

All About Beatrix Potter

Part A

Beatrix Potter was a famous author and illustrator.

She was born in London in 1866.
She liked nature and drawing.
She died in 1943.



Beatrix's family had lots of pets, including two rabbits called Benjamin Bouncer and Peter Piper. Beatrix enjoyed drawing and painting her pets.

'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' was published in 1902.

Beatrix wrote the story and drew the pictures. Lots of people bought the book and liked it. She then went on to write other stories about animals.

Beatrix loved the Lake District and spent most of her life there. She kept much-loved sheep on her farms and her sheep won prizes in farm shows.

Her books are still very popular today. Her stories have been made into television shows and films. Her characters have been put onto stamps and coins.



Comprehension

1. When and where was Beatrix Potter born?

2. Tick four things which we know from the text that Beatrix Potter liked.

- nature
- cheese sandwiches
- drawing
- the Lake District
- baking
- gymnastics
- sheep
- maths

3. Where did Beatrix Potter live for most of her life?

4. Where do you think Beatrix Potter got the idea to write the story about Peter Rabbit?

5. Have people mostly forgotten about Beatrix Potter and her work now? How do you know?

6. If Beatrix Potter were alive today, what question would you like to ask her?

All About Beatrix Potter

Part B

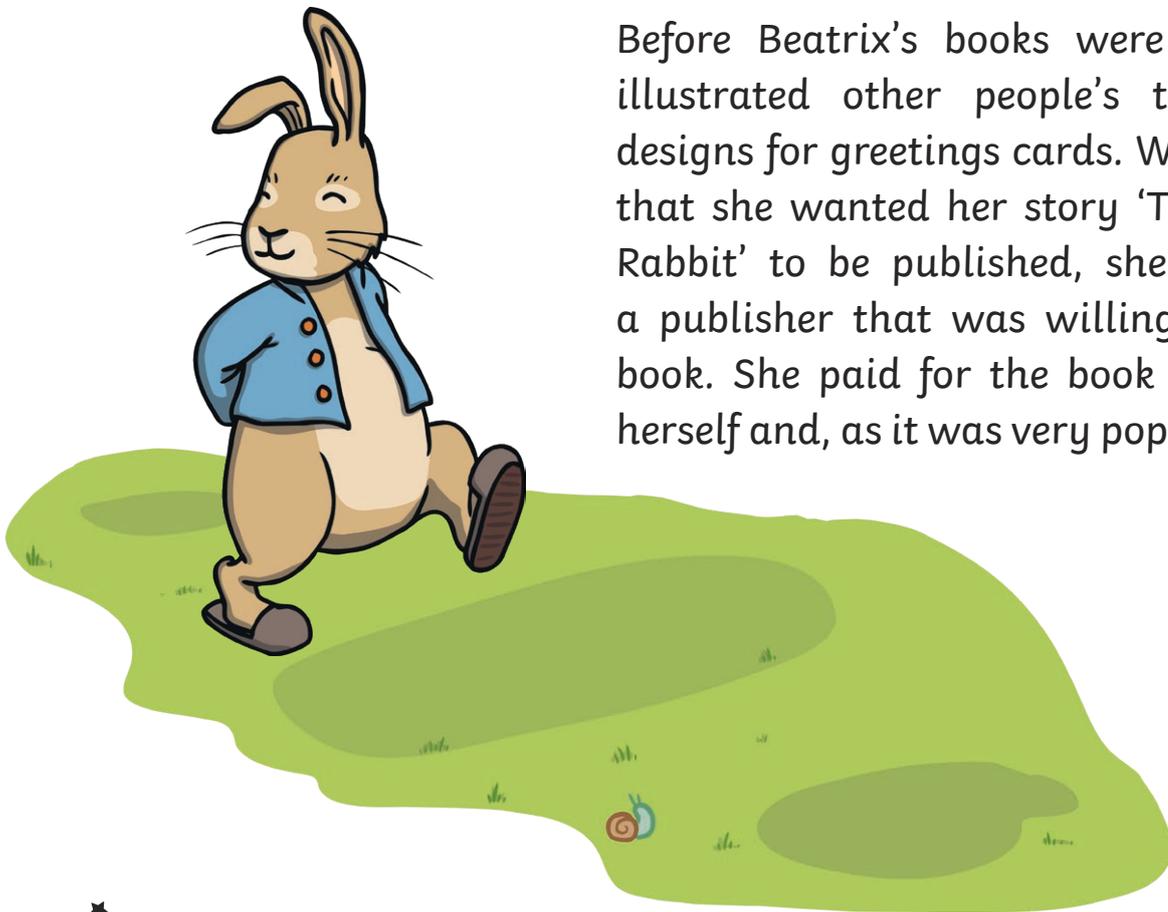
Beatrix Potter is famous for writing and illustrating, among other stories, 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'.

Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington, London, on 28th July 1866. She had a younger brother, Bertram, and they both enjoyed drawing as children.

Beatrix did not go to school. Her parents paid for teachers to teach her at home. She worked hard in all her lessons but her favourite subjects were art and nature. Beatrix's drawings were very detailed and she particularly enjoyed drawing things from the natural world. She drew her pets, especially her rabbits, Benjamin and Peter. She had a special interest in fungi. As well as making drawings of different types of fungi, she also wrote a scientific paper on the subject. (Fungi are living things but they are not animals or plants. Mushrooms and yeast are examples of fungi.)



Before Beatrix's books were published, she illustrated other people's texts and drew designs for greetings cards. When she decided that she wanted her story 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' to be published, she could not find a publisher that was willing to publish the book. She paid for the book to be published herself and, as it was very popular, a publisher



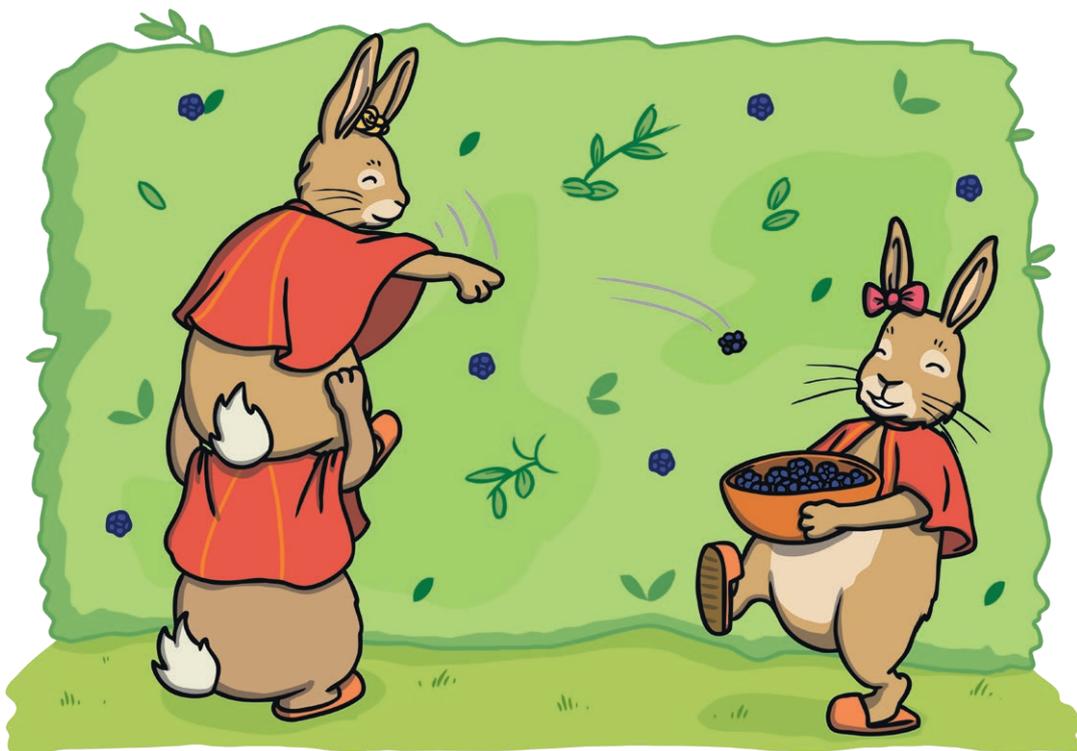
then agreed to publish her book. The first copies of 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' published by F. Warne & Co. appeared in the autumn of 1902 and the book was very successful. Beatrix went on to write many more stories and have lots of them published.

Beatrix was always involved in any decisions to do with her stories because she wanted to make sure that any products sold would have good pictures on them and would be true to her original books. She arranged for a soft toy of Peter Rabbit to be made to sell to fans and she designed a Peter Rabbit board game.

Beatrix spent much of her life in the Lake District. She spent the money she made from the sales of her books on buying and running farms there. She kept Herdwick sheep and won prizes for her sheep in farm shows. She felt strongly that the Lake District should be kept as a beautiful place for all to enjoy.

When Beatrix died in 1943, she left her farms to the National Trust, a charity which works to keep beautiful and important places safe so that everyone can enjoy them now and in the future. One of her farmhouses, Hill Top Farm, is now a popular tourist attraction.

Beatrix Potter's books are still loved by readers around the world and millions of copies of the books are sold each year.



Comprehension

1. How did Beatrix Potter learn lessons as a child?

2. What subject did Beatrix Potter write a scientific paper on?

3. What did Beatrix Potter do when she couldn't find a publisher to publish her books?

4. Why did Beatrix Potter make sure she was involved in any decisions about products linked to her books?

5. Why do you think she gave her farms to the National Trust?

6. Read the following statements. If you think a statement is true, write a 'T' next to it. If you think a statement is false, write an 'F' next to it.

Beatrix Potter is still alive today. ()

Beatrix Potter was born in the Lake District. ()

She was a talented artist. ()

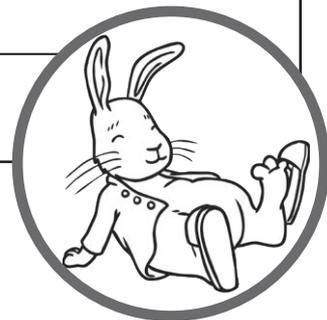
Beatrix Potter loved nature. ()

Beatrix Potter had an older brother. ()

The only book Beatrix Potter wrote was 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. ()

★ ★
Challenge Task ★ ★

Can you write some sentences about Beatrix Potter which could be included in the book 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' to tell readers about the author?



Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. When and where was Beatrix Potter born?

Beatrix Potter was born in London in 1866.

2. Tick four things which we know from the text that Beatrix Potter liked.



nature



cheese sandwiches



drawing



the Lake District



baking



gymnastics



sheep



maths

3. Where did Beatrix Potter live for most of her life?

Beatrix loved the Lake District and spent most of her life there.

4. Where do you think Beatrix Potter got the idea to write the story about Peter Rabbit?

She had a pet rabbit called Peter, so I think she got the idea from this.

5. Have people mostly forgotten about Beatrix Potter and her work now? How do you know?

Example answer: People have not forgotten about Beatrix Potter and her work. We know this because the text says her books are still very popular today. Her stories have been made into films and television programmes.

6. If Beatrix Potter were alive today, what question would you like to ask her?

Example answer: Did you always want to be an author and illustrator?

Part B

1. How did Beatrix Potter learn lessons as a child?

Beatrix did not go to school. Her parents paid for teachers to teach her at home.

2. What subject did Beatrix Potter write a scientific paper on?

Beatrix Potter wrote a scientific paper on the subject of fungi.

Comprehension Answers

3. What did Beatrix Potter do when she couldn't find a publisher to publish her books?

She paid to have the book published herself.

4. Why did Beatrix Potter make sure she was involved in any decisions about products linked to her books?

Beatrix was always involved in any decisions to do with her stories because she wanted to make sure that any products sold would have good pictures on them and would be true to her original books.

5. Why do you think she gave her farms to the National Trust?

Example answer: I think that as she felt strongly that the Lake District should be kept as a beautiful place for all to enjoy, it made sense that she would give her farms to a charity which works to keep beautiful places safe so that everyone can enjoy them now and in the future.

6. Read the following statements. If you think a statement is true, write a 'T' next to it. If you think a statement is false, write an 'F' next to it.

Beatrix Potter is still alive today. (F)

Beatrix Potter was born in the Lake District. (F)

She was a talented artist. (T)

Beatrix Potter loved nature. (T)

Beatrix Potter had an older brother. (F)

The only book Beatrix Potter wrote was 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. (F)

Challenge Task

Example answer:

Beatrix Potter was a famous British author, born over a hundred years ago. She was a talented artist with a passion for drawing, farming and the natural world. When she could not get a publisher to publish 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit', she paid to have it published herself. It was so popular that a publisher quickly agreed to publish it and her books have since delighted millions of children around the world.