

Worksheet A

1 Read about the two famous escapes below.

The Tower of London

Under the reign of Elizabeth I, in 16th-century England, Catholics were persecuted, and priests were often captured and imprisoned. One such priest was John Gerard, who was arrested in 1594 for his missionary work. He was eventually sent to the Tower of London, where he was cruelly tortured and later sentenced to death. One night, in 1597, a friend managed to throw a rope to him in his tower, and he made a break for it. Despite his hands being very badly injured from the torture, he was able to climb down and escape. He later fled to Rome, where he spent the rest of his life.

Libby Prison

Libby Prison was one of the most infamous of the jails used to hold captured Union soldiers during the US civil war. On the night of 9th February, 1864, over 100 prisoners, led by Colonel Rose and Major Hamilton, managed to escape by tunnelling through the prison's cellar. The cellar was known as 'Rat Hell' by the inmates, because of the number of rats that lived in this dark, unforgiving place. Of the 109 escapees, two drowned, 48 were recaptured, and 59 reached the safety of Union lines. It was considered the most successful escape of the US civil war.

2 Ask your partner the questions below about their text and write the answers using cleft sentences with *what* or *it*.

- 1 Was Alcatraz used as a factory?

- 2 Were petty criminals held at Alcatraz?

- 3 Did the three prisoners use heavy industrial equipment to cut the walls?

- 4 Did the three prisoners escape by helicopter?

- 5 Did the soldiers escape on Christmas Day?

- 6 Did the soldiers use ropes to escape from the prisoner-of-war camp?

- 7 Were the soldiers caught because the tunnels were too long?

- 8 Was the 70th prisoner seen by a guard?

3 Discuss with Student B. Which escape do you think was the easiest/most daring/riskiest/cleverest?

Worksheet B

1 Read about the two famous escapes below.

Alcatraz

Alcatraz prison was a high security US federal prison located on Alcatraz island in San Francisco Bay. It was used to hold the most serious criminals from 1933–1963. In 1961, three inmates, Frank Morris and John and Clarence Anglin, hatched an escape plan. They spent months making very simple tools, and by late May 1962 they had cut through the walls of their cells. They then climbed a ventilation shaft to the roof, made their way down the outside of the building, and quickly assembled a raft to cross the bay to the mainland. Their escape wasn't discovered until the morning, as they'd used soap, toilet paper and hair to make 'dummies' which they put in their beds. The trio have never been caught, though it is thought they drowned in the bay.

The Great Escape

This famous escape gets its name from the scale of the operation and the risk, planning and sheer daring involved. 76 soldiers escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp on 24th March 1944. Their escape was the result of a year's work, involving 600 prisoners, and via three tunnels dug 30 feet below the camp. Unfortunately, they underestimated the distance to the nearby forest and the 77th prisoner was seen by the guards. Most of the escapees were later recaptured – only three made it to safety – but the bravery of the soldiers was remarkable.

2 Ask your partner the questions below about their text and write the answers using cleft sentences with *what* or *it*.

- 1 Did Elizabeth I escape from the Tower of London?

- 2 Was John Gerard arrested for burglary?

- 3 Did John Gerard use a ladder to escape?

- 4 After he escaped, was John Gerard captured and tortured?

- 5 Were Confederate soldiers held in Libby Prison?

- 6 Did Colonel Rose and Major Hamilton take control of the local town?

- 7 Did snakes live in the prison cellar?

- 8 Did 109 prisoners escape by jumping out of the windows?

3 Discuss with Student A. Which escape do you think was the easiest/most daring/riskiest/cleverest?