



A-level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Paper 1 Telling Stories

Insert

Text for use with question 1

Text A

Text A is an extract from *Dem Bones (NOT-FOR-PARENTS: Paris – Everything you ever wanted to know)* by Klay Lamprell. *NOT-FOR-PARENTS* is a book published by Lonely Planet and aimed at children aged 7+. It includes details of places to visit in Paris, facts about them, and a range of information about the history and culture of the city. The section titled *Dem Bones* is about the catacombs that lay below the surface of Paris.

Going to ground
To get to the catacombs you have to go 65 ft (20 m) below the surface of the city, down a spiral staircase with 130 steps. At the entrance is a sign that reads: "Stop! Here is the empire of death."

What else is down there?
The catacombs take up only a small part of the old mines beneath Paris. As well as 185 miles (300 km) of mine tunnels, there are 1200 miles (2000 km) of sewer tunnels, and 1200 miles (200 km) of railroad tracks!

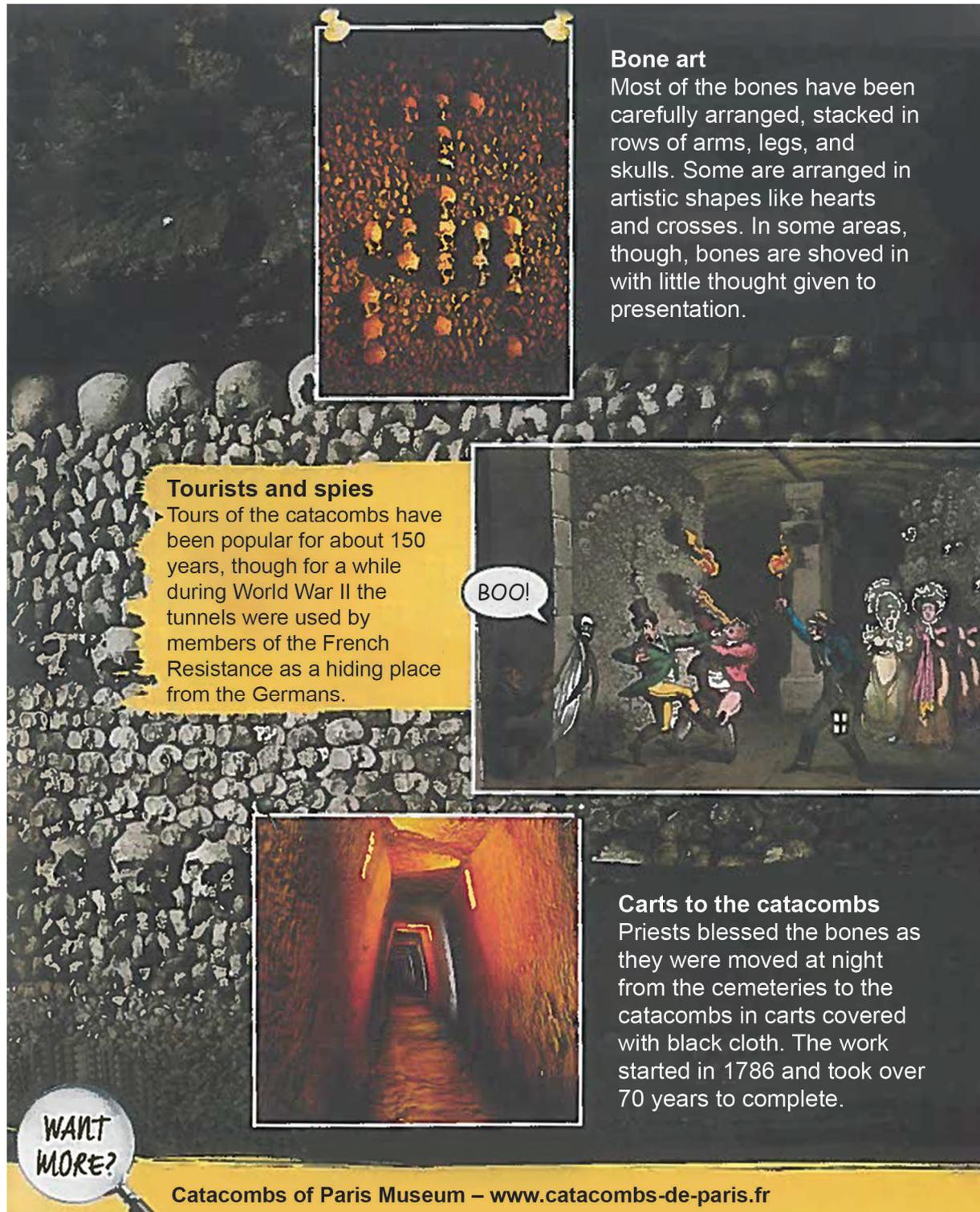
I AIN'T GOT NOBODY TO CALL MY OWN.

LES CATACOMBES
1, Place Denfert-Rochereau →

DEM BONES

Under Paris are the catacombs – tunnels filled with the bones of six million people. They were put there around 200 years ago, moved from cemeteries that had become horribly overcrowded, causing bad smells, and the spread of disease. The bones were dug up and moved into old limestone mines underneath the city.

Text A continued



Bone art
Most of the bones have been carefully arranged, stacked in rows of arms, legs, and skulls. Some are arranged in artistic shapes like hearts and crosses. In some areas, though, bones are shoved in with little thought given to presentation.

Tourists and spies
Tours of the catacombs have been popular for about 150 years, though for a while during World War II the tunnels were used by members of the French Resistance as a hiding place from the Germans.

BOO!

Carts to the catacombs
Priests blessed the bones as they were moved at night from the cemeteries to the catacombs in carts covered with black cloth. The work started in 1786 and took over 70 years to complete.

WANT MORE?

Catacombs of Paris Museum – www.catacombs-de-paris.fr

END OF TEXT A

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