

From Rags to Riches!

The REAL Dick Whittington

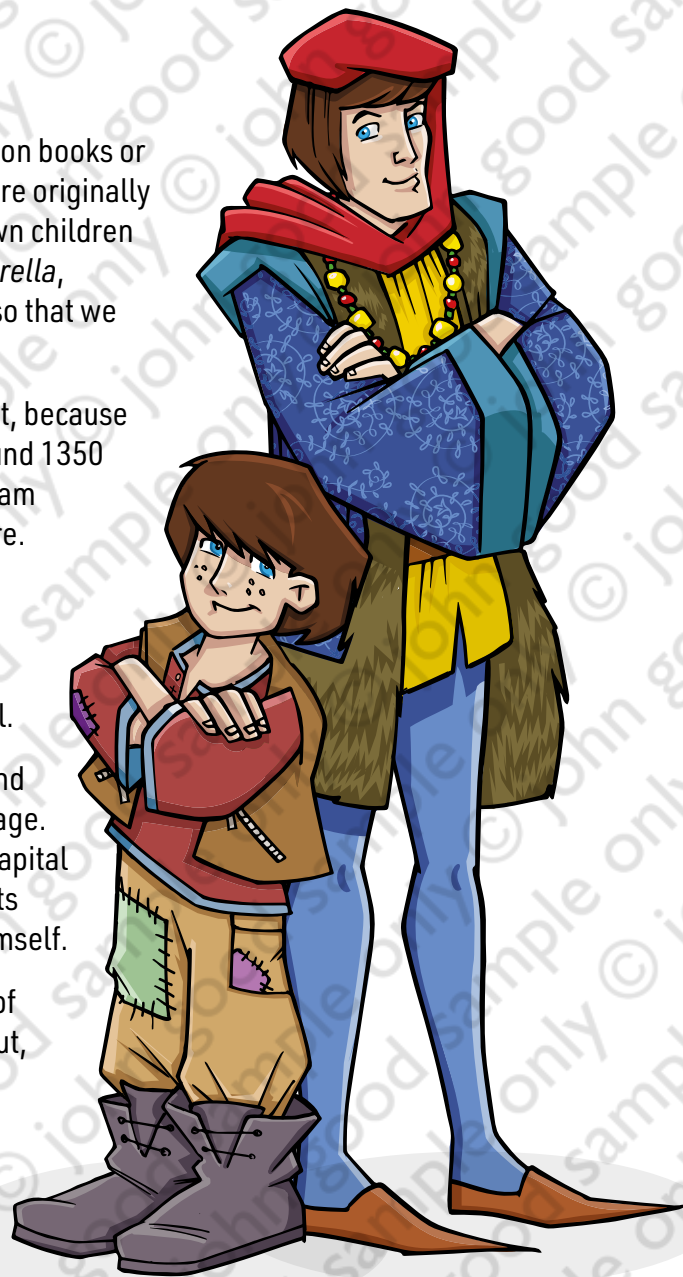
Many of the pantomimes we have today are based on books or fairy tales from hundreds of years ago, which were originally told to children, who then went on to tell their own children the same stories. Eventually these stories, such as *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* were written down, so that we can still read them today.

The story of Dick Whittington, however, is rather different, because Richard Whittington was a real person! He was born around 1350 (over 650 years ago) and he was the third son of Sir William Whittington of Pauntley, a small village in Gloucestershire.

It sounds as if his family was very grand, doesn't it? But unfortunately, his father Sir William fell foul of the law before he died, and it was only with great difficulty that Richard's elder brother managed to inherit anything at all.

As the third son, Richard couldn't hope to get anything and he had to earn his keep by doing odd jobs around the village. But he heard people talking about London, the faraway capital city, and he took note of the rumours that there the streets were paved with gold, so he decided to go and see for himself.

When he reached London after a long journey, he found of course that the streets were not really paved with gold but, as luck would have it, he was taken on as an apprentice by a distant relative on his mother's side of the family, Sir Ivo Fitzwarren.





Sir Ivo was a textile baron and a merchant adventurer, one of the few clothing merchants who were allowed to trade overseas at that time. At first Dick despaired of ever making his fortune and was on his way out of London when he was drawn back by the sound of Bow Bells, which seemed to tell him that he would one day be Lord Mayor of London. The story goes that Dick bought a cat to keep down the rats in the tiny attic room where he slept as an apprentice and, when Sir Ivo offered him the chance to send something overseas to sell in one of his ships, Dick's only possession was his cat.

In a distant court the cat did such a good job of killing the rats that he earned his master a great deal of money as a reward. It is certainly true that, before he was 30, Richard Whittington had made a name for himself in the market of silks and other expensive materials.

But making money was not an end in itself for Dick – it helped him to reach a position where he could help other people. In 1393 he was elected both Alderman and Sheriff and then, in 1397, King Richard II chose him to be Lord Mayor of London. By this time he was married to Alice Fitzwarren, daughter of Sir Ivo, and he was rich enough to pay for projects himself in the city of London: a library at Greyfriars Church, an almshouse for the poor, repairs to St Bartholomew's Hospital, the rebuilding of Newgate Prison and half the funds for the Guildhall Library.

Dick had first been chosen as Lord Mayor by Richard II, although the people of London were supposed to be allowed to elect their mayor – the king was probably hoping that Dick would help him out with some money! But the people must have liked the king's choice, because they re-elected Dick Whittington twice, in 1406 and then in 1419. He managed to keep on very good terms with the various royal families, first Richard II, then Henry IV and Henry V. He earned much of his wealth from commissions which came from the Grand Wardrobe of the Royal Household and he became their main supplier; he even made wedding dresses for two of Henry IV's daughters. The Dick Whittington from history died in 1423, to the great sorrow of the people of London whom he had served so well.

But in our story this is all in the future, and we join Dick at the very beginning of his remarkable journey – to see if the streets of London really are paved with gold...

© John Good



Whittington:

Richard Whittington top dog once more in London poll.

Exclusive by Leia Penkea



Mayor Whittington in victorious mood yesterday with a feline friend

**"Oil' be back"
says ex-mayor**

The outgoing Mayor, HENRY 'CANDLEWICK' BARTON, accepted defeat gracefully. "I just hope Dick will keep some of the laws I introduced, especially the lighting of street lamps burning all the time from Hallowtide to Candlemas". The Plain English Society complained, saying: "Why can't he just say 'November to February' like everybody else?" The Mediaeval Speech Society agreed, saying "it doth be insayne".



RICHARD WHITTINGTON is once more Lord Mayor of London, re-elected yesterday for an unprecedented THIRD term of office; he served first in 1398 under King Richard, and then again in 1406.

"DICK" WHITTINGTON, 66, first came to London as a young man in the early 1370s. He was born in 1353, in Gloucestershire, the THIRD son of Sir William Whittington of Pauntley, a small village in the valley of the River Leaden. It was here that he heard stories of the far-off capital city where, it was rumoured, the streets were "paved with GOLD". This sounded too good to be true, and the young Whittington decided to go and see for himself.

"DICK" WHITTINGTON first became an apprentice to the famous Sir Ivo Fitzwaryn (a distant relative on his mother Joan's side), and soon began to make a name for himself as a clothier. By 1379 he was already on the prestigious Mercer's Roll, trading for himself in silks and other luxury textiles. Eight years later he was serving on the Court of Common Council and in 1393 he was chosen as Alderman for the Broad Street Ward and also elected SHERIFF in that same year.

Married by now to the lovely Alice Fitzwaryn, daughter of his mentor Sir Ivo, Whittington was rich enough to bankroll many of this country's domestic projects and overseas campaigns under THREE sovereigns. He grew rich on well-earned commissions from the Grand Wardrobe of the Royal Household and became their main supplier, even providing the wedding dresses for two of the princesses.

Not only has Whittington served loyally as Lord Mayor, he has also been personally

The man and the myth

responsible for providing much-needed cash for projects city-wide; the library at Greyfriars Church; an almshouse for the poor and repairs at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; half the funds for the Guildhall Library and the rebuilding of Newgate Prison.

Whittington is such a charismatic figure that it is hardly surprising to find that various stories

have grown up around his METEORIC rise to fortune and fame.

It is rumoured that when he was still only an apprentice, he so despaired of ever getting his big break that he was actually on his way OUT of London, his worldly goods on his back, when he was drawn back by the sound of Bow Bells, seeming to name him as a LORD MAYOR of London.

The mysterious cat, too, is a subject of much speculation for the gossips of London town. The Lord Mayor himself is only prepared to admit that he did own a cat when he was an apprentice "to keep rats down in my attic bedroom—a necessary precaution in those days just after the devastation caused by the BUBONIC PLAGUE", but he will neither confirm nor deny that it was the rare abilities of the said cat as a 'mouser' at the court of the Sultan of Morocco that opened up those rich markets to him as a fledgling merchant adventurer. All he would say, with a secret smile, was "Ask the cat".



The late Alice Fitzwaryn and her father Sir Ivo at the charity event 'Plague Aid' in September, 1390

Sir Dick opening the new Newgate Prison with longest-serving inmate, Biffo Thugwise, the 'Plague-ridden Pest of Peckham'

"Whopper"

rat seen in house in Hammersmith

A "WHOPPING great rat" was spotted in a house in Hammersmith yesterday. "It was enormous!", said resident Elsie Boggins, 78. "At first I thought it was my husband Alf, because it was at the biscuits. But even our Alf doesn't have a scaly tail and smell of mouldy old cheese". The nefarious rodent then laughed maniacally and jumped down the drain. Anyone, especially handlers of cheese or cheese-like produce, should be on their guard.

The new mayor, Richard Whittington, seemed unperturbed by the sighting. "Just wait 'til the end of the show", he said enigmatically.



A to Z

of Dick Whittington



A's for the lad who's got loads of **A**mbition.
To try and improve his career and position.

Bare the **B**ells of great London town.
Where he makes his way to win renown.

C is the **C**at who becomes his friend
Through thick and thin, he's true to the end.

D is for **D**ick, he's our hero today,

Dick Whittington - cheer him on his way.

E's for the **E**nergy he's **E**xpended
When his long long walk to the capital's ended.

There he hopes to make his **F**ortune bold,
But he finds the streets aren't paved with **G**old.



His **H**eavy **H**eart that night,
But when the morn comes, fair and bright,

He's filled again with **I**nspiration
Which turns, alas! to great frustration -

Jis the **J**ob he just can't find,
He'd love to be part of the daily grind!
While Dick the London streets must tramp.
His Cat becomes a ratting champ!

K is the **K**ipper he buys for his **K**itty,
But **L** is the **L**uck he can't find in the city.

Then **M**'s the **M**onday **M**orning blues,
And Dick gets out his walking shoes;
He vows his ties with London to sever,

The date for his return is - **N**ever.

O, the **O**bjections, his Cat begged "Stay!"
But Dick had decided to leave that day.

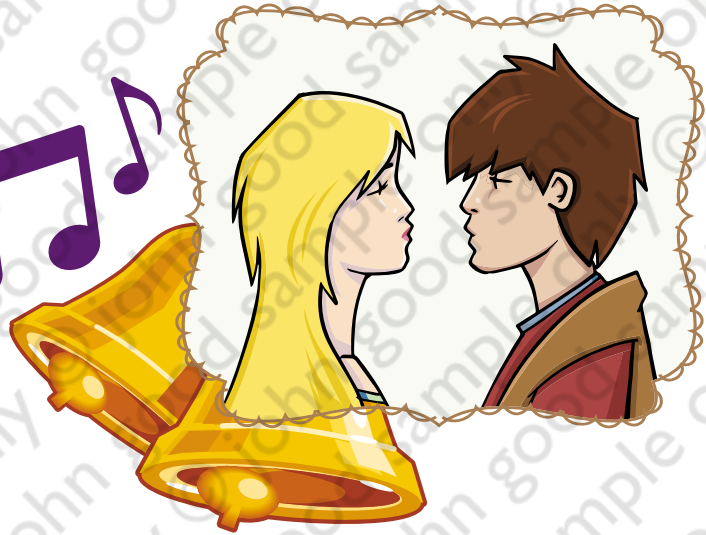
P was his **P**romise no more to roam
On a whim of fortune, from home sweet home.

Q for the **Q**uiet as he shoulders his pack,
He's sure there's no way he'll ever turn back.

But lo, what's this, church bells are **R**inging,
And as he listens, they seem to be **S**inging:

"**T**urn again, Whittington," drifts through the air,
"You are the man we want as our Mayor."

U for **U**-turn? Dick shakes his head,
"I must be hearing things," he said.



V is the **V**ain attempt he made
To convince himself the noise would fade.
But twice more they rang on the morning air,

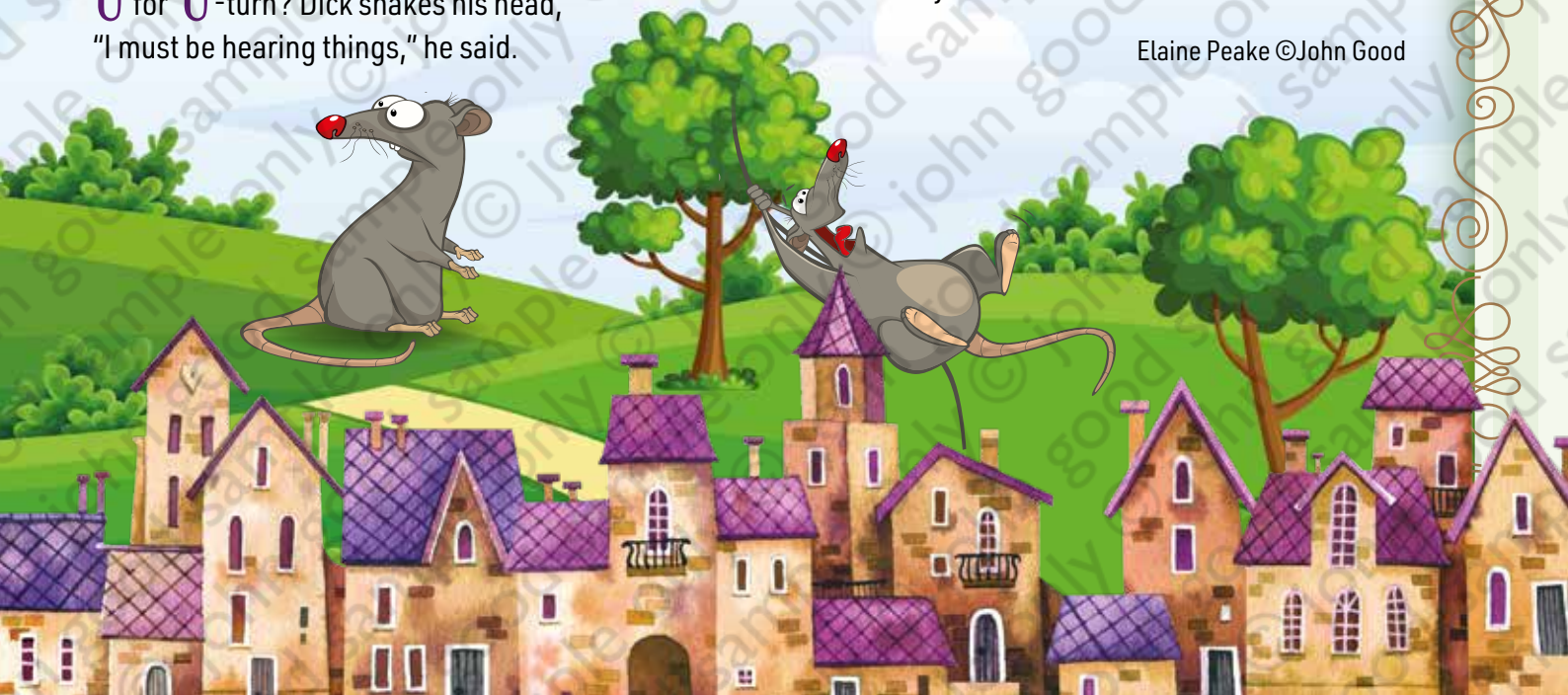
"Turn again, **W**hittington, our future Lord Mayor."
Then Dick did turn, and from that day

His **eX**pectations soared away.
He made his fortune, he couldn't go wrong;
And it seemed to Dick that it wasn't too long

Till the lovely Alice said "**Y**es" to marriage,
And they rode through the streets in the
Lord Mayor's carriage!

Such was his **Z**eal for the people's care
Three times they voted him Lord Mayor.
This is a tale that is perfectly true,
Remember it well if you're feeling blue:
A smidgin of luck and tons of ambition
Can make all your dreams come to fruition.

Elaine Peake ©John Good



The Cat's Whiskers!

A miscellany of
fantastic feline facts



These words were written over a thousand years ago by an Irish monk, about his beloved cat. It shows that the moggy sleeping on the rug by the fireplace is still a little suburban tiger, ready to up sticks and go hunting at the slightest opportunity. In the eight thousand years since the cat was first domesticated, the cat family has enchanted and fascinated mankind...

Terminology

Most people know the term for a male cat is a 'tom', but did you know a female cat is called a 'queen'? This is probably an adaptation of the ancient Anglo-Saxon word, 'wheen', meaning the female sex.



Cheetah

The cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal, with a top speed of 65 mph over almost half a mile. Its incredibly supple spine and long legs give it a tremendous stride and great thrusting power. If a cheetah had no legs at all, it is believed that it could still travel at 20 mph, just by humping along like a caterpillar!



Population

There are estimated to be seven-and-a-half million cats in Britain – compared with just under seven million dogs!

Longevity

Most house cats, if looked after, can expect to live between ten and fifteen years. However, the world record for longevity is held by a tabby called 'Puss' (1903-1939), who lived for an incredible 36 years – that's 125 in human terms!



Puma

The wild cat with the widest range is probably the puma. In recent times, it was found throughout the Americas, from southern Alaska all the way down to Patagonia in South America—a distance of three thousand miles. It also has the distinction of having the most local names of any cat – just a few of them are listed below:

Painter
Mitzli
Yutin
Mischipichin
Mountian Lion
Catamount
Chim Blea
Ig-Mu-Tank-A



Eyes

Cats' eyes come in a variety of different colours, the most common being green. But did you know that if you have a white cat with blue eyes, it's likely to be deaf? If it's a white cat with odd eyes—one blue and one orange – it will be deaf in the ear that matches the side the blue eye is on!

Colour

The most common coat colour in Britain is the tabby, followed by the tabby-and-white, black-and-white, black, tortoiseshell-and-white, tortoiseshell, ginger and blue (plain grey to you and me).



Bouhaki

Bouhaki – one of the first pictures known of a pet cat – as it appears on a wall in ancient Egypt. Archaeologists are still arguing about its name, however – some people believe it belonged to a dog!



Senses

Cats' senses are much more highly developed than ours: their night vision is one hundred times greater, they can smell thirty times better, and their hearing outstrips ours ten times over!

Sleep

Did you know that cats sleep, on average, about 16 hours a day? That's about twice as much as we do. Because felines are such efficient predators, they have a lot of time on their hands (or paws!), and sleeping allows them to digest their meal, and to dream – about food, of course!

Breeds

Did you know that there are nearly a hundred recognised breeds of cat? Some are well-known, like the Siamese and the Persian – others less so, like the laid-back Ragdoll, the hairless Sphynx and the short-legged Munchkin. Nevertheless, they are all outnumbered a-thousand-to-one by Britain's favourite pet – the humble moggy!



Devon Rex

If you want a cat that is a bit different, how about a Devon Rex? With their huge ears, pixie-like faces and curly coats, to many people they resemble the mogwai from the film Gremlins. Add to this their dog-like personalities—they wag their tails when they're happy!—and it's easy to see why some people call them Poodle Cats.




Finally, if you really can't stand cats (then why are you reading this?!), you stand in the same company as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Pope Gregory IX, Napoleon, William Shakespeare and Adolf Hitler.

But if you're an ailurophile (cat-lover), you can count Emily Brontë, Mark Twain, Edward Lear, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill and Fred Astaire amongst your friends!

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Rotten Rodents!

Rats like to live close to humans, and scavenge for all kinds of food. They have a disastrous effect on food stores because they carry disease and contaminate twice as much as they eat. There are over 500 different kinds of rat, but the most common are the Black and the Brown.



Black Rat

The Black, or Ship Rat (Latin name *Rattus rattus*) is about 20cm (8 inches) long with a 25cm (10 inch) tail. The Black Rat originated in India but spread all over the world, helped by its habit of stowing away on ships. As a result of this, Black Rats are largely found in ports. During the fourteenth century, Black Rats were most unwelcome visitors because they carried the flea (see bottom) responsible for bubonic plague (Black Death), which reached epidemic proportions in Europe and Asia, killing over 50 million people.



Brown Rat

The Brown, or Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) is larger than its cousin, but has a shorter tail. It originates from Central Asia, and although it took longer to spread than the Black Rat, it is now more widespread. While Black Rats prefer to live in docklands, the Brown Rat is at home in cellars, sewers and outhouses.

Given the damage they cause and the diseases they carry, it is not surprising that rats are the most loathed of vermin.



Karni Mata Temple

There is a temple near the city of Bikaner in the Indian state of Rajasthan, though, where the population of over 100,000 rats is sacred. The temple is dedicated to Karni Mata - goddess of a caste of professional poets, called Charans. Legend has it that when members of this caste die, they are reincarnated as rats in Karni Mata's temple. When a rat dies, it is in turn reincarnated as a Charan poet. Believers attending this temple bend in worship, and if one of the teeming rats should scurry over a bowed head, this is taken as a good omen for the future poetic abilities of the worshipper. On the other hand, if believers should accidentally tread on a rat and kill it, they are liable for a fine of silver equal to the weight of the dead poet they are at the temple to honour - a good reason to prefer lightweight poets.

Elsewhere, of course, rats are considered a pest, not a kind of gutter Dead Poet's Society.



Sinking Ship

Elsewhere, of course, rats are considered a pest, not a kind of gutter Dead Poet's Society. A popular myth about the creatures is that they instinctively leave a sinking ship. Rats actually have no more ability to predict the impending doom of a vessel than humans, but since they live in a ship's bilges - the parts of the hull which curve together to form the ship's bottom - they have advance warning if the ship springs a leak.

Rats will not remain aboard a ship if their quarters are waterlogged (even though they swim well), and droves of them deserting the vessel would raise suspicions about its seaworthiness.



Ancient Romans

Ancient Romans did not generally differentiate between rats and mice, instead referring to the former as Mus Maximus (big mouse) and the latter as Mus Minimus (little mouse).



Sensitive

Rats may be highly sensitive to falling plaster, so a long-held popular belief that they will desert a house which is about to fall down may hold some truth. The rodents were also considered useful for warning of cave-ins in coal mines.



Belly Buttons

Rats don't have gallbladders or tonsils, but they DO have belly buttons!

Longevity

The average rat lives for two to three years (but can live up to five years). The longest-lived rat was 'Rodney', a lab rat, who lived to the amazing age of seven years and four months!

Favourite Food

The favourite foods of city-dwelling Brown Rats include scrambled eggs, macaroni and cheese, and cooked corn. They also eat their own poo, purely for the nutritional value. Yuck! The least-liked foods are raw beets, peaches, and raw celery.

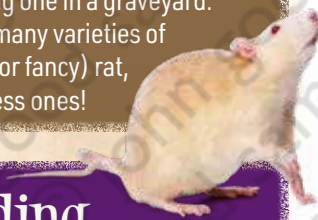


Size

The Brown Rat is larger than the Black Rat, and usually weighs about 250-350g. There have been reports of enormous rats weighing over a kilo - usually in places where food is plentiful!

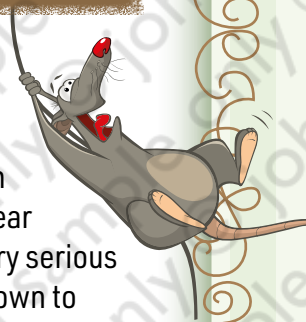
Albino Rats

The first albino rats were bred by Jack Black, Queen Victoria's rat-catcher, after finding one in a graveyard. There are many varieties of domestic (or fancy) rat, even hairless ones!



Fall A rat can fall as far as 50 feet and land uninjured.

Rats are our constant neighbours, but not the kind to lend a cup of sugar! Although they thrive on living near humans, they are a very serious health risk and are known to destroy food supplies and spread disease. It is no wonder that the Sultan of Morocco was prepared to pay so handsomely to rid himself of these rotten rodents!



Squeeze

An adult rat can squeeze into your home through a hole as small as the size of a two pound coin. A rat can tread water for three days and survive being flushed down the toilet. (And it can return to the building via the same route.)

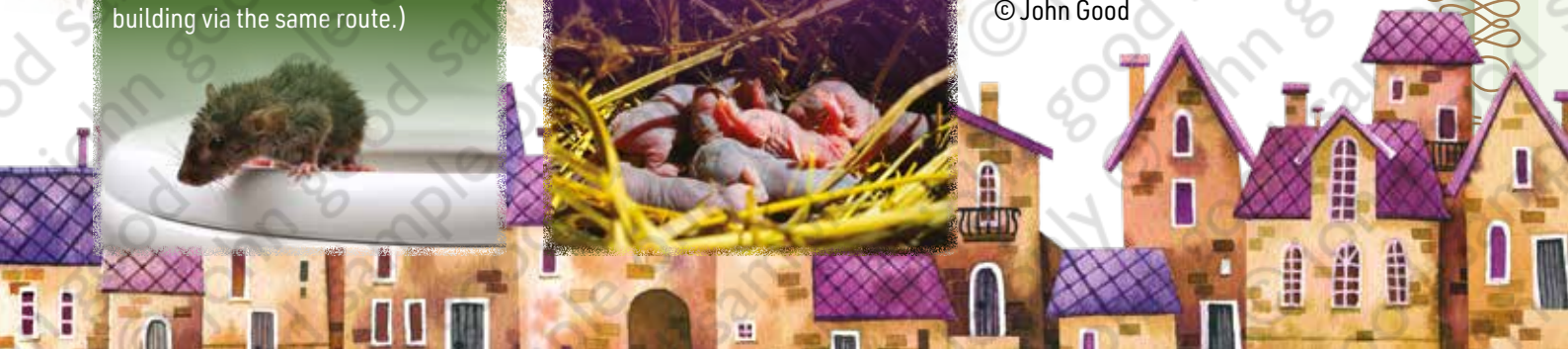


Breeding

A pair of Brown Rats can produce as many as 2,000 descendants in a year if left to breed unchecked. An average rat's lifespan is two to three years, and a female rat is able to have her first litter at three months.



© John Good



Searching for Tommy

Tommy's gone missing!
Can you help Dick search the streets
of London and find him?



Stinky Sewers!

Dick and Tommy have been caught by that nasty King Rat and thrown into the deepest, smelliest sewer in London! However, they have found their cell door is loose. Can you help them find their way to the surface without walking in front of any of King Rat's rodent ruffians?



London Wordsearch!



W I M B L E D O N O R W O O D
 H A C K N E Y E N P E T S T B
 I N L S H O R E D I T C H O U
 T O O T I N G B E C S R W N A
 E T K C H T O T T E N H A M L
 C G E H A A C T O N I G A I L
 H N N E R T M I N W M T H L I
 A I T L R I F S T T T E N L H
 P L I S O I N O T G S N E H L
 E S S E W E T H R O E R W I L
 L I H A O N A O L D W A C L E
 O R T D M F U L H A M B R L W
 A Y O O P A D D I N G T O N S
 R O W E M B L E Y N F L S O U
 N D N W E S T H A M G O S N M
 N R O B L O H C I W N E E R G

Can you find all the different areas of London in this wordsearch?

The words can run up, down, backwards, forwards and even diagonally!

When you have found all the words, there will be thirty-seven letters left over, which will spell out a phrase that applies especially to Dick!

© John Good

ACTON
 BARNET
 BOW
 CATFORD
 CHELSEA
 EALING

FULHAM
 GREENWICH
 HACKNEY
 HARROW
 HOLBORN
 ISLINGTON
 KENTISH TOWN
 MILL HILL

MUSWELL HILL
 NEW CROSS
 NORWOOD
 PADDINGTON
 SHOREDITCH
 SOHO
 STEPNEY
 TOOTING BEC

TOTTENHAM
 WALTHAMSTOW
 WEMBLEY
 WEST HAM
 WESTMINSTER
 WHITECHAPEL
 WIMBLEDON

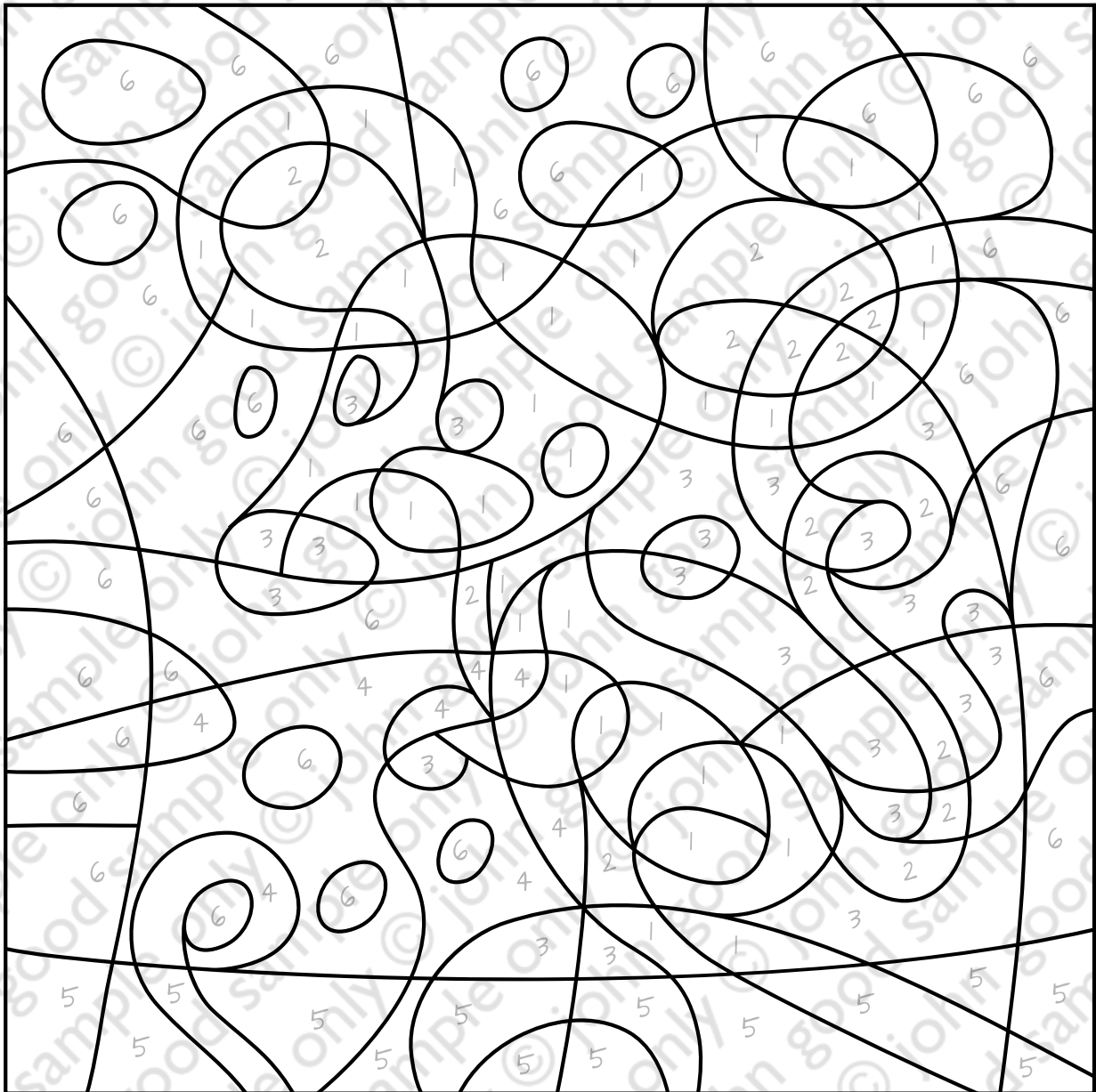


Spot the Difference

Find 7 Differences



Colour by Numbers



Matching Cheeses

Find 2 cheeses the same



© John Good

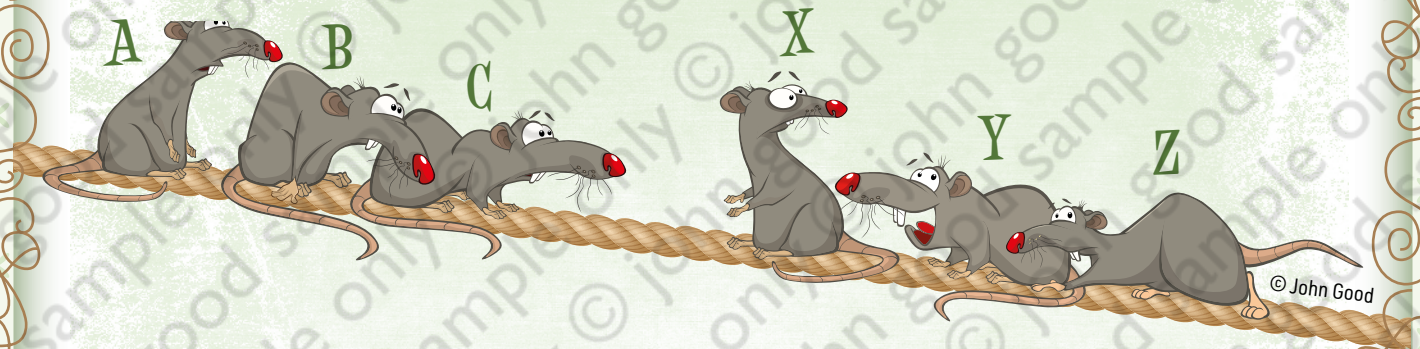
Shadow Match!

Find the shadow that exactly matches the picture.



© John Good

Rats in the Rigging!



When Alderman Fitzwarren's ship was docked in London, the ship's rats left to go on shore in order to have a look around the capital. Meanwhile, some of the rats who lived there decided to climb on board and go on their holidays in North Africa (since rats don't have to pay any fares!).

In their hurry, these six rats met on one of the ropes, three going up and three going down. None of them could move backwards, in case they fell off. They could leap over each other one at a time, but only if there was a gap on the rope to land on. None of them could leap over more than one of the other rats in one go. Rats are clever creatures, and eventually these six got past each other. How do you think they did it?

A Fishy Puzzle!

Tommy has found a nice, juicy salmon for his breakfast!

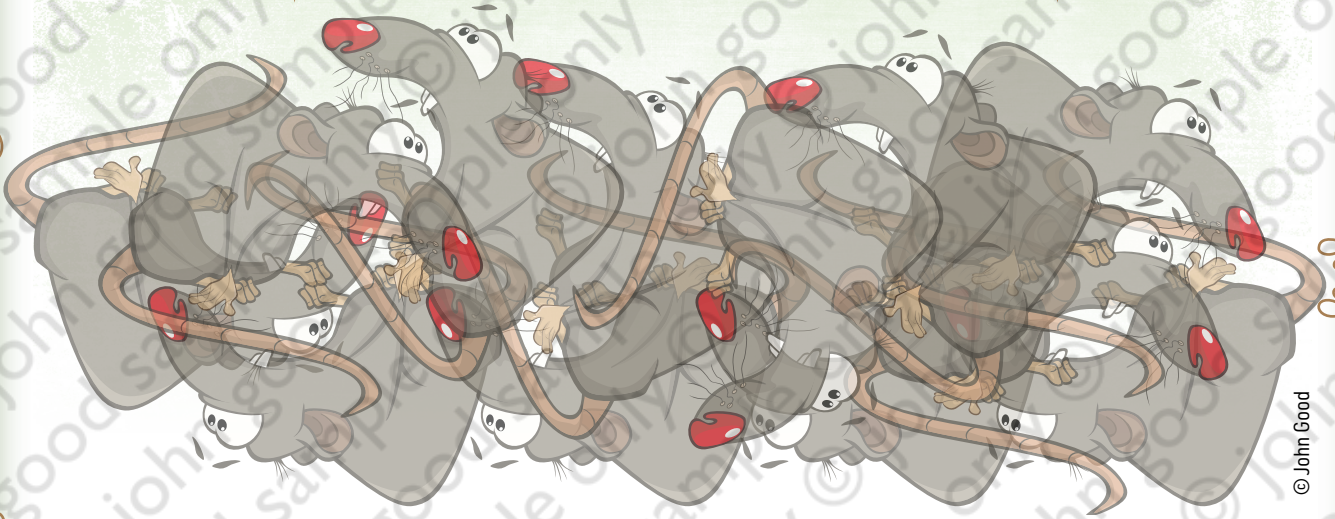
He will have to remove each smelly sprat from the top, in turn, to get to the succulent salmon.

Can you remove the sprats in the right order?



Pesky Plague of Rats!

Those pesky rats have reached plague proportion you find out how many have become entangled here?



© John Good

Rats to Mice!

By changing one letter each time, can you change RATS to MICE in as few moves as possible?

RATS



MICE

© John Good

Spotted Dick

Ingredients

250g self-raising flour
Pinch of salt
125g shredded suet
180g currants
80g caster sugar
Finely grated zest 1 lemon
Finely grated zest 1 small orange
150ml whole milk
Custard, to serve

Steam a traditional fruity sponge pudding with suet, citrus zest and currants then serve in thick slices with hot custard.

Ask an Adult to Help!



- ⌚ Prep: 15mins
- 👨‍🍳 Cook: 1hr and 30 mins
- 👉 Easy
- 🍴 Serves 6

Step 1

Put the flour, salt, suet, currants, sugar and lemon and orange zest in a bowl.

Step 2

Pour in the milk and mix to a firm but moist dough, adding extra milk if necessary.

Step 3

Shape into a fat sausage shape about 20cm long. Place on a large rectangle of baking parchment. Wrap loosely to allow for the pudding to rise and tie the ends with string like a Christmas cracker.

NUTRITION: PER SERVING

KCAL	FAT	SATURATES	CARBS	SUGARS	FIBRE	PROTEIN	SALT
462	19.9g	11.2g	65g	34.5g	2.7g	5.4g	0.5g

Step 4

Place a steamer over a large pan of boiling water, add the pudding to the steamer. Cover and steam for 1½ hours. Top up the pan with boiling water from time to time.

Step 5

Remove from the steamer and allow to cool slightly before unwrapping. Be careful, the steam will be very hot! Serve sliced with custard.

Answers

Searching for Tommy



Stinky Sewers!



Spot the Difference



London Wordsearch!

W	I	M	B	L	E	D	O	N	O	R	W	O	O	D
H	A	C	K	N	E	Y	E	N	P	E	T	S	T	B
I	N	L	S	H	O	R	E	D	I	T	C	H	O	U
T	O	O	T	I	N	G	B	E	C	S	R	W	N	A
E	T	K	C	H	T	O	T	T	E	N	H	A	M	L
C	G	E	H	A	A	C	T	O	N	I	G	A	I	L
H	N	N	E	R	T	M	I	N	W	M	T	H	L	I
A	I	T	L	R	I	F	S	T	T	T	E	N	L	H
P	L	I	S	O	I	N	O	T	G	S	N	E	H	L
E	S	S	E	W	E	T	H	R	O	E	R	W	I	L
L	I	H	A	O	N	A	O	L	D	W	A	C	L	E
O	R	T	D	M	F	U	L	H	A	M	B	R	I	W
A	Y	O	O	P	A	D	D	I	N	G	T	O	N	S
R	O	W	E	M	B	L	E	Y	N	F	L	S	O	U
N	D	N	W	E	S	T	H	A	M	G	O	S	N	M
N	R	O	B	L	O	H	C	I	W	N	E	E	R	G

A Fishy Puzzle!

D, C, H, G, E, B, F, A

TURN AGAIN WHITTINGTON
LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

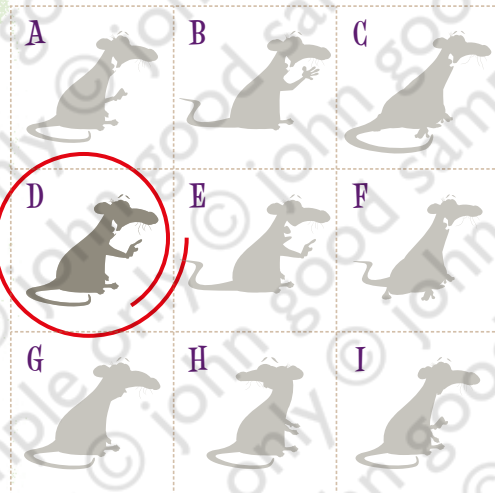
Answers

Rats in the Rigging!

The rats got past each other by moving in the following order:

ABC_XYZ
 AB_CXYZ
 ABXC_YZ
 ABXC_YZ
 ABX_YCZ
 A_XBYCZ
 _AXBYCZ
 XA_BYCZ
 XABY_CZ
 XAYBZC_
 XAYBZ_C
 XAY_ZBC
 X_YAZBC
 XY_AZBC
 XYZA_BC
 XYZ_ABC

Shadow Match!



Pesky Plague of Rats!

There are **Twelve** entangled rats!

Rats to Mice!

There are actually several ways to solve this in three moves. Here's one of the easiest...

RATS
 RATE
 MATE
 MACE
 MICE

Matching Cheeses

