

Kintaro



Legend tells the story of a young boy dressed in red who was raised by his mother on Mount Ashigara. Strong enough to defeat a dozen men, he grew up to become one of the most successful warriors that Japan has ever seen: **Sakata no Kintoki**.

Kintaro sat on the edge of the ring. The animals had suggested a sumo competition and it was one of the most exciting things that he had ever watched. After many rounds, only the boar and the bear remained in the competition.

Kintaro and the other animals cheered as the powerful animals pushed and shoved. Within moments, the bear was the only one left in the ring. It stood on its hind legs and roared its victory.



“Hang on!” shouted Kintaro. “You can’t be the winner if you haven’t beaten everyone. It’s my turn.” When the bear accepted the challenge, Kintaro stepped into the ring. To everyone’s surprise, the boy had triumphed over the bear within just a few minutes. The animals were amazed — they had never seen a boy as strong as Kintaro.

Later that day, the animals were swimming in a nearby pond. When Kintaro jumped into the water, a strange voice spoke to him, “So, you’re the famous Kintaro that I’ve been hearing so much about. I think that it’s about time that I tested your strength in the water.”

Kintaro dived and found himself facing a large carp. “If you can catch me,” it explained, “I’ll believe that you really are as strong as everyone says.”

Immediately, Kintaro kicked his legs and began to swim. Although the fish was swift and agile, the boy was able to keep up. Eventually, he was close enough to wrap himself around the carp’s back.

Impressed by the boy’s strength, the carp promised to believe the stories about Kintaro, who was often called the golden boy in the mountains.



Several weeks later, a storm swept through the mountains, leaving several animals trapped on a ledge above a ravine. Thinking quickly, Kintaro chopped down a nearby tree and used it to create a bridge for the animals to walk across. To celebrate the bravery of their friend, the animals met with Kintaro that evening beneath a red sky.



At the same time, a warrior named Minamoto no Yorimitsu was walking on the mountain with his soldiers. Noticing the strange, red sky in the distance, they made their way towards it. When they arrived, they stopped and stared in amazement as they saw a young boy wrestling with a large bear. After the boy had won, Yorimitsu stepped forward.



“That was very impressive,” he said to Kintaro, “but I bet you can’t beat my soldiers.” One by one, the boy defeated the soldiers. Impressed, Yorimitsu asked Kintaro to train with him as a warrior. Not knowing what to say, Kintaro invited the soldiers to his house.

As soon as Kintaro’s mother saw them, her face lit up. “Oh, Kintaro!” she exclaimed. “From the day that you were born, I knew that you would grow up to be one of the finest warriors that Japan has ever seen.”

With his mother’s blessing, Kintaro waved goodbye and set off for his next adventure.



Questions

1. Which animal did Kintaro defeat in the ring? Tick one.

- a boar
 a bear
 a rabbit
 a deer

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Kintaro wrapped himself around the carp's back.
 The animals were trapped on a ledge above a ravine.
 Kintaro swam in a pond with the animals.
 Kintaro met Minamoto no Yorimitsu.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Immediately, Kintaro kicked...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **fast**.

4. What did Kintaro's mother say that she had known from the day that he was born?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Kintaro chopped down a nearby _____ and used it to create
a _____ for the animals to walk across.

6. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happened when Kintaro met the carp.

7. Describe Kintaro's character using evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. How do you think that Kintaro's mother was feeling when she waved goodbye to Kintaro?
Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which animal did Kintaro defeat in the ring? Tick one.

- a boar
 a bear
 a rabbit
 a deer

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Kintaro wrapped himself around the carp's back.
3 The animals were trapped on a ledge above a ravine.
1 Kintaro swam in a pond with the animals.
4 Kintaro met Minamoto no Yorimitsu.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Immediately, Kintaro kicked...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **fast**.

Accept one of the following: swift; agile.

4. What did Kintaro's mother say that she had known from the day that he was born?

Kintaro's mother said that she knew that Kintaro would grow up to be one of the finest warriors that Japan had ever seen.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Kintaro chopped down a nearby **tree** and used it to create a **bridge** for the animals to walk across.

6. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happened when Kintaro met the carp.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The carp challenged Kintaro to catch him. When Kintaro did, the carp said that he believed the stories about how strong Kintaro is.

7. Describe Kintaro's character using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kintaro is brave and a good friend because he goes out of his way to save the animals when they are trapped on the ledge. Kintaro is also competitive because he enjoys challenging the bear to a fight.

8. How do you think that Kintaro's mother was feeling when she waved goodbye to Kintaro?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Kintaro's mother was feeling sad because she was going to miss him. I also think that she was feeling very proud that Kintaro was fulfilling his destiny to become a warrior.

Kintaro



Legend tells the story of a young boy dressed in red who was stronger than a dozen men. Raised by his mother in a remote forest on Mount Ashigara, he grew up to become one of the most successful warriors that Japan has ever seen: **Sakata no Kintoki**.

Kintaro sat on the edge of the ring with his eyes on the action. When the animals had suggested a sumo competition, he wasn't expecting it to be this good. Only two animals remained and this bout would determine the victor. The boar and the bear circled the ring, ready to do battle. Kintaro and the other animals cheered as the mighty animals pushed and shoved. Within moments, the bear was the only one left in the ring. It stood on its hind legs and roared its victory.



"Hang on!" shouted Kintaro over the racket. "You can't be the victor if you haven't defeated everyone. It's my turn." He stepped into the ring and stared fearlessly at the enormous bear. To everyone's surprise, after just a few minutes, the boy was the only one left in the ring. The animals cheered; they were amazed that a small boy could defeat a fully grown bear.

Later that day, the animals were relaxing in a nearby pond. When Kintaro jumped into the cooling water, a voice echoed from beneath the surface, "So, you're the famous Kintaro that I've been hearing so much about. I think it's about time that I test your strength. This time, though, we'll be under the water."

Kintaro dived and found himself face to face with a large carp. "If you can catch me," the fish explained, "I may begin to believe the tales after all."

Immediately, Kintaro kicked his legs and began to swim. Despite the fish's speed and agility, the boy was able to keep up with ease. Eventually, he pushed out his arms and claimed victory by wrapping himself around the carp's back. Impressed by the boy's courage and strength, the carp accepted the defeat and promised to believe the tales of Kintaro, who was often hailed as the golden boy in the mountains.



Several weeks later, while Kintaro and his mother slept, a storm raged through the mountains. By the next morning, several animals had become trapped on a ledge above a ravine. With quick thinking, Kintaro chopped down a nearby tree — creating a sturdy bridge. To celebrate the bravery of their friend, the animals gathered to meet with Kintaro that evening beneath a red sky.

At the same time, a warrior named Minamoto no Yorimitsu was walking on the mountain accompanied by three of his finest soldiers. Noticing the strange, red sky in the distance, the four made their way towards the unusual sight. When they arrived, they stopped and stared in awe.



In front of them, a young boy was wrestling with a large bear. Eventually, the young boy won the bout and Yorimitsu stepped forward.

“That was very impressive,” he said to Kintaro, “but I bet you can’t beat my soldiers.” One by one, the soldiers met Kintaro in the ring and, each time, Kintaro was victorious.

When the third soldier had been defeated, Yorimitsu offered Kintaro a place to train with him as a warrior. Not wanting to leave his mother, Kintaro reluctantly refused. However, Yorimitsu wasn’t ready to give in and he insisted that he accompany Kintaro back to his house. As soon as Kintaro’s mother saw Yorimitsu, a smile spread across her face.



“Oh, Kintaro!” she exclaimed. “From the day that you were born, I knew that this would be your destiny. You will be one of the finest warriors that Japan has ever seen. Even your father wants you to go; that red sky was him talking to you.”

With his mother’s blessing, Kintaro waved goodbye and set off for his next adventure.

Questions

1. What did Kintaro have to do to prove his strength to the carp? Tick one.

- beat it in a race
 dive deep into the water
 catch it
 talk to it

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

The carp...

lost to the bear in the sumo competition.

The boar...

asked Kintaro to train with him.

The bear...

challenged Kintaro under the water.

Yorimitsu...

was defeated by Kintaro.

3. How did Yorimitsu and his soldiers find Kintaro?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **When the third soldier had been defeated...**

Find and copy a group of words that show that Kintaro's mother was happy.

5. Why did Kintaro chop down a tree?

6. **The animals like Kintaro.**

Find evidence in the text that supports this statement.

7. Look at the first paragraph beginning **Legend tells...**

Explain why you think that the author has chosen to include this paragraph.

8. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happened when Yorimitsu met Kintaro.

9. Do you think that Kintaro will enjoy his next adventure? Tick one.

yes no

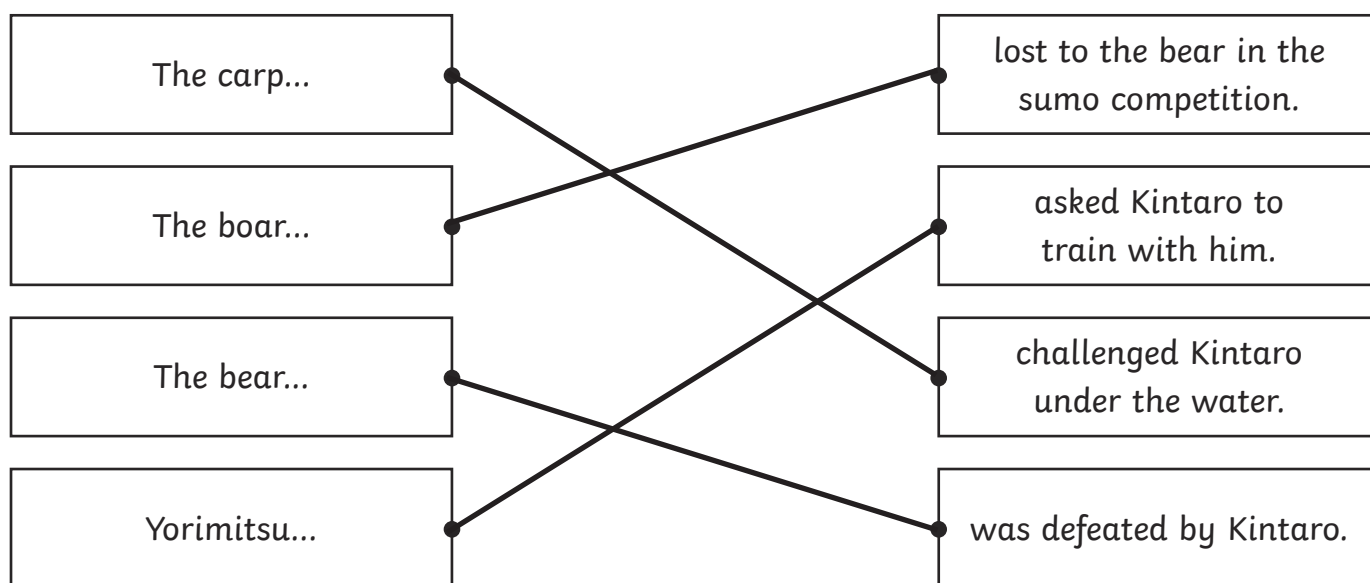
Fully explain your choice.

Answers

1. What did Kintaro have to do to prove his strength to the carp? Tick one.

- beat it in a race
- dive deep into the water
- catch it**
- talk to it

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



3. How did Yorimitsu and his soldiers find Kintaro?

They found Kintaro by making their way towards the strange, red sky.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **When the third soldier had been defeated...**

Find and copy a group of words that show that Kintaro's mother was happy.

a smile spread across her face

5. Why did Kintaro chop down a tree?

Kintaro chopped down a tree to make a bridge because the animals were trapped.

6. **The animals like Kintaro.**

Find evidence in the text that supports this statement.

Pupils' own responses, such as: At the beginning of the text, the animals are allowing Kintaro to join in with their sumo competition. They also relax with him in a nearby pond. These are things that they would only do with him if they liked him.

7. Look at the first paragraph beginning **Legend tells...**

Explain why you think that the author has chosen to include this paragraph.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has included this paragraph to make you excited about reading the story. It makes you wonder how a small boy grew up to be one of the greatest warriors.

8. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happened when Yorimitsu met Kintaro.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kintaro fought his soldiers and beat them all. Yorimitsu was impressed and asked Kintaro to train with him as a warrior.

9. Do you think that Kintaro will enjoy his next adventure? Tick one.

yes no

Fully explain your choice.

Accept either 'yes' or 'no' provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: I think that Kintaro will enjoy his next adventure because he enjoys challenging the animals to sumo competitions so he will probably enjoy training to be a warrior. It also says at the beginning of the text that he grew up to become a successful warrior so he must have enjoyed himself to get that far.

Kintaro



Legend tells the story of a young boy dressed in red whose strength equalled that of a thousand men. Raised by his mother in a secluded forest on Mount Ashigara, he grew up to become one of the most successful warriors that Japan has ever seen: **Sakata no Kintoki**.

Kintaro sat on the edge of the ring, engrossed by the action. When the animals had suggested a sumo competition, he wasn't expecting it to be this good. Although the bout between the deer and the fox had been a close, exciting match, nothing compared to the current battle.

As the only two remaining animals, this would determine the overall victor. The spectators cheered and whooped as the mighty beasts pushed and shoved. Then, with an almighty grunt, the battle was over. Standing on its hind legs, the bear roared its victory.

"Hang on!" shouted Kintaro over the racket. "You can't be the victor if you haven't defeated all of the participants. It's my turn."



He stepped into the ring and looked up at the bear, who towered over him. Immediately, the two began to compete. Although everyone expected Kintaro to be wiped out of the competition almost instantaneously, his strength proved to be too much for the bear.

Within just a few minutes, the boy was the only one left in the ring. The animals cheered and congratulated Kintaro; they were amazed that such a small boy had managed to emerge victorious.



Later that day, the animals were taking a relaxing swim in a nearby pond. No sooner than Kintaro had jumped into the cooling water, a slow, steady voice echoed from beneath the surface, "So, you're the famous Kintaro that I've been hearing so much about. I believe that it's my turn to test your strength. This time, though, we'll do it under the water."

Kintaro dived and found himself face to face with a large carp. "If you can catch me," the carp explained, "I may begin to believe the tales after all." Not one to refuse a challenge, Kintaro kicked his legs and began to swim after the carp. Despite the fish's relentless twists and turns, he was able to keep up with ease.

Eventually, he pushed out his arms and wrapped himself around the carp's back: the challenge was over. Impressed by the boy's courage and endurance, the carp graciously accepted defeat and vowed to believe the tales of Kintaro, whose reputation as the golden boy in the mountains preceded him.

Several weeks later, while Kintaro and his mother slept, a fierce storm raged through the mountains. By the next morning, several of the animals had become trapped on a ledge above a ravine. With quick thinking, Kintaro chopped down a nearby tree — creating a makeshift bridge. To celebrate the bravery of their friend, the animals gathered to meet with Kintaro that evening beneath a red sky.



Meanwhile, further down the mountain, a warrior named Minamoto no Yorimitsu was walking with three of his finest soldiers. Noticing the strange, red sky in the distance, the four made their way towards the unusual sight. When they arrived, they stopped and stared in amazement as they saw a young boy wrestling with a large bear.

When the young boy had won the fight, Yorimitsu stepped forward.

“That’s very impressive for a boy of your age,” he said to Kintaro, looking him up and down, “but I bet you’re no match for my soldiers.” One by one, the soldiers met Kintaro in the ring and, each time, Kintaro emerged victorious.



When the third soldier had been defeated, Yorimitsu offered Kintaro the opportunity to join him in the city and to train as a warrior. Thinking of his mother, Kintaro reluctantly refused. Not one to give in so easily, Yorimitsu insisted that he accompany Kintaro back to his house. The moment that Kintaro’s mother appeared at the door, a smile spread across her face.

“Oh, Kintaro!” she exclaimed. “From the day that you were born, I knew that this would be your destiny. You will be one of the finest warriors that Japan has ever seen. Even your father wants you to go; that red sky was him talking to you.”

With his mother’s blessing, Kintaro waved goodbye to his mountain friends and set off for his next adventure.

Questions

1. **With his mother's blessing, Kintaro waved goodbye to his mountain friends and set off for his next adventure.**

What does **with his mother's blessing** mean? Tick one.

- Kintaro's mother was reluctant to let him go.
- Kintaro's mother was going to join him.
- Kintaro's mother was happy for him to go.
- Kintaro's mother was singing as he left.

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Kintaro dived under the water.
- The bear was victorious.
- Yorimitsu noticed the strange, red sky.
- A storm raged through the mountains.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Kintaro sat on...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **captivated**.

4. How many of Yorimitsu's soldiers did Kintaro beat?

5. Why did Kintaro's mother think that the red sky was significant?

6. Using 30 words or fewer, summarise the story of Kintaro.

7. Compare how the carp felt about Kintaro when it first saw the boy to how it felt about Kintaro at the end of the story.

8. What impression did Yorimitsu get of Kintaro? Fully explain your answer.

9. Argue that Kintaro made the wrong decision by leaving to train in the city.

10. In the story, it mentions Kintaro being strong.

How else has the author shown that Kintaro is stronger than most people?

Fully explain your answer.

Answers

1. **With his mother's blessing, Kintaro waved goodbye to his mountain friends and set off for his next adventure.**

What does **with his mother's blessing** mean? Tick one.

- Kintaro's mother was reluctant to let him go.
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- 2** Kintaro dived under the water.
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4 Yorimitsu noticed the strange, red sky.
3 A storm raged through the mountains.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Kintaro sat on...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **captivated**.

engrossed

4. How many of Yorimitsu's soldiers did Kintaro beat?

Kintaro beat three of Yorimitsu's soldiers.

5. Why did Kintaro's mother think that the red sky was significant?

Kintaro's mother thought that the red sky was significant because she believed that it was his father telling him to go and train as a warrior.

6. Using 30 words or fewer, summarise the story of Kintaro.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Kintaro lived in the mountains and proved his strength against animals. He met a warrior and went to the city to train as the greatest warrior Japan had ever seen.

7. Compare how the carp felt about Kintaro when it first saw the boy to how it felt about Kintaro at the end of the story.

Pupils' own responses, such as: When the carp first saw Kintaro, it didn't believe that he was really as strong as everyone was saying. By the end of the story, the carp had promised to believe the stories because Kintaro had proved how strong he was by catching the carp under the water.

8. What impression did Yorimitsu get of Kintaro? Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yorimitsu got the impression that Kintaro was brave because he saw him fighting a large bear. He also got the impression that Kintaro was strong enough to be a warrior because he asked him to come and train in the city.

9. Argue that Kintaro made the wrong decision by leaving to train in the city.

Pupils' own responses, such as: At the beginning of the story, Kintaro is already fighting a large bear and, by the end, he has defeated three warriors. He does all of these things without having been trained in the city. This means that he could have become Japan's greatest warrior without having to leave his mother behind.

10. In the story, it mentions Kintaro being strong.

How else has the author shown that Kintaro is stronger than most people?

Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author shows Kintaro defeating a number of animals and soldiers. The author also says that Kintaro was able to 'keep up with ease' even with 'the fish's relentless twists and turns'. This makes Kintaro seem like he is able to easily complete tasks that most people would find too challenging.