

# Wild about Geese

GIVE IT A GANDER!

Priscilla the Goose is one of pantomime's most endearing characters. Here are some fun facts and stories about Geese and the story of Mother Goose.

## The original Mother Goose

The Tales of Mother Goose was originally a collection of fairy tales published in France over 300 years ago by Monsieur Charles Perrault.

The book also included many of our all-time favourite fairy tales, including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty and many more.

## The Goose with the Golden Egg

Hundreds of years ago a book called Aesop's Fables (very famous) told a story of a man who had a very special goose that laid one solid golden egg every single day. But...the man was too greedy and wanted more than one egg, so he killed the goose and cut it open, expecting to find lots of golden eggs. There were none. The story teaches us all a moral tale – because he was greedy, he lost his friend for nothing.

## Old Geeser!

Geese have an average lifespan of 25 years, but one old gander called George lived for 49 years and eight months – an entry for the Gee-ness book of records?

## Honk Patrol

Geese make excellent watch guards. When they feel scared or threatened, they stretch out their long necks, hiss and honk as loudly as possible and chase the intruders!

## Love IS...

Geese are known to be devoted parents. They choose a mate when they are about three years old and they stay together for life, raising a new family each year. Baby geese are called goslings. Amazingly, when they are just one day old, some goslings are able to dive and swim up to 40 feet underwater!



## Honk, Honk!

In the autumn you may hear a strange honking sound from the sky. Look up and you will see lots of geese flying south to get away from our cold winters (very sensible!). You will notice that they fly in a special V formation. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates a slipstream for the one behind, which means they can travel a lot faster than if they were flying alone. The geese honk loudly from behind to encourage those at the front to keep up their speed!

## Mother Goose in Pantomime

The very first Goose appeared in pantomime in 1906 and *Mother Goose* was one of the first pantomimes ever seen in America. All the children loved the story and it has remained a firm favourite!

## Goose Bumps!

The little pimples that appear on your skin when you're cold or frightened are called goose bumps, because they look just like the tiny muscles that hold the feathers on a goose.

## Gossip Girls

Farmyard geese love to move around together. Friendly and sociable, they have been known to nip down the road to visit a neighbouring flock for a good old girlie gossip!

## Did You Know?

There are around 30 known species of geese in the world. These include the Canadian Goose, the Snow Goose, the Hawaiian Goose, Emperor Goose, the Bean Goose and the Pink-footed Goose.

The Snow Goose is the largest and noisiest of all geese; it can be heard long before it flies into view.

## Grounded!

Every year geese lose their flying feathers when they moult. They can't fly until the new feathers grow back (this takes about six weeks). During this boring time, geese like to nest near to water so they can make a fast escape from any predators such as foxes.



# The Tales of Mother Goose

*Mother Goose* has become a familiar part of many of our childhoods, usually as a book of fairy tales, a collection of nursery rhymes or as part of a traditional Christmas pantomime. And yet people often assume that Mother Goose herself is the main character in the original *Tales of Mother Goose*, instead of being the mythical storyteller.

So where exactly did the *Tales of Mother Goose* come from? And did Mother Goose really exist?

## The Original Tales

The original *Tales of Mother Goose* started off as a collection of fairy tales published in France over 300 years ago by a gentleman called Monsieur Charles Perrault. The first book was illustrated with a picture of a kind old lady telling stories to children by a fireside, with a sign on the wall, *The Tales of Mother Goose*. The book also included many of our all-time favourite fairy tales, including *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Puss in Boots* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Monsieur Perrault didn't invent these stories as, even in his day, they were well known. Instead, he carefully selected the very best of the tales, ensuring that they became famous and loved by children all over the world.



# Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes

Mother Goose is also well known for her popular collections of nursery rhymes. The original collection was put together in 1760 when an English gentleman, called John Newbery, decided to publish several books of traditional rhymes, including *Mother Goose's Melody* and *The History of Little Goody Two Shoes*. These books were so popular that Mother Goose became even more famous for her nursery rhymes than fairy tales!

Next time you visit the bookshop, take a close look and you will notice that many nursery rhyme books still have *Mother Goose* in the title.

Old Mother Goose,  
When she wanted to wander,  
Would ride through the air  
on a very fine gander.



Jack's mother came in,  
And caught the goose soon,  
And mounting its back,  
Flew up to the moon.

## Was There a Real Mother Goose?

Most people believe that Mother Goose was just a mythical storyteller who never really existed. However, there are some who think that a real life Mother Goose did exist and there are several unusual contenders for the title!

### Queen 'Goosefoot' Bertha of France

An 8th century French queen named Bertha (or Bertrada) who was known for her kindness and generosity to all children. Also known as Bertha 'Greatfoot', or Queen 'Goosefoot', because apparently she had large goose-like webbed feet! Another Queen, also named Bertha, was the wife of Robert II of France. It is rumoured that she gave birth to a child with the head of a goose!

### Mistress 'Lizzie' Goose

Americans believe that a lady called Mistress Elizabeth Goose from Boston was the original Mother Goose. Elizabeth married Isaac Goose and became stepmother to his ten children! She also had a further six children of her own and numerous grandchildren - so there was no shortage of children to listen to her songs and fairy tales!

### The Legend of Frau Goose

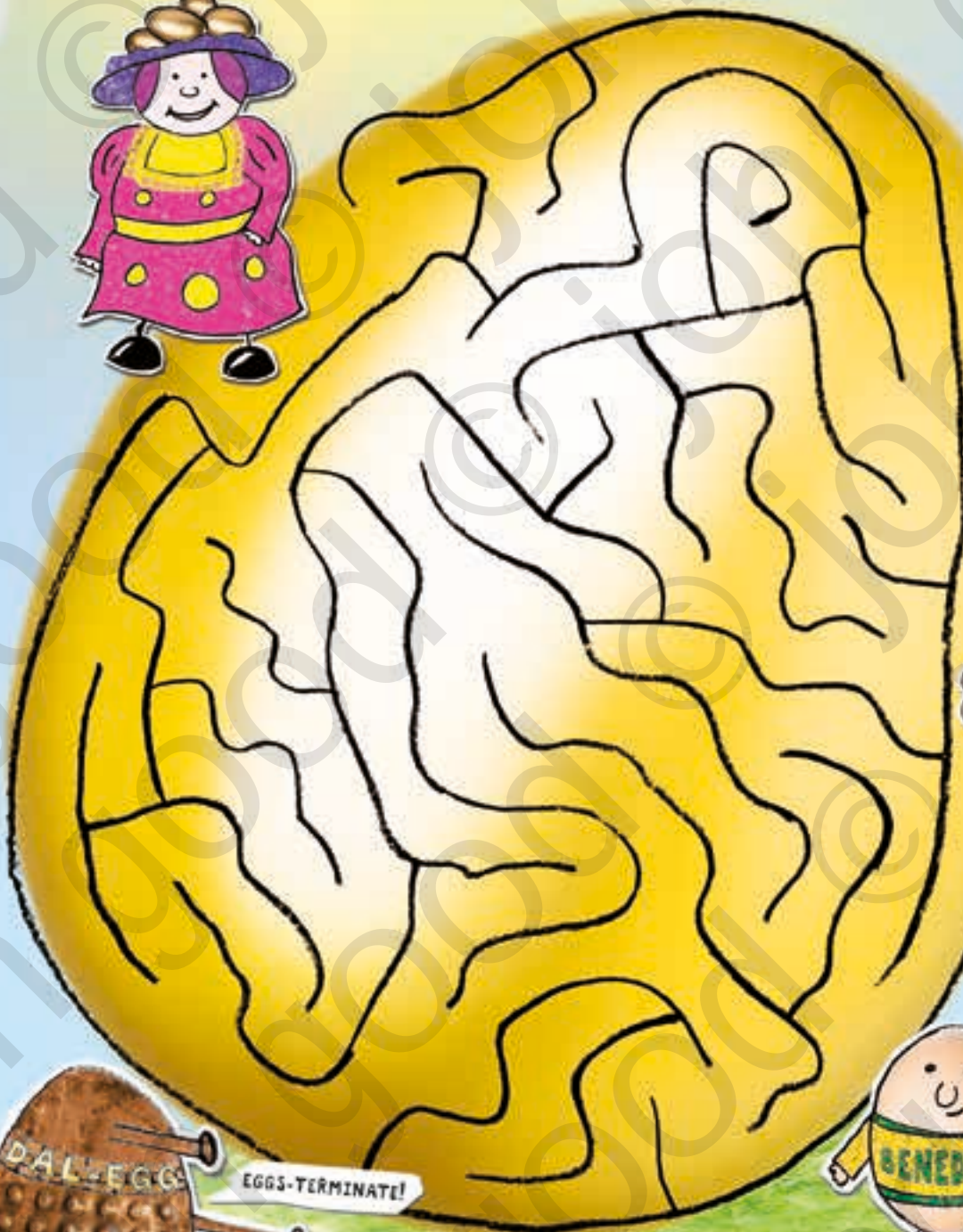
In Norse and German mythology Bertha (yes, another one!) is the goddess of spinning who developed a 'goosefoot' from using the spinning wheel treadle. She is also known as the 'protector' of children who watches over little ones as their mothers sleep.

As her stories were so popular, her son-in-law, Thomas Fleet, a printer from Pudding Lane, decided to have them published. The book, *Mother Goose's Melodies for Children*, had a picture on the cover of a large goose with a long neck and a wide open mouth - perhaps to make fun of his mother-in-law!



# GOOSE on the LOOSE!

The silly goose is lost in the egg maze!  
can you help Mother Goose bring her home safely?



Where is that silly goose going?

I think she is trying to eggscape!



# colour me in!



What time do geese get up?

At the quack of dawn



# Waddling Wordsearch

Can you find all the hidden words in this puzzle?  
There will be some letters left over which will spell out a special message from Mother Goose!



MOTHER  
GOOSE  
GOLDEN  
EGG

GAGGLE  
GOSLING  
WADDLE  
NEST  
FLYING  
PRISCILLA

GANDER  
BEAUTIFUL  
HONK  
BEAK

PANTOMIME  
FAIRY



What do you call  
a mischievous  
goose egg?



# Mother Goose's end of term FUN!

Mother Goose and Priscilla love to meet all the schoolchildren who visit the panto at this time of the year. If they came to your school how would they describe you in their end of term report?

Find out now! Pick the last digit of your day, month and year of birth and then read out your description.

So... if your birthday is on 17/03/2008  
Mother Goose's report would say you are  
a Mischievous cool Musician!

Number ..... Day ..... Month ..... Year

- |         |                   |                |               |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 0.....  | Quiet .....       | Shy .....      | Geographer    |
| 1.....  | creative.....     | Furry .....    | Artist        |
| 2.....  | Secretive.....    | Smooth .....   | Scientist     |
| 3.....  | Excitable.....    | cool .....     | Historian     |
| 4 ..... | Jolly.....        | Squeaky.....   | Soccer Player |
| 5.....  | Hard Working..... | Smart .....    | Gymnast       |
| 6.....  | Happy .....       | Waddling ..... | Mathematician |
| 7.....  | Mischievous ..... | Trendy .....   | Bookworm      |
| 8.....  | Generous .....    | Skinny.....    | Musician      |
| 9.....  | Friendly.....     | Hungry .....   | chef          |



Your birth date is  
26/04 2005  
so what are  
you Benedict?





# Mother Goose's Special Recipe

# Nest Egg Cupcakes

Ask an adult to help you make these yummy cakes!

Make these 12 delicious cupcakes to share with friends!

Oven 180°C/350°F Gas Mark 4  
Put 12 paper cases in a bun tray

### Ingredients:

115g/4oz softened butter or tub margarine  
115g/4oz caster sugar  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
85g/3oz self-raising flour  
25g/5oz cocoa powder

### For the yummy topping:

85g/3oz softened butter  
175g/6oz soft icing sugar  
2 tsp cocoa powder  
1 tbsp milk  
2-3 drops of vanilla essence  
Big bag of mini chocolate eggs

### Here's what you do:

- With a wooden spoon, beat the butter and sugar until nice and fluffy
- Add the eggs one at a time, then beat well
- Sift in the flour and cocoa
- Use a metal spoon to gently stir in/fold the mixture
- Spoon the cake mix into the 12 cases
- Pop in the oven for 15-20 minutes
- Allow to cool

### Now for the good bit!

- To make the topping, beat the butter, icing sugar and cocoa into a light fluffy paste
- Add the milk and vanilla, mix well
- Spread or pipe a thick layer of icing around the edge of each cake
- Pop a few chocolate eggs into the middle of the 'nest'



What did the egg do when the goose told it a joke?

It cracked up!



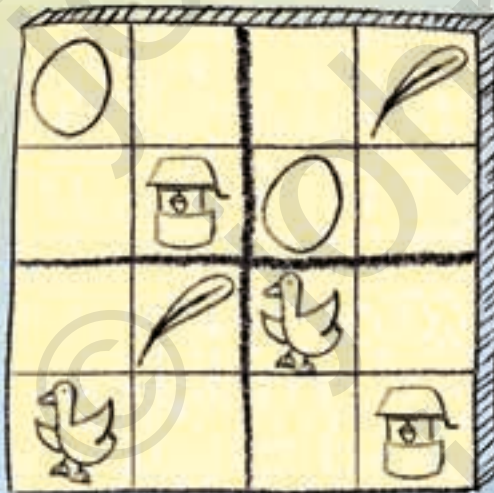
# Silly Sudoku



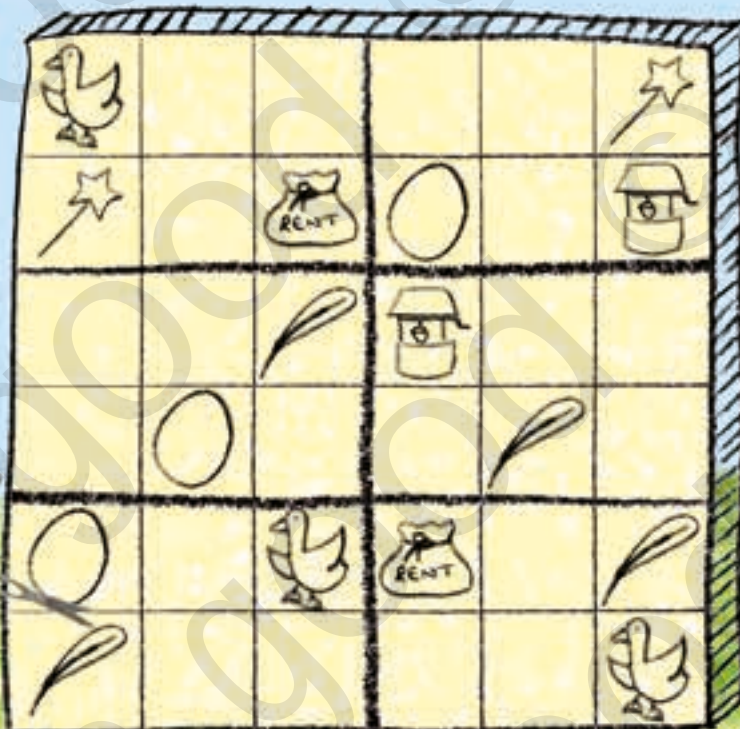
Silly Billy passes the time by making up sudoku puzzles, using things he has seen instead of numbers!

The first one he made had 16 squares, divided into four smaller boxes of four squares each. The idea is to fill it so that every row and column of the large grid and every smaller 2 x 2 box contains each of the four different shapes - an egg, a feather, a goose and a well. Can you solve it?

What did the gosling say when his mum laid an orange?



The next puzzle he made was even harder - remembering another two items, a rent money bag and a wand, he made the grid bigger, so that each row, column and box has six squares. See if you can do this one!



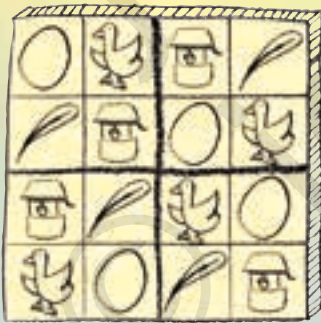
Look what Marmalade!



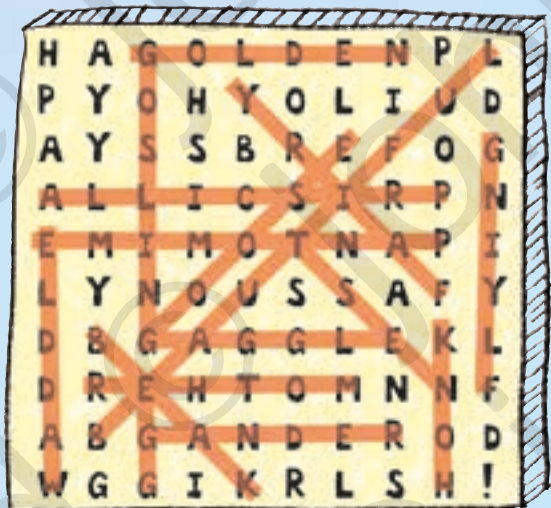
# Answers

GOOSE on the LOOSE!

## Silly Sudoku



## Waddling Wordsearch



The special message hidden in the wordsearch is:  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS BOYS AND GIRLS!**

What did the goose say after he went shopping?

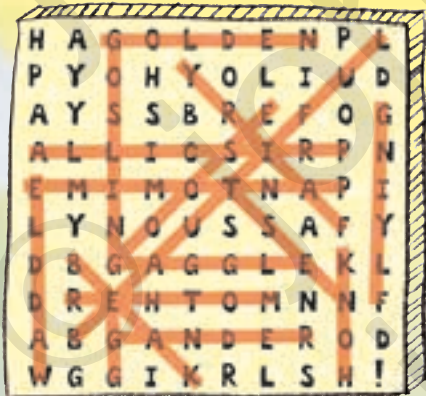


Put it on my bill!



# Answers

## Waddling Wordsearch



The special message hidden in the wordsearch is:

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS BOYS AND GIRLS!**

## Goose on the Loose!



## Silly Sudoku

