



## LOCK IT UP



1 People have always wanted to keep their belongings safe. In the past, the best way was to hide the items. One popular trick was to put them in a hollow tree trunk, with a heavy rock on top. Cavemen also buried items to keep them safe. However, they were in trouble if they forgot where they'd hidden them.

There is another way to keep things safe. Lock them up!

2 Locks have been around for a long time. The Egyptians may have used them over 4000 years ago. These first locks were made of wood. They were very simple

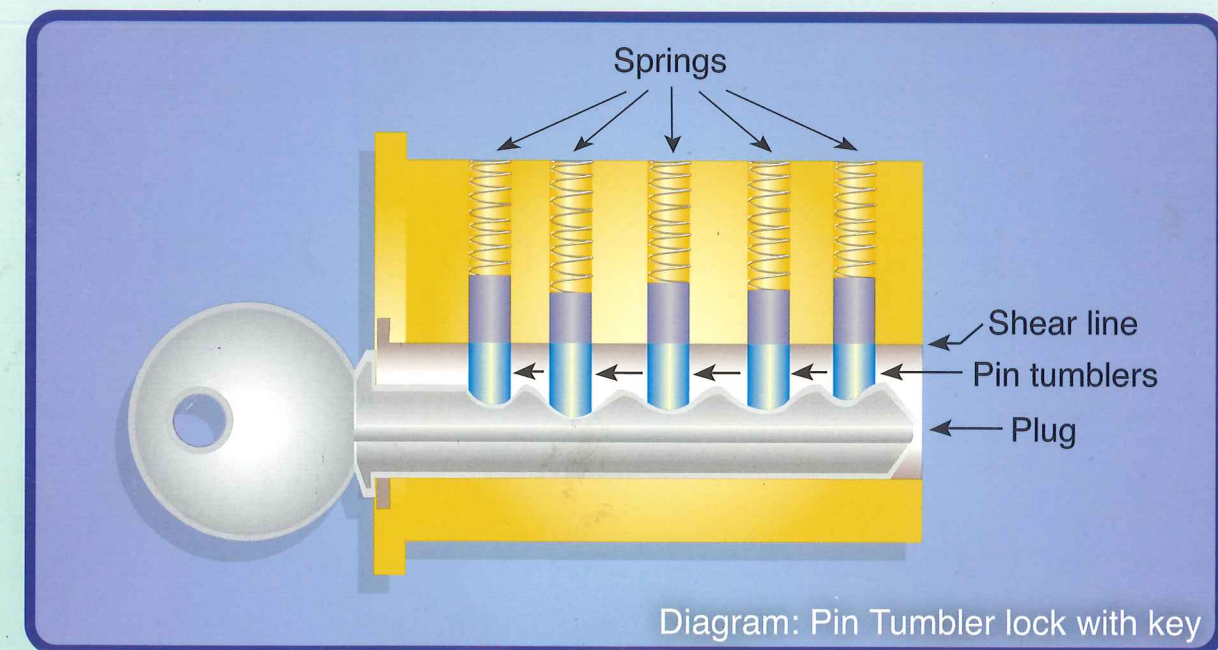
cylinders in a door. The key was a wooden pin that slid into a hole in the cylinder. This pin could be moved in and out. The pin had to be moved to the right position before the cylinder could turn. Then the door could be opened.

Later locks had more than one pin and each pin was a different length. This made the lock safer. Most doors these days have locks like this (see picture below).

3 The Romans were the first to use metal in their locks. They made *ward* locks. A ward is a small metal plate, or metal piece, inside the lock. The ward blocks the wrong key from turning in the lock. To make it work, a piece has to be cut out of the key in exactly the correct place. If this piece is cut out, then the key can turn.

4 Hundreds of years ago sailors didn't have locks to keep their gear safe. Instead, they would tie their kits up using a *thief knot*. The thief knot is often called a reef knot. They would know if someone had got into their kit if they found it tied with a different knot. Very clever!

5 Today, keycard locks are used in many hotels. These are plastic cards with a magnetic strip, just like a credit card. These are safer than keys because they don't show the room number. Combination locks are also used today. These locks have no key. They use a set of discs with numbers on them. The user must turn the discs around to show all the correct numbers. If just one number is incorrect the lock won't open. Like the cavemen, you need a good memory to use these locks.







Combination lock



Security key card

## Questions

- The first locks were made of
  - wood.
  - stone.
  - metal.
- Who first used ward locks?
  - cavemen
  - Egyptians
  - Romans
- What is the main part of a combination lock?
  - pins
  - discs
  - plates
- Hotels today use
  - pin locks.
  - card locks.
  - ward locks.
- If you don't have a good memory, then you shouldn't use
  - ward locks.
  - thief knots.
  - combination locks.
- Is the thief knot really a lock?
  - No, it protects by warning thieves they will be caught.
  - Yes, when made tightly it will stop thieves from getting in.
  - No, it just fools thieves into thinking there's nothing important to steal.

## Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ( ).

safe clever popular cylinder buried

- Placed something underground (1)
- Well liked (1)
- A 3D shape (2)
- Secure (4)
- What you are if you're smart (4)

## Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct antonym shown in **RED**.  
E.g. *under / over*

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 12 <b>best</b>      | <b>difficult</b> |
| 13 <b>simple</b>    | <b>correct</b>   |
| 14 <b>found</b>     | <b>worst</b>     |
| 15 <b>incorrect</b> | <b>lost</b>      |

## Back To The Text

- Cavemen used locks.
  - true
  - false
- The illustration on the front cover probably shows
  - a card lock.
  - a combination lock.

18 In which part of the library would you find this text?

- fiction
- non-fiction

## Cloze

### Money and Coins

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

used coins money  
called thousands

Before we used money, people would swap their goods. This was **19** bartering. Money, in the form of coins, came later. Metal **20** as we know them were first used in Turkey **21** of years ago. The Greeks soon copied them. Other forms of **22** that have been used include iron sticks and shells. Even salt and rum have been **23** as money at different times.

## Challenge Option

Design: Design and draw a simple lock.

