

Name:

Date:

Read this retelling of the traditional story of Goram and Ghyston, the Bristol Giants, carefully.

Goram and Ghyston, who were huge giants, loved swimming in the massive lake that covered most of the city of Bristol. Goram had a big bald head, huge bulging eyes and a skinny body while Ghyston had long hair, a thick curly beard and muscular arms.

Every day the brothers raced each other and splashed about in the beautiful lake until one day, walking along the lakeside, they saw a golden haired princess. At the same time, both brothers swam over to her and introduced themselves. Instantly they both fell in love with Princess Avona and they enchanted her. There, on the spot, she decided that she would marry one of them. But which one should she choose?

‘I’ll set you a challenge,’ she told them, ‘whoever can empty this lake first can marry me.’

Determined to succeed, the two brothers both set to work immediately. Goram, who knew the local area well, decided to dig a river running through Blaise and out into the countryside, while Ghyston chose to dig out the Avon Gorge to drain the water out into the Bristol Channel.

Watching in delight, the beautiful Princess, intrigued to know who would be the winner, waited all day long while the giants worked.

Delighted with his success, Goram realised that he had almost finished his river when suddenly a thought occurred to him. Standing tall and stretching his aching back, he thought about what it would be like when the princess agreed to marry him. He was sweaty and covered in mud.

‘This will never do!’ he thought, so he dug a deep pool along the river, had a bath in it and even made himself a toothbrush from twigs to clean his teeth.

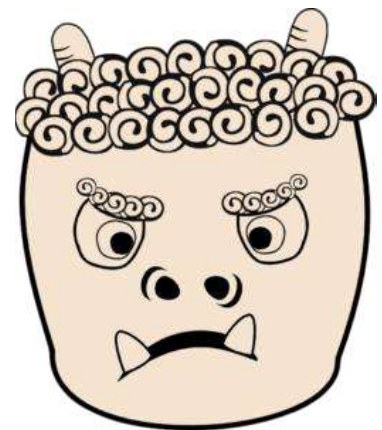
The fresh cool water soothed all of his aches and made him feel relaxed. Getting out of the water, knowing that he had almost finished his work, he decided to allow himself just a

few minutes rest and settled himself into the giant's chair, which had been carved into the rock. Soon enough, Goram drifted off into a deep sleep only disturbed occasionally by his loud snoring.

While Goram was resting, Ghyston continued to work, digging a huge gorge through the grey rock. When Goram woke up from his deep sleep, he was devastated to discover that not only had his brother finished the task, but that he had also married Princess Avona.

Distraught, he pounded up the hillside leaving huge footprints in the soft rocks that had been uncovered as the water drained away. He continued to stomp, for miles and miles, until he reached the Bristol Channel where he threw himself into the water in despair. Swimming against the waves he continued out, deeper and deeper, until finally, in his sorrow, he turned to stone. His head and shoulder became two huge rocks, which can still be seen today above the surface of the water, called Flat Holme and Steep Holme.

Today in Bristol you can visit Blaise castle estate and find Goram's bathing pond, the chair and his footprints. Further away you can see the Avon Gorge and the two rocky islands: Flat Holme and Steep Holme.



Name: Date:

Answer the following comprehension questions about Goram and Ghyston.

1. What did Ghyston look like?

.....

2. What did the brothers enjoy doing?

.....

3. Why did Princess Avona set the brothers a challenge?

.....

4. Was it a good idea for Goram to have a bath?

.....

5. Why did Ghyston win the competition?

.....

6. Who do you think deserved to win?

.....

.....

7. What did Goram do when he realised that he had lost?

.....

8. Which parts of Bristol and the surrounding areas are explained by the story?

.....

.....

.....

9. Find and copy out at least two sentences that use embedded clauses.

.....

.....

.....

.....