What Is the NHS?
NHS stands for National Health Service: a group of organisations that provide medical care for people living in the UK. They support those who are feeling unwell or are injured.

It is estimated that there are 1.5 million people working as part of the NHS carrying out a variety of roles. Every person and every role is crucial in creating a successful health system in the country.

When Was the NHS Founded?
Before the NHS was founded, only wealthy people could afford to go to a hospital or get medical help. Every visit to a doctor or dentist would cost the person money. If the person could not afford it, they did not receive the treatment that they needed.

Aneurin Bevan decided to change things. After the Second World War, Aneurin Bevan was chosen to be the Minister of Health in the government. He founded the National Health Service on 5th July 1948. The Health Minister wanted a system which provided medical care that was free for everyone who lived in the UK. He wanted all people to be treated equally.

Why Is Our NHS Special?
The NHS was designed so that every person who lived in the United Kingdom could receive free medical help, treatment and advice. However, running the NHS is expensive so every working adult pays taxes which fund the NHS and pay wages to NHS staff.

Many people consider themselves lucky to have the NHS in the UK. In some parts of the world, people without health insurance or who can’t afford treatment would not be able to receive medical care. There are also places where the care that you receive when you are ill will be of a lesser quality if you have less money.
How Did the NHS Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic?
During the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NHS staff were praised for their bravery and self-sacrifice. Doctors, cleaners and other healthcare workers have risked their own lives to care for other people.

A total of 17 buildings around the UK were converted into hospital facilities to treat people with coronavirus. Many professionals (who had left or retired from the NHS) were asked to return to help.

It took only nine days to transform the Excel Centre in London (a place where events were usually held) into a specialist coronavirus hospital. The hospital was named The Nightingale Hospital and was equipped to deal with 4,000 patients.

How Have We Been Celebrating Our NHS?
During the coronavirus pandemic, the British people showed their gratitude for NHS staff in several ways:

Sir Captain Tom Moore achieved international fame when (to mark his 100th birthday) he walked 100 lengths of his garden using his walking frame. He raised an incredible £32m for NHS charities.
Every Thursday evening at 8 p.m., people took to their doorsteps to clap and cheer for the NHS. This was to show their appreciation for the key workers who were going to work and keeping everyone safe.

During lockdown, families stayed at home (except for in emergencies) to stop the spread of the **virus**. Children and their families displayed rainbows in their windows as a way of spreading hope and thanking the NHS for their amazing work.

**Glossary**

- **health insurance**: People pay money (called a premium) each month to an insurance company. If you become ill for any reason, the insurance company will pay for the cost of the treatment.

- **pandemic**: A disease which has spread across lots of countries or the whole world.

- **taxes**: Money collected by the government to pay for things that the country needs such as schools, roads and the NHS.

- **virus**: A tiny germ that can infect living creatures and cause disease.
Questions

1. How many people are estimated to work for the NHS? Tick one.
   - 32 million
   - 1.5 million
   - 15 million
   - 3 million

2. What does the word ‘global’ mean? Tick one.
   - in the UK
   - in Europe
   - in London
   - in the whole world

3. Explain why Aneurin Bevan founded the NHS.

4. Find and copy a phrase which shows that NHS staff were doing a dangerous job during the coronavirus pandemic.

5. Fill in the missing words.
   A total of 17 buildings around the UK were ________________ into hospital facilities to treat people with ________________.

6. How might we celebrate the NHS in the future?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
7. Why do you think that so many people helped Sir Captain Tom Moore to raise over £32m?

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8. Which is the most important section in the text? Justify your choice.

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about the NHS in 25 words or fewer.

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Answers

1. How many people are estimated to work for the NHS? Tick one.
   - 32 million
   - 1.5 million
   - 15 million
   - 3 million
   - 1.5 million (Correct)

2. What does the word ‘global’ mean? Tick one.
   - in the UK
   - in Europe
   - in London
   - in the whole world
   - in the whole world (Correct)

3. Explain why Aneurin Bevan founded the NHS.
   
   **Pupils own responses, such as: Aneurin Bevan founded the NHS because he wanted everyone in the UK to be treated fairly and have access to medical care.**

4. Find and copy a phrase which shows that NHS staff were doing a dangerous job during the coronavirus pandemic.
   
   **Accept: ‘bravery and self-sacrifice’ or ‘risked their own lives’.**

5. Fill in the missing words.
   
   A total of 17 buildings around the UK were **converted** into hospital facilities to treat people with **coronavirus**.

6. How might we celebrate the NHS in the future?
   
   **Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think that in the future we should celebrate the NHS by being kinder and more positive when we get medical treatment. NHS staff should receive an award for their amazing work.**
7. Why do you think that so many people helped Sir Captain Tom Moore to raise over £32m?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: People may have wanted to give donations to Sir Captain Tom Moore because they thought he was doing a kind thing. It is also a challenging task for a 100-year-old man to walk 100 laps of his garden. People would also have been willing to give money to the NHS to support them during the coronavirus pandemic.

8. Which is the most important section in the text? Justify your choice.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think that the most important section in the text is ‘How Did the NHS Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic?’ because it is important that we know how they have helped us.

9. Summarise what you have learnt about the NHS in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I have learnt that the NHS is paid for by people’s taxes and that it was founded after the Second World War.