

May 27<sup>th</sup>

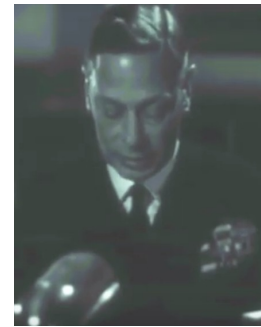
### Memory Verse

**In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** Colossians 2:3

### A historic answer to prayer<sup>1</sup>

Did you get the answer to the question at the end of yesterday's lesson? 27<sup>th</sup> May 1940 saw Britain in the thick of one of the most heroic actions of the Second World War which lasted from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The British soldiers who had been sent to France to try to stop the Germans from advancing were forced to retreat. The problem was how to get them back over the channel again. King George VI called the nation to prayer (as you saw if you watched the old newsreel film yesterday) and the prayers were answered in a remarkable way. For reasons that still are not clear, the Germans made a tactical error and their tanks which were advancing towards Dunkirk were ordered to stop. The town was left for the German air-force, whose bombers were mostly based 300 miles away, to deal with. There was a storm over Flanders for several days, allowing the British soldiers to retreat to the coast at Dunkirk while the German air-force was unable to attack. The storm was followed by calm weather that enabled a hastily gathered fleet of 1,200 civil vessels; paddle steamers, cabin cruisers, fishing boats and even the Thames ferry boats, to cross the channel with the warships and bring back the soldiers, despite heavy German air attacks. Known as the "Miracle of Dunkirk", this evacuation was crucial as Britain had no other large body of trained troops. Afterwards a National Day of Thanksgiving to God was held. This is a good example to us. Do we remember to thank God when he answers our prayers?<sup>2</sup>



### Wild life drawing<sup>3</sup>

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1826, John James Audubon, the American naturalist, was on board ship travelling to England, nine days out of New Orleans. In his journal he described the dolphins that followed the ship, "like burnished gold by day, and bright meteors by night".

"Dolphins move in companies of from four or five to twenty or more," he wrote, "hunting in packs in the waters as wolves pursue their prey on land. They chase the flying fish, that with astounding rapidity, after having escaped their sharp pursuer a while in the water, emerge and go through the air with the swiftness of an arrow, sometimes in a straight course, sometimes forming part of a circle. Yet frequently the whole is unavailing, for the dolphin bounds from the sea in leaps of fifteen or twenty feet and so moves rapidly towards his prey and the little fish falls, to be swallowed by his antagonist.

"You must not suppose, however, that the dolphin moves through the sea without risk of danger; he as well as others, has vigilant and powerful enemies. One is the barracouta, in shape much like a pike, growing sometimes to a large size..."<sup>4</sup>

1 Adapted from *the Story of God's Dealings With Our Nation* Volume 2. Available from <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation>.

2 There is newsreel footage from the evacuation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdAaZFpxdLM> I advise parentsto watch this first as there is a language issued at the opening. The footage could be viewed from 10 seconds in if you wish to avoid this.

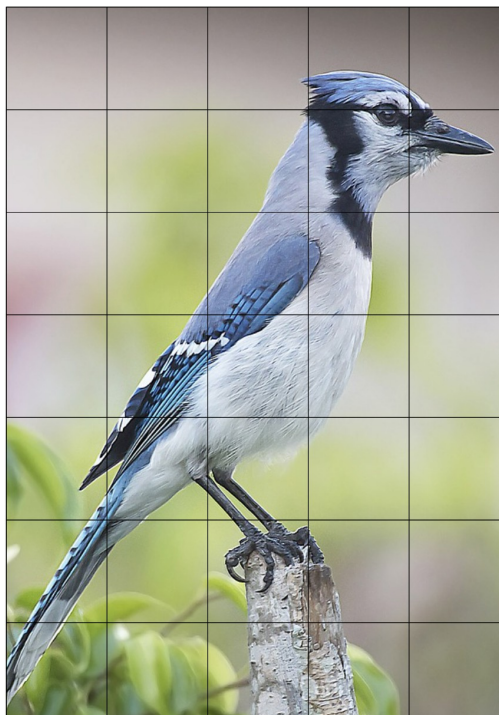
3 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today* Volume 2 Available on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>

4 If you want to learn more about dolphins there is a good article here about their in built sonar system

John James Audubon was a wildlife artist of great ability and he was on his way to England to sell his work. He wanted to publish his work in a book describing American wildlife, especially birds. In those days there was no colour printing so the beautiful pictures were first printed in black and white. Then they were coloured by hand by a team of workers who each did a particular colour. Of course this made the books very expensive. Nevertheless Audubon's work became very popular. He adopted what was then a very new style of illustration, placing the birds in their natural habitat and making sure that they were in a pose that was true to life. Soon his work was very fashionable and everyone wanted pictures of these exotic birds drawn by what they considered to be a wild American backwoods man who was yet such a naturally gifted artist.



If you would like to try your hand at some bird drawings of your own there are some instructions in the Optional Resources files for today that show you how you can draw a duck, a swan, a penguin and a parrot by starting with a shape made by drawing round your own hand.<sup>5</sup>



Another good way of learning how to draw birds is to copy a picture using a grid. Find a picture of a bird that you like. If you can find one in a magazine or on an old birthday card that would be excellent because you can draw your grid lines directly onto the picture. There is a picture of an American blue jay here you can use. Draw a grid of squares over the picture like the one on the left, if you have chosen your own. Use a ruler and make sure your squares are all the same size! Now draw a similar grid of squares on your drawing paper. If you draw them very lightly you can rub them out later. Now copy carefully square by square until your bird outline is complete.

You can rub out the grid lines before you colour in the picture. Add your colours carefully, checking against the picture all the time. When John James Audubon returned to England from a trip home to America he found he had lost a lot of sales of his books because while he was away the colourers in his workshops had become careless! Don't forget to add background details too. By adjusting the size of your grid squares you can use this method to make a bigger or smaller picture than the original.

<https://creation.com/dolphin-double-sonar>

<sup>5</sup> These files are taken from the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>

When you have finished your bird picture you might like to post it to someone who is shut in; perhaps an elderly relative or friend from church.

Sometimes people wonder if using methods like grids or drawing round your hand to draw a picture is cheating in some way and not “proper” drawing. This is not the case. Did you know that some of the greatest artists of the Renaissance are thought to have used a device called a *camera obscura* that projected an image of the scene they wanted to paint? It helped them get details and correct perspective – and no one says it stopped them being artists!

### Some science to explore



Yesterday we learned about Bede who, back in the so called “dark ages”, knew all about the shape of the earth – round like a ball not flat like a shield. On **27<sup>th</sup> May** 1931, Auguste Piccard and Paul Kipfer made a record breaking flight. Ascending in a pressurised gondola beneath a gas filled balloon, they were the first people to go up into the stratosphere, reaching a height of nearly nine miles above the earth. Here they gathered data on what it was like in the upper atmosphere and also measured cosmic rays.<sup>6</sup> From the stratosphere they were able to see the curvature of the earth and it is thought that they were the first people to do so. Bede would have been astonished at what they were able to do but he would *not* have been surprised at what they saw!

### A letter to read

Do you remember reading about the Great Exhibition in the lesson for 1<sup>st</sup> May? If you were on holiday on that day you might like to read that part of the lesson now to help you understand the letter below. Sir David Brewster<sup>7</sup> was a Scottish scientist. He visited the Great Exhibition and wrote home to his wife about it:

LONDON, **May 27**, 1862.

MY DEAREST JEANIE,

...I have been very thoughtful about the great subject which interests us so much. The Exhibition is suggestive of good. The dazzling display of the wonderful materials within and without the earth He has created for our use and enjoyment, is proof of His love and kindness. To convert those raw materials into the splendid fabrics and structures which fill this building, He has endowed man with all the various powers and capacities which were required. In the exercise of these powers, and in carrying on the great purposes of His kingdom, we have entirely forgotten the Giver of all these materials, and of all those varieties of intelligences, and we have ever made them the ministers of sin, using them in the violation of His laws, and in injuring our fellow-creatures. Thus exposed to punishment, He has sent His Son to ransom us...

Think back (or look in your diary) to the last visit you made to any kind of exhibition, museum, concert or gallery. Can you understand the argument Sir David is putting forward? Can you apply the ideas he talks about in his letter to what you saw or heard?

<sup>6</sup>You can see them retrieving their equipment in this old film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8dHULTy-BU>

<sup>7</sup> See the lesson for 11<sup>th</sup> December (Yet to come).