



THE WORST JOB!

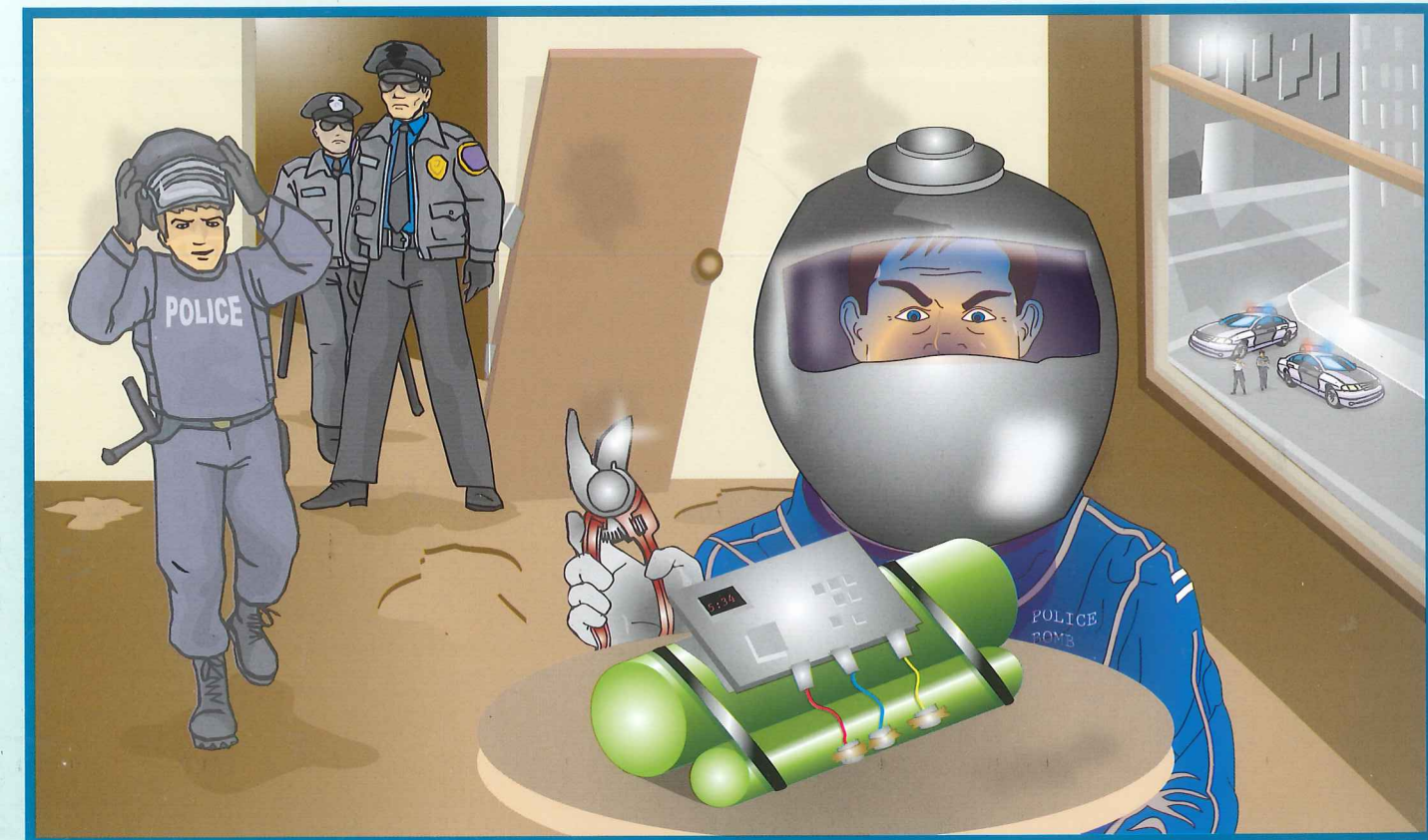
1 Some people have really awful jobs. These jobs may be awful because of the difficult working conditions they present, the danger involved or the disgusting nature of the task. The really tough ones may have a combination of all of these things. What do you think is the worst job?

2 Ever thought about how chickens are made ready to cook? It's a matter of grabbing an angry hen, cutting off its head, plucking all its feathers and then scooping out its innards. Not too charming. Teams of factory workers have to "process" thousands of chickens like this each day. There is a high risk that workers will cut themselves on the sharp equipment.

To make matters worse, no one is allowed to take a break to go to the bathroom. It's no wonder that lots of these workers quit each day.

3 Perhaps the job of rat researcher is the worst? One researcher spent several years studying rats in New York City. By day he read books and articles about rats. It was the night work that provided the real challenge. He sat silently in wet, smelly alleyways. He couldn't move too much, otherwise he'd scare the rats away. His work happened in all conditions — rain, hail and snow — so he could learn as much as possible. There was also the risk of disease if a rat bit him.

4 Could being a member of a bomb disposal team be the worst? This is one of the most dangerous jobs anywhere. Bomb disposal experts are called to disarm a range of bombs and explosives that no one else can handle. Some of these experts must be able to take apart tiny devices with the greatest of care. Any mistake or awkward movement may trigger the device and make it explode. To make the work a little more difficult, these experts must wear a special padded suit that helps protect them if the bomb explodes. These special suits make movement difficult and slow, and are extremely hot.



5 How about the sewer diver? This might be it, the worst job. Mexico City deals with blockages in its main sewers by sending in a team of sewer divers. These men use special gear, a bit like scuba divers', to protect them from the nasty mess that is found in most sewers. It is their job to dive into the toxic rubbish that includes human waste, animal bodies and all types of disease. They occasionally have to remove people who have been murdered and dumped in the sewer. Lovely! If they don't clear the sewers quickly, they can overflow into the streets. Can you imagine this mess flowing down the street and into people's houses? Worse still, can you imagine swimming in it?



6 So, what do you think? Which of these is the worst job? There might be other jobs worse than these, but if there are, I don't want to know about them!

Questions

- 1 Chicken "processing" can be dangerous because
 - a there are too many workers.
 - b they use very sharp instruments.
 - c they are unable to go to the bathroom.
- 2 Which of the following jobs doesn't require you to wear special clothes?
 - a sewer diver
 - b rat researcher
 - c bomb disposal expert
- 3 Why does the rat researcher sit quietly?
 - a to keep dry
 - b to rest a lot
 - c so the rats aren't startled
- 4 The main problem with bomb disposal suits is that
 - a they don't look very good.
 - b they are padded.
 - c they make the work slow and difficult.
- 5 What may happen if the sewer divers don't do their job?
 - a The sewers will overflow.
 - b More bodies will be dumped in the sewers.
 - c People won't be able to swim in the sewers.
- 6 Which of these jobs probably require the most hours to complete?
 - a sewer diver
 - b rat researcher
 - c bomb disposal expert

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 Something that is dreadful or terrible (1)
- 8 Internal organs (2)
- 9 A person who investigates or studies things (3)
- 10 An action that can start something (4)
- 11 Obstructions or obstacles in the way (5)

Grammar

Articles (*the, a, an*) are words that are situated before a noun to show a specific or general thing.

E.g. **the** cat, **a** table, **an** apple.

Add an article to these sentences below from the text.

- 12 What do you think is ____ worst job?
- 13 No one is allowed to take ____ break.
- 14 They can overflow into ____ streets.
- 15 Perhaps the job of a rat researcher is ____ worst!

Back To The Text...

- 16 The writer believes bomb disposal is the worst job.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 In which part of the library would you find this text?
 - a fiction
 - b non-fiction

18 What would be a good sub-heading for section 3?

- a Racing Rats
- b Rodent Research

Think About This

- 19 Look at the illustration on the front of the card. What is about to happen?
 - a The chicken is about to be fed.
 - b The chicken is about to be grabbed.
 - c The chicken has just escaped.
- 20 Look at the illustration on page 2. Which of the following sections describes this scene?

a two	b three
c four	d five
- 21 What does a chicken processor do first? Choose **a** or **b**.
 - a Cuts off its head.
 - b Scoops out its innards.
- 22 The word *awful* in section 1 could best be replaced with

a cool.	b important.
c difficult.	d dreadful.
- 23 The purpose of this text is
 - a to recount a story.
 - b to inform the reader.
 - c to give instructions.

Challenge Option

Writing: Write two paragraphs about the worst job you have ever seen.