, and looked around and found himself on the edge of Lilliput's largest city, Mildendo. All around it lay fields and forests. At the center of the city was the king's castle.

As the days passed, a warm friendship grew between Gulliver and the Lilliputians. He let them explore his pockets. He had a pocket watch, a comb, glasses, and a handkerchief. The huge size of these things astonished the people.

They tried to make him comfortable. They made him a bed of six hundred of their own beds. Every day, wagons filled with food and drink were brought to him. Thousands of people crowded around, watching him eat. They were curious about everything he did.

King Golbasto often came to see him. Each time, Gulliver asked for his friendship and to be set free of his chains.

At last, the king believed that Gulliver could be trusted. He said, "I will free you, but you must do some things for me.

"First, you must promise to be careful not to step on anyone when you are walking around my kingdom.

"Second, you must build a high wall around the castle. You will lift and break stones that are too large for my people to handle.

"Third, you must help save Lilliput."

Gulliver asked, "Then Lilliput is in danger?"

"We are at war. Another island lies near ours. It is called Blefuscu. Our enemy, the King of Blefuscu, has many ships and on his ships are many guns. Soon, all these ships will sail to Lilliput. My kingdom will fall into the hands of my enemies!"

"I will help you," Gulliver said. But he could not imagine how he would do so, or whether he could help the Lilliputians.

GULLIVER THE GIANT

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Once on the island, Gulliver fell asleep. When he woke up, he found
 - a. all his friends.
 - b. he was tied down to the ground with rope.
 - c. his ship.
 - d. he was on a land of giants.
2. Gulliver was surprised to see that the people on the island of Lilliput were
 - a. only six inches tall.
 - b. all giants.
 - c. very friendly.
 - d. happy to see him.
3. When Gulliver tried to move while he was tied down,
 - a. he hurt his back.
 - b. the Lilliputians cut him loose.
 - c. he was showered with hundreds of tiny arrows.
 - d. he broke all the cords and ran away.
4. The people of Lilliput feared Gulliver because they thought
 - a. Gulliver was a pirate.
 - b. Gulliver was mean.
 - c. Gulliver was wild.
 - d. Gulliver was a giant.
5. As the days passed,
 - a. Gulliver grew taller and taller.
 - b. the people of Lilliput grew taller.
 - c. a warm friendship grew between Gulliver and the Lilliputians.
 - d. Gulliver learned not to trust the Lilliputians.
6. The people of Lilliput tried to make Gulliver comfortable. Which of these statements is NOT true?
 - a. They made him a bed with 600 of their own beds.
 - b. Every day, wagons of food were brought to him to eat.
 - c. Every day, wagons of drink were brought to him.
 - d. They placed Gulliver in a fancy hotel.
7. King Golbasto of Lilliput told Gulliver that he would free him if
 - a. Gulliver would give him money.
 - b. Gulliver promised not to step on anyone.
 - c. Gulliver would return home immediately.
 - d. Gulliver would marry his daughter.
8. Gulliver probably agreed to help save the Lilliputians because
 - a. the king paid him to do so.
 - b. Gulliver wanted to escape from the island.
 - c. Gulliver didn't like the King of Blefuscu.
 - d. the people of Lilliput had taken good care of him, and they had become good friends.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "One Sunny Day."
 - b. "The People of Lilliput."
 - c. "Beware of Danger."
 - d. "Help Is Near."
10. This story is mainly about
 - a. a man swimming to safety.
 - b. a long boat ride.
 - c. a man's adventures on an island of tiny people.
 - d. a man leaving home for the first time.

Preview Answer:

- b. Gulliver was the only one to reach safety.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

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