Harrods, Knightsbridge

Activity 1
What do these numbers refer to?

1834 _____

100 (x2) _____

27 million _____

40 (x2) _____

7000 _____

130 _____

10 _____

Activity 2
Answer these questions:

Why did the founder of Harrods decide to move to west London?

_____

What colour is the shopping bag?

_____

Who opens the annual sale?

_____

Where does the store get most of its electricity?

_____

How far is it from London to Sydney?

_____

If it takes 5 minutes to change one light bulb, how long does it take 10 people to change those of Harrods each day?

_____

How long has their oldest delivery van been running?

_____

How much does an adult African elephant weigh?

_____

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Activity 3
Listen and complete the gaps

Knightsbridge, in the west of London, is an expensive _____ area as well as home to many upmarket retail outlets, most notably Harrods. Anyone visiting London usually has a _____ to Harrods somewhere near the top of their list of things to do and see – you can't go home without one of their famous green shopping bags.

Charles Henry Harrod set up a grocery store in the east end of London way back in 1834. However, in 1849 he was _____ to get away from the centre of the city and wanted to have a store nearer to the _____ Great Exhibition being held in the west end of the city. Therefore he moved his store to Knightsbridge, where it has remained ever since.

By 1880 Harrod's son was running the business and had started to sell a wider range of goods and 100 people were _____ to say they worked there. Their regular customers included some high profile names, such as Oscar Wilde, Sigmund Freud, Noel Coward and various members of the Royal family. Now the store is internationally famous and _____ VIPs from all over the world. Indeed, every year a famous person is invited by owner Mohammed Al fayed to officially open the annual Harrod's sale, which has become an event in itself with people queuing round the _____ to be some of the first to get inside and snap up a bargain.

Now, we all love trivial facts and figures so here are some that may surprise you.

- The store has it's own wells, three of them to be _____, and draws around 27 million gallons a year from them.
- The _____ room generates three quarters of all the electricity used.
- There are 40 lifts, travelling a total of 40,000 miles per year. (That's roughly London to Sydney, Australia and back. _____!)
- 250 telephone lines get 7000 calls a day
- Harrod's electricians have to change 300 light bulbs every day (energy efficient ones, I _____). The outside of the store uses 11,500 light bulbs, just in case you can't find it at night.
- From 100 staff back in 1880, today the store employs 5000 permanent staff and an extra 500 _____ ones during the busy periods.
- The distribution centre is a wonder – 7 _____ floors feeding 40 delivery vehicles, including their first ever van from 1915, still running today.
- Back inside the shop there is the famous food hall with 18 departments. You can find 250 different cheeses or 130 types of bread and scones. Surprisingly they only sell around 100 tons of chocolate per year. That's the _____ of about 10 large African elephants.
- Finally, talking of elephants, the store famously sold one to someone who gave it to _____ US president Ronald Reagan!

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Transcript

Knightsbridge, in the west of London, is an expensive residential area as well as home to many upmarket retail outlets, most notably Harrods. Anyone visiting London usually has a trip to Harrods somewhere near the top of their list of things to do and see – you can't go home without one of their famous green shopping bags.

Charles Henry Harrod set up a grocery store in the east end of London way back in 1834. However, in 1849 he was keen to get away from the centre of the city and wanted to have a store nearer to the forthcoming Great Exhibition being held in the west end of the city. Therefore he moved his store to Knightsbridge, where it has remained ever since.

By 1880 Harrod's son was running the business and had started to sell a wider range of goods and 100 people were proud to say they worked there. Their regular customers included some high profile names, such as Oscar Wilde, Sigmund Freud, Noel Coward and various members of the Royal family. Now the store is internationally famous and attracts VIPs from all over the world. Indeed, every year a famous person is invited by owner Mohammed Al fayed to officially open the annual Harrod's sale, which has become an event in itself with people queuing round the block to be some of the first to get inside and snap up a bargain.

Now, we all love trivial facts and figures so here are some that may surprise you.

- The store has it's own wells, three of them to be precise, and draws around 27 million gallons a year from them.
- The engine room generates three quarters of all the electricity used.
- There are 40 lifts, travelling a total of 40,000 miles per year. (That's roughly London to Sydney, Australia and back. Twice!)
- 250 telephone lines get 7000 calls a day
- Harrod's electricians have to change 300 light bulbs every day (energy efficient ones, I assume). The outside of the store uses 11,500 light bulbs, just in case you can't find it at night.
- From 100 staff back in 1880, today the store employs 5000 permanent staff and an extra 500 temporary ones during the busy periods.
- The distribution centre is a wonder – 7 underground floors feeding 40 delivery vehicles, including their first ever van from 1915, still running today.
- Back inside the shop there is the famous food hall with 18 departments. You can find 250 different cheeses or 130 types of bread and scones. Surprisingly they only sell around 100 tons of chocolate per year. That's the equivalent of about 10 large African elephants.
- Finally, talking of elephants, the store famously sold one to someone who gave it to former US president Ronald Reagan!

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