



# Devon and the Alux

Devon plodded up the steps behind Dad. He was hot, he was hungry and he was sooooo bored.

“Isn’t this exciting?” Dad squealed over his shoulder.

Devon didn’t answer. Instead, he rolled his eyes and thought about all the fun he could be having back at the hotel.

“Hokey, dokey everyone, itza showtime!”

Oh no, thought Devon, the guide is off again.

“Gazzer round, come on, you tourists love all this history, man,” the guide sang from the top steps.

Devon and his dad mingled with the other sweaty tourists at the top of the pyramid.

“Chichen Itza is so cool, man,” the guide began. “It was one of the Mayans’ largest ever cities! Yeah!”

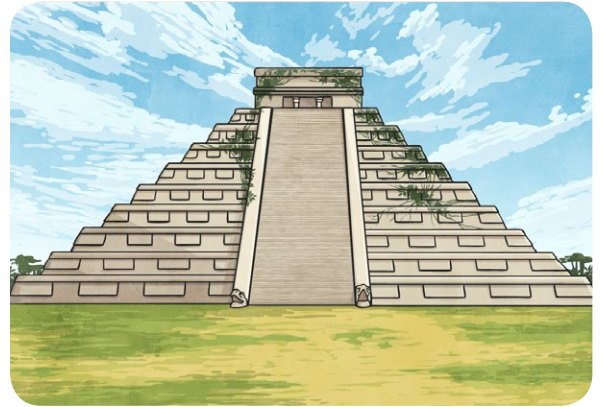
“Whoopee-do”, Devon sighed under his breath.

The guide looked over with a huge smile. “Yeah, man! Whoopee-do! It’s only Mexico’s second most visited site everrrrrr! Woah! Loving the enthusiasm, little bro!” Devon rolled his eyes again. It seemed sarcasm didn’t work on holiday tour guides.

“This is the Kukulkan Pyramid,” the guide continued, “and it’s known as ‘El Castillo’! Any of you cool cats know what that means?”

A large lady with a frilly sunhat threw her hand in the air. She was so quick that her camera swung round and whacked an older gentleman on the head. “Oh, sorry, love!” the lady cooed. “I know the answer! Pick me! Pick me!”

“Ha! Ha! You tourists crack me up, man!” the guide laughed, pointing at a rather



dazed-looking older gentleman. “Hokey, dokey, letza go with the pretty young lady with her hand in the air!”

Oh, for goodness sake, thought Devon.

“The castle!” the large lady shrieked, bobbing up and down like a four-year-old child. “Kukulkan means ‘the castle’!”

“BOOM!” the guide screamed. “Innnn one! ‘The Castle’ is one of the new seven wonders of the world!”

Devon wasn’t sure he could take much more of this. His brain felt mushy and he was so hungry! He shuffled backwards through the hoards of Hawaiian shirts, sunburnt legs and white-socked sandals. Mexico was supposed to be awesome, not boresome. Why couldn’t Dad have left him by the pool sipping lemonade and chomping on chocolate?

Hold on... chocolate! He had a bar of Chocolicious in his back pocket! As soon as he was free from the gaggle of tourists, he sneaked around the corner.

“Mmmm...” Devon drooled, as he took a massive bite of pure chocolate-heaven.

“Mine.”

“Aaagh!” Devon spun round to find a tiny elf-like creature peering up at him. Devon stepped backwards and made a little whimpering noise.

“Me an alux. Me magic. Me protect Kukulkan,” the small creature said. Then, a huge smile spread across his tiny face. “Me like chocolate.”

Devon stared at the little creature and then at his Chocolicious bar. “Um, that’s nice,” he said, stepping backwards. “BYE!” Devon raced down the steps of the ancient Mayan pyramid.

When he reached the bottom, he bent over to catch his breath.

“Awwww, it melting,” a little voice said from behind him.

“Aaaagh!” Devon shrieked, spinning round. “What do you want?”



“Me want chocolate. It ancient Mayan recipe? It got chilli peppers?” the elf-creature said, trying to get a look.

“Chilli? Wha... no! That’s disgusting!” Devon scoffed. “Chocolate doesn’t have chilli in it!”

“Does!” the little creature insisted. “Yucky without chilli. Nay mind. Me still want it.”

Devon eyed the creature carefully. “If I give you the chocolate,” he said, “will you leave me alone?”

“No. Me an alux. Me magic. Me help you. Me know what you want.”

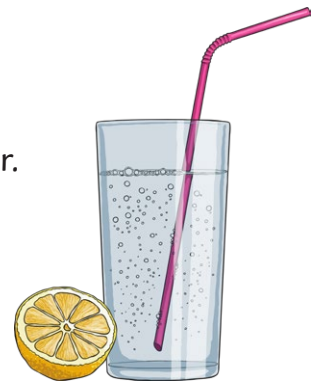
Devon peered one way, then the other. “You... know what I want?”

The little creature nodded and held out his hand.

Devon slowly handed him the half-eaten, rapidly-melting Chocolicious bar.

“Mine!” the creature said and he snapped his fingers.

KA-BOING!



Suddenly, Devon found himself by the side of the hotel pool sipping lemonade and chomping on chocolate. “Woah,” he said, feeling his head. “That was incredible!”

“Couldn’t agree more!” Dad blurted from behind him, with a guide book in his hand. “But don’t worry, we’re back at Chichen Itza tomorrow for a talk on the history of chocolate making!”

Devon slumped over his lemonade. “Whoopee-do...” he sighed.

**Q1:** Give **three** reasons why Devon was unhappy at the start of the story.

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**Q2:** Compare how Devon and his dad are feeling at the beginning of the extract.




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**Q3:** *Devon plodded up the steps behind Dad.*

What does the word *plodded* tell us about the way that Devon walked?




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**Q4:** *Devon and his dad mingled with the other sweaty tourists*

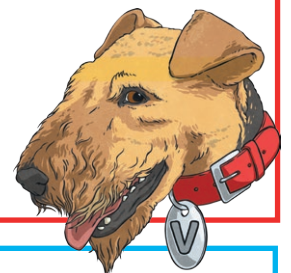
Which word is closest in meaning to *mingled*? Tick **one**.

pushed


mixed


retreated

played



**Q5:** Which country have Devon and his dad travelled to?




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**Q6:** *the large lady shrieked, bobbing up and down like a four-year-old child*

Explain why the author compares the lady to a four-year-old child?

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**Q7:** What does the term 'El Castillo' mean?

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**Q8:** How does Devon feel as he first realises he has a bar of Chocolicious?  
Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Q9:** Explain how Devon feels as he first meets the alux?  
Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Q10:** What impression are you given about Devon in the last line of the extract?

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**Q11:** Explain what you think might happen the next day.

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**Q12:** Number the following events 1-5 to show the order in which they happened.  
The first one has been done for you.

A lady correctly translates 'El Castillo'.

Devon and his father arrived at Chichen Itza.  **1**

An alux appears, who demands Devon's chocolate.

Devon is transported back to his hotel.

Devon sneaks away from the crowd of tourists.





## Devon and the Alux Answers

**Q1:** Give **three** reasons why Devon was unhappy at the start of the story.

**Accept any three of the following answers: he was hot; he was hungry; he was bored; he wanted to be back at the hotel; the tour guide was annoying him.**

**Q2:** Compare how Devon and his dad are feeling at the beginning of the extract.

**Accept any answers which discuss the fact that Devon is bored and is not having a good time, whilst his Dad is excited and enjoying the tour of Chichen Itza, such as:**

- **Devon was bored but his dad was excited about the tour.**

**Q3:** Devon plodded up the steps behind Dad.

What does the word plodded tell us about the way that Devon walked?

**Accept any answer which discusses that Devon walked slowly, with heavy footsteps, such as:**

- **Plodded tells the reader that Devon walked slowly and begrudgingly and was not rushing towards Chichen Itza.**

**Q4:** *Devon and his dad mingled with the other sweaty tourists*

Which word is closest in meaning to *mingled*? Tick **one**.

pushed


mixed

✓

retreated

played

**Q5:** Which country have Devon and his dad travelled to?

**Accept the answer 'Mexico' only.**

**Q6:** *the large lady shrieked, bobbing up and down like a four-year-old child*

Explain why the author compares the lady to a four-year-old child.

**Accept answers which discuss the fact that bobbing up and down and shrieking is something more likely to be seen from a young child than a grown adult, e.g.**

- **The author compares her to a four-year-old child because her actions are like those seen more in younger children than in adults.**

**Q7:** What does the term 'El Castillo' mean?

**Accept the answer 'The Castle' only.**



**Q8:** How does Devon feel as he first realises he has a bar of Chocolicious?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Accept answers which discuss the fact that Devon was pleased to realise he has a bar of Chocolicious, as long as evidence from the text is used to support the answer, e.g.**

- **I know that Devon is pleased about having a bar of Chocolicious because the text says that he drooled and described the bar as ‘chocolate-heaven’.**

**Q9:** Explain how Devon feels as he first meets the alux?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Accept answers which discuss that Devon is shocked, scared or surprised when he first meets the alux, providing that evidence from the text is used in support of the answer, such as:**

- **I know that Devon is scared when he first meets the alux because the text says that he shouts “Aaagh!” and makes a little whimpering noise.**

**Q10:** What impression are you given about Devon in the last line of the extract?

**Accept answers which discuss that the last line of the text gives readers the impression that Devon is back to being disinterested or disappointed, e.g.**

- **The last line of the text shows that Devon is disappointed because he knows that he will be bored tomorrow, just as he was today.**

**Q11:** Explain what you think might happen the next day.

**Accept any reasonable prediction based on the events of the text so far, such as:**

- **I think that Devon will take more chocolate back to Chichen Itza so that he can meet the alux again.**

**Q12:** Number the following events 1-5 to show the order in which they happened.

The first one has been done for you.

A lady correctly translates ‘El Castillo’.

2

Devon and his father arrived at Chichen Itza.

1

An alux appears, who demands Devon’s chocolate.

4

Devon is transported back to his hotel.

5

Devon sneaks away from the crowd of tourists.

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