

Pre reading. Use the internet to develop your research skills.


Try to ...

1. Find out eight interesting facts about George Orwell.
2. Find out something about:
 - > the term *fable*
 - > Tsar Nicholas
 - > Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin
 - > the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks
 - > the Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917
 - > Communism
 - > the terms satire and allegory
 - > the term dystopia.

When you have read Chapter 1, complete the following activities.

3. Find supporting quotations to back up the following first impressions of Mr. Jones:
 - > a drunkard
 - > careless in his farming
 - > irresponsible in his actions.
4. Draw a table like the one below and make an entry to record your first impressions of each of the animals. Old Major has been done for you.

Name	Animal	1 st impressions
<i>Old Major</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>12 years old, highly respected, described as 'majestic', philosopher and thinker.</i>



5. Create a mind map to identify the key points of Old Major's speech.
6. In his speech Old Major very successfully uses rhetoric, the art of speaking well, to get his point across. Find an example of each rhetorical device in his speech then choose three of the examples you have found a write an explanation of their effect.
 - > creates sympathy for himself
 - > identifies common enemy
 - > empathy
 - > speaks directly to his audience
 - > rhetorical questions
 - > alliteration
 - > facts
 - > uses short sentences that sum up his argument
 - > rule of three
 - > emotive language
 - > opinions

7. 'Beasts of England' is like a national anthem. Write another verse of the song.

Chapter 2

8. Start a timeline of events to track the action as it happens. Update this as you read each chapter. Here are three events to start you off:

Early March	Old Major delivers his speech outlining the principles of 'Animalism'
3 days later	Old Major dies.
April, May and June	There is secret activity among the animals.

9. Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the characters of Snowball and Napoleon at the start of chapter 2.
10. Find supporting quotations which back up the following points about the rebellion:
- > it was spontaneous
 - > hunger played a role in the animals' discontent
 - > it was violent
 - > the animals are somewhat confused by events and later overwhelmed with joy by their victory.
11. Find two quotations which suggest that the principles of Animalism are already being undermined by the end of chapter 2.

Chapter 3

12. Find three supporting quotations that show that the animals were proud of their achievements in bringing in the first harvest after Mr. Jones had gone.
13. Make notes about what we learn about the following animals in chapter 3:
- > Boxer
 - > Snowball
 - > Napoleon
 - > Mollie
 - > Old Benjamin.
14. What is significant about the following quotation from the end of chapter 3?






'It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back!'

Chapter 4

15. The events and characters in the novel are closely related to important events and figures from Russian and European history. Apply your earlier research and do some more to find out who/what the following represent:

- > Mr. Jones
- > Old Major
- > Snowball
- > Napoleon
- > Squealer
- > Animalism
- > Rebellion
- > Battle of the Cowshed
- > Mr. Frederick
- > Mr. Pilkington
- > Boxer
- > Moses
- > Sugarcandy mountain
- > The dogs reared by Napoleon
- > The destruction of the windmill by Frederick and his men

16. Think about similarities between the society created by the animals and that of our own. Complete the table below.

Our own society	Society created by the animals
A national anthem - <i>God Save the Queen</i>	
Awards for bravery during war - The Victoria Cross	
Set of rules to live by - The Ten Commandments	
Commemoration days - Day of Remembrance	
A national flag - Union Flag	

17. Speaking and listening activity: describe/narrate/explain.

Watch a news broadcast on television and observe its conventions - the roles within it, the sequence of events, the way interviews are conducted.

Work in groups to script and present the events in chapter 4 as a television news broadcast. Record it and then play it to the whole group

Which broadcast was best and why?

What targets would you set to improve your performance in a similar activity next time?

Chapter 5

18. Make a list of six things Napoleon does in this chapter to secure his position as leader of the farm. Which do you think was the most effective?
19. What do you understand about the word 'propaganda'? Explain how Napoleon uses propaganda in this chapter to change the animals' opinions of Snowball.

Chapter 6

20. List the problems the animals are facing in this chapter.
21. List the ways in which Napoleon and the pigs are reversing the principles of Animalism and the seven commandments?

Chapter 7

22. Read the quotation below in which Clover reflects on the massacres that take place in this chapter. Write a short paragraph about its significance -

'If she could have spoken her thoughts, it would have been to say that this was not what they had aimed at when they had set themselves years ago to work for the overthrow of the human race.'

23. How have the principles of Animalism been corrupted? Write a paragraph or two explaining your ideas. You may wish to think about the following points:
 - > the original principles of Animalism and how the animals are living now
 - > how Snowball's absence has been exploited by Napoleon
 - > the willingness of Napoleon to use violence and terror to maintain power.

Try to find supporting quotations to back up your ideas

Chapter 8

24. List the ways in which Napoleon is now behaving and presenting himself as dictators traditionally do.
25. Write two opposing newspaper front page stories about the events surrounding the attack by Frederick and his men and the destruction of the windmill. The first should be from the perspective of Napoleon and Squealer presenting the action as a famous victory for the animals. The second should be from the perspective of Frederick presenting the action as a hugely damaging defeat for the animals. Try to include eye witness testimony.

Chapter 9

26. Explore how, at the end of this chapter, the lives of the animals are now no better and are perhaps even worse than they were under Mr. Jones. You may wish to think about:
- > how Mr. Jones treated the animals and his standards as a farmer
 - > the events of the rebellion and how the animals felt immediately afterwards
 - > Snowball's original plans and committees and the emphasis on education
 - > Napoleon's rise to power and use of violence against other animals
 - > the attempts to build the windmill and worsening crop failures
 - > the corruption of the seven commandments and the increasingly privileged position of the pigs
 - > remember to use short, carefully selected supporting quotations to back up your ideas.

Chapter 10

27. Explain the significance of the following quotations.

'...out came Napoleon himself, majestically upright, casting haughty glances from side to side, and with his dogs gambolling round him. He carried a whip in his trotter.'

'Henceforth the farm was to be known as the 'Manor Farm' - which, he believed, was its correct original name.'

'The creatures looked outside from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which.'

28. With a partner, or in a small group, discuss the extent to which you agree that Orwell successfully satirises the dictators of the twentieth century in *Animal Farm*. You may wish to think about the following:
- > his use of animals as the main characters and use of allegory.
 - > the initial views of Old Major and the sense of hope after the first rebellion and expulsion of Mr. Jones.
 - > the rise of Napoleon and his use of propaganda and violence.
 - > the hypocrisy of the pigs and their increasingly privileged position on the farm.
 - > Napoleon's trappings of power.
 - > the corruption of the principles of Animalism and the disempowerment of the animals.
29. Create a display. Choose a character from the novel and prepare a visual representation of their role in the events of the novella. You can use pictures, quotations, diagrams or anything you like to present this information.