



The Pied Piper Proposal

1 The story goes that in the year 1284, the town of Hamelin in Germany, had a huge rat problem. This beautiful little town, tucked between the Weser River and Copenbrügge Mountain, took steps to remove the rats. Unfortunately, it appears that not everything went as planned. It wasn't just the rats that went missing.

The following documents — an advertisement, a proposal and a response — go some way to explaining what might have happened on that fateful day, 26th June 1284.

2 ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Hamelin Herald

15TH JANUARY 1284

RAT CATCHER SERVICES

PIED PIPER PTY LTD PROVIDES A COMPLETE RAT CATCHING SERVICE.

OUR MOTTO: NO JOB TOO BIG,
NO RAT TOO FAST.

A WIDE RANGE OF METHODS AVAILABLE.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

CONTACT US BY MAIL NOW AT
55 RODENT WAY, OLDENBURG.

THE PROPOSAL

3 Proposal to Remove the Rats

It has come to the attention of the Mayor's office that the town of Hamelin is now infested with rats. It is clear that the activities of these rodents are posing a threat to public health. The rats must be removed. To this end, the town council is seeking the services of a professional rat catcher. The council will consider any reasonable method to remove these pests. A recent advertisement from Pied Piper Pty Ltd is attached for your information. The following proposal is being sent to all residents. Please read the document carefully and respond by May 31st.

By Order of the Mayor

4 The proposal suggests we employ Pied Piper Pty Ltd to remove the rats.

The Pied Piper will:

- not use any poisons
- remove all rats from the town
- charge a once only fee of 20 gold pieces
- begin work within two weeks.

5 To help the Mayor's office make its decision regarding this proposal please answer the following questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Q1. The piper is planning to use music to remove the rats. Do you agree with this method?

Q2. If music is used, when do you think is the best time for this to occur?

Q3. Are you prepared to contribute a gold piece to the costs?

Q4. Are there any other pests you would like removed?

Send your response to:

The Mayor's Office
13 River Lane
Hamelin

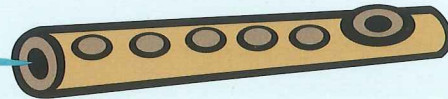
A SAMPLE RESPONSE

Hans Swartz
7 Cobblers Lane
Hamelin



1. Music is a strange method but I think we should try anything that might get rid of the rats.
2. I don't really like music, so I think we should do it while everyone is in church.
3. No, I think the council should cover the costs.
4. Yes, I also have a cockroach problem.

- 7 The tale suggests that the town did use the Pied Piper to remove all the rats. Dressed in bright 'pied' clothing and armed with a small music pipe, he danced and played through the streets of Hamelin. All of the rats, attracted to the cheerful music, followed him down to the river where they disappeared forever.
- 8 The story goes on to say that the townsfolk refused to pay the piper what he was owed. Very disappointed, he once again took out his trusty pipe and played. This time he led all of the town's children away to Coppenbrügge Mountain and they were never seen again. This is just a story, of course.



Questions

- 1 When did Hamelin first learn about the Pied Piper?
 - a 26th June 1284
 - b 15th January 1284
 - c 31st May 1284
- 2 What was the proposed reason for the rats being removed?
 - a They caused children to go missing.
 - b They were making too much noise.
 - c They threatened public health.
- 3 Which is not one of the proposed guidelines for the Pied Piper?
 - a He will charge a once only fee of 10 gold pieces.
 - b He will not use poison.
 - c He will remove all rats from the town.
- 4 'I don't really like music' was an answer to which question?
 - a If music is used, when do you think is the best time for this to happen?
 - b The piper is planning to use music to remove the rats. Do you agree with this method?
 - c Are there any other pests you would like removed?
- 5 Why did the children of Hamelin disappear?
 - a The Pied Piper thought they were rats.
 - b The children were curious about where the rats went.
 - c The townsfolk didn't pay the piper.
- 6 Which answer in the sample response might suggest why the piper wasn't paid?
 - a 4
 - b 1
 - c 3



Vocabulary

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

- 7 To take something away (1)
- 8 Assured to occur (2)
- 9 Overrun by large quantities (3)
- 10 The way something is done (6)
- 11 The opposite of repelled (7)

Grammar

Words that sound the same but have different meanings are called **Homophones**. E.g. **to, too** and **two**. Write the correct **Homophones** in these sentences from the text.

- 12 It appears that **not/knot** everything went as planned.
- 13 The rats followed **him/hymn** down to the river.
- 14 He danced and played **threw/through** the streets.
- 15 This time he **lead/led** all of the town's children away.

Back To The Text...

- 16 The townsfolk had several pest problems.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 Hamelin was only a small town.
 - a true
 - b false
- 18 The rats and the children disappeared at the same place.
 - a true
 - b false

Think About This

- 19 Look at the illustration on the front of the card. It is described in
 - a section 5.
 - b section 6.
 - c section 7.
 - d section 8.
- 20 The illustration on the front of the card shows the piper in 'pied' clothing. This means it is
 - a dirty.
 - b torn.
 - c untidy.
 - d multicoloured.
- 21 Where do we learn that the 'Piper' comes from Oldenburg?
 - a the story
 - b the advertisement
 - c the proposal
 - d the response
- 22 The council was keen to
 - a remove the rats before May.
 - b consult the local townspeople.
 - c cover up the extent of the problem.
- 23 What statement tells us the pied piper was confident he could do the job?
 - a 'No job too big, no rat too fast.'
 - b 'All work guaranteed.'
 - c Both of the above.

Challenge Option

Writing: Imagine you are Cinderella. Write a note to your evil stepmother.

