

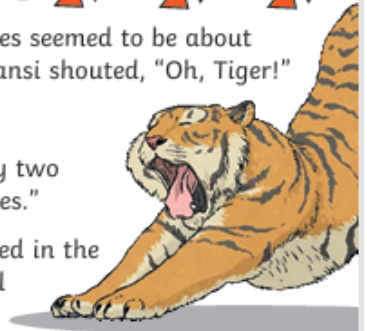
Anansi and the Tiger

Anansi the spider was jealous of Tiger because all of the forest stories seemed to be about him. So, he decided to pay the animal a visit. At the large cave, Anansi shouted, "Oh, Tiger!"

"What do you want?" snarled Tiger.

"I am here to suggest a trade," replied Anansi. "I will bring you any two things that you ask for. In return, you will give me all of your stories."

Wanting to get back at Anansi for all of the tricks that he had played in the past, Tiger accepted the trade. "OK, I want you to bring me a barrel full of bees and a python."



Anansi agreed and set off towards a large, buzzing tree. Standing by the trunk, he shouted, "Oh, Queen Bee!"

"Can I help you?" she replied.

"Is it true," began Anansi, "that bees are always arguing? I've heard that you spend all of your time squabbling with each other."

"Nonsense!" replied Queen Bee. "Bees work well together and never argue."

"I've heard that you're so rubbish at working as a team that you wouldn't even be able to gather inside this barrel," said Anansi, holding out a barrel.

"Prepare to be proved wrong!" shouted Queen Bee. She whistled and the bees immediately began to line up inside the barrel. When they were all inside, Anansi slammed on the lid.



Next, Anansi set off to find Python. When he found the snake snoozing on a nearby branch, he called up, "Oh, Python!"

"Can I help you?" she asked.

"Is it true," began Anansi, "that Cobra is the longest snake in the forest?"

"Of course not!" spat Python. "I am!"



"Oh," replied Anansi. "Well, I just measured Cobra and they were as long as this stick. Could you lie against the stick to prove that you are longer?" Python stretched up against the stick. However, she couldn't stretch herself to the end. "I see the problem," explained Anansi. "You're too wriggly. I'll tie your tail to the end of the stick. Then, you'll be able to stretch to the end." When this didn't work, Anansi offered to tie the snake's middle to the stick. Python agreed. By this point, the snake was trapped on the stick and Anansi began carrying her back to Tiger.

Tiger was shocked to see that Anansi had brought both of the items he had asked for. As promised, he handed over his stories to Anansi.

If you were to visit the forest today, you wouldn't hear any stories about a tiger. Instead, you would hear many tales about a spider named Anansi.



1. How did Tiger reply to Anansi? Tick one.

- he roared
- he snarled
- he whispered
- he shouted

2. Where did Anansi find Python? Tick one.

- snoozing on a nearby branch
- at the bottom of a large tree
- inside a large, buzzing tree
- inside a dark cave

3. Number the events from 1–4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Anansi tricked Python.
- Anansi suggested a trade to Tiger.
- Stories about a tiger disappeared.
- Anansi tricked Queen Bee.

4. **She whistled and the bees immediately began to line up inside the barrel.**

What does the word 'immediately' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- They waited for the next instruction.
- They didn't want to line up.
- They lined up straight away.
- They lined up quickly.

5. Fill in the missing words.

"Oh," replied Anansi. "Well, I just measured _____ and they were as long as this _____."

6. Why was Anansi jealous of Tiger?

7. Using 20 words or fewer, explain how Anansi tricked Queen Bee.

8. How do you think that Python was feeling as she was being carried back to Tiger's cave? Explain your answer.
