



THUNDERBOLT

WILBUR
SMITH
WITH CHRIS WAKLING

EXTRACTS AND NOTES FOR KS2 TEACHERS

INTRODUCTION

Suitable for: Ages 9–11

Includes: Extracts from the text + corresponding discussion questions and activities

Themes: Conservation; Adventure Writing; Travel Writing; Defending the Seas; Coral Reefs

CONTENTS

- **EXTRACT 1: Zanzibar as a Setting (taken from Chapter One)**

Objectives: Identify what makes Zanzibar a great setting for the story; write a persuasive travel brochure for Zanzibar.

Subjects: Literacy: Writing to Inform and Persuade, Geography

- **EXTRACT 2: Defending the Seas (taken from Chapter Twenty-Five)**

Objectives: Understand the importance of defending our coral reefs; illustrate the colour and marine diversity of a healthy coral reef.

Subjects: Geography, Science, Literacy, Art, Design and Technology





ABOUT THE BOOK

Second in a brand new action adventure series starring 14-year-old Jack Courtney - a hero to rival Alex Rider - from worldwide bestselling author Wilbur Smith.

Jack and his friends Amelia and Xander are in Zanzibar diving for lost treasure to support Jack's mother's coral protection project. Going further than usual on their last day, their dive boat is lured into a trap and captured by Somali pirates. Determined that his mother shouldn't pay a ransom for their release, Jack won't give up his attempts to escape.

Transferred to a militia training camp for boy soldiers, the trio's only hope is the resourceful Somali boy Mo who befriends them. Can they outwit the ruthless General Sir and his merciless troops in the second gripping adventure from the authors of Cloudburst?



**EXTRACT 1: ZANZIBAR AS A SETTING (Taken from Chapter One)**

Eventually he picked up the phone to explain. Zanzibar, with its white beaches, turquoise sea, cloudless skies and jaunty palm trees, is one of the most popular high-end honeymoon spots on Earth. Newlyweds pitch up there week in, week out, to celebrate getting hitched. Most of them jump in the sea at some point, wearing nothing but their swimming costumes, sun lotion, and their brand-new wedding rings.

Though the sea there is relatively warm, it's still sea, meaning the water is cold enough to cool you down. Cool anything and it will shrink a bit. A newlywed's finger is no exception. If you've not worn a ring before, and many people - particularly men - haven't before they get married, you're likely to think one that fits correctly is too tight, so you buy one that's a bit loose.

Flap about in the cool sea and your brand-new, highly valuable wedding ring is liable to slip off and sink into the sand, lost forever. Unless you look for it with the right kit. Xander had heard of an American guy who found a bunch of wedding rings just off Waikiki beach in Hawaii. That's also a popular honeymoon spot.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can you point out Zanzibar on a map? Which ocean is it located in?
- Which adjectives are used to describe Zanzibar in the extract? Underline them.
- Why do you think Zanzibar is, 'a popular honeymoon spot'? Explain your ideas.
- How does this setting compare to that of Cloudburst?
- Why do you think Zanzibar makes a great setting for an adventure?





ACTIVITY: TRAVEL BROCHURE: VISIT ZANZIBAR!

Subjects: Literacy: Writing to Inform and Persuade, Geography

It's time to write a travel brochure spread with Zanzibar as the destination! Take a few minutes to look over your 'Visit Zanzibar' worksheet and discuss some of the ideas you could include. It might be useful to do a bit more research on Zanzibar first and make a few notes before you start writing!

Remember, the whole point of a travel brochure is to encourage and persuade people to visit that place, so do your best to make Zanzibar sound and look like a brilliant destination. In order to do this, include lots of positive adjectives and make sure your writing is informative too.





VISIT ZANZIBAR!

A description of Zanzibar, including some facts and geographical information...

A picture of Zanzibar to make it look really appealing...

Fun things to do...

-
-
-
-
-

How to get there...

The weather...

For more information...

**EXTRACT 2: DEFENDING THE SEAS (Taken from Chapter Twenty-Five)**

‘My heart bleeds for them,’ said Xander.

‘But in the meantime, you see, the coastal communities had benefited. The pirates spent money ashore; markets thrived. It’s the same the world over: wealth creates wealth, at least locally. Also, since the pirates had scared away the foreign fishing boats, the fish came back, and the seas grew plentiful again.’

I thought of Mum and her environmental crusade. Protecting coral reefs was top of her list, but she was also striving to ensure marine diversity and looking after fish stocks. To think that her efforts were in any way aligned with what the pirates were doing, however inadvertently, by defending their seas, made a sick sort of sense.

Mo went on: ‘With the return of the fish, local fishermen made record catches. They earned money and others did too. People had enough to eat again.’

‘It’s like Robin bloody Hood,’ I said.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who are the ‘pirates’ that Mo is referring to? Who are they trying to scare away and why?
- How do Jack and his friends get into difficulty with the pirates? What do they want?
- What do the words, ‘environmental crusade’ and ‘marine diversity’ mean?
- Why do you think, ‘protecting coral reefs’ is top of Jack’s mum’s list?
- What are the dangers of not defending the seas and our coral reefs?



ACTIVITY: PROTECTING OUR CORAL REEFS

Subjects: Geography, Science, Literacy, Art, Design and Technology

Coral reefs form some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet! Unfortunately, there are a number of reasons why their biodiversity is under threat.

For each of the threats below, note down the dangers they pose to our coral reefs and the plants and animals that they support.



Then, colour in the blank coral reef image on the next page showing how beautiful and full of life they can be if we protect them!

- 1) TOURISTS =
- 2) POWERBOATS, JET SKIS and their FUELS =
- 3) OVERFISHING =
- 4) GLOBAL WARMING and INCREASING WATER TEMPERATURES =



