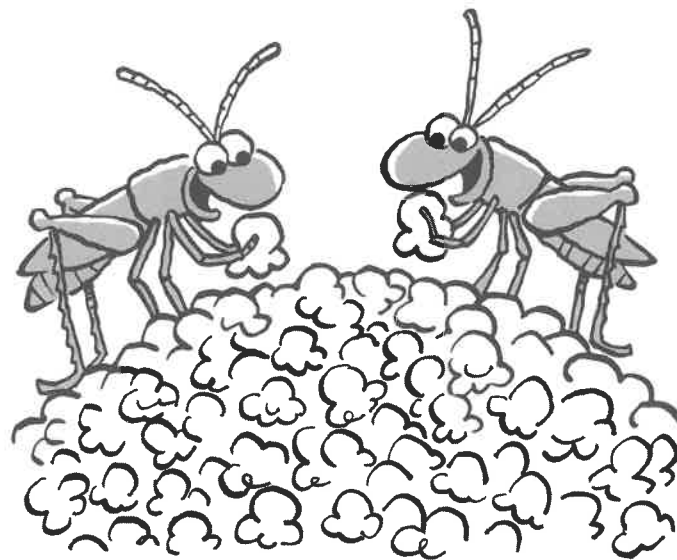


Febold Feboldson's Find

Read this tall tale from the American Midwest.
Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.

Have you ever seen a popcorn ball? It's a popular American snack, made of popcorn pieces stuck together with syrup and formed into a clump. You might imagine some clever cook thought of this delicious idea. Well, that's NOT how popcorn balls came to exist, at least according to old Febold Feboldson. He claimed that the popcorn ball invented itself during the weird summer of 1874.



Farmers in the American Midwest called that growing season The Year of Striped Weather. That's because it alternated rainy and hot, not day by day, but by sections of cropland. Fields grew in stripes: first you'd see 1.5km-wide stripe of crops wilting in the searing heat, then a 1.5km-wide stripe of waterlogged crops soaking nearly to death.

This was exactly the situation on Febold Feboldson's farm. He grew sweetcorn down in the Dismal River valley and sugar cane up on the hills above. One day the sun baked his sweetcorn plants so much that the kernels popped, causing a yellow blizzard of popcorn. Meanwhile, the rain was drenching his sugar-cane stalks so badly that the syrup inside washed out and flowed down towards the popcorn. A ball soon formed, growing gigantic as it tumbled along. Febold estimated that it was about 60 metres wide!

Febold's neighbour, Bert Bergstrom, witnessed this eye-popping event. Bert offered to help Febold to roll the great popcorn ball into town to impress visitors. But just then, a swarm of hungry grasshoppers devoured the entire very-first popcorn ball.

Text Marking

Summarise the story.
Think about its theme.



Circle the main idea
of the story.



Underline important
details.

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► Answer each question. Give details from the tall tale.

- 1 What odd thing happened during The Year of Striped Weather?
- A Strange weather made crops grow in striped sections.
 - B Farmers planted their crops only at night.
 - C The only crops that grew had stripes on them.
 - D Febold Feboldson met Bert Bergstrom.

What helped you answer? _____

- 2 Which word does NOT mean the same as the other three?

- A soaked ► B drenched ► C tumbled ► D waterlogged

What helped you answer? _____

- 3 Explain the meaning of the title of this passage.

- 4 Why do you think the tall tale ends with grasshoppers devouring the entire popcorn ball?