

## Penguin Books: Answer key

### Activities

- How old is Penguin this year?
  - 20
  - 50
  - 70
  
- Who did Allen Lane go to Exeter to see?
  - Agatha Christie
  - Joan Coles
  - George Orwell
  
- What did he want to buy at Exeter station?
  - Something to drink.
  - Something to eat.
  - Something to read.
  
- Who thought of using a penguin for the series?
  - Agatha Christie
  - Allen Lane
  - Allen Lane 's secretary
  
- How much were the first Penguin Books?
  - one sixteenth
  - six pence
  - 8 shillings
  
- Did Allen Lane expect to make a fortune?
  - Yes
  - No
  
- Who said Penguin Books were “amazingly good value”?
  - George Bernard Shaw
  - Allen Lane
  - J. B. Priestly.

- How many books did they sell in the first year?
    - 25
    - one million
    - three million
    -
  - Where is Harmondsworth?
    - in London
    - near Exeter
    - near Heathrow
  - Who was Lady Chatterley's lover?
    - Mellors, her gamekeeper
    - George Bernard Shaw
    - D. H Lawrence
1. Readers borrowed their books from public libraries.
  2. In 1935 most serious books cost about 8 shillings. Allen Lane wanted to sell his books for sixpence – one sixteenth of the price of a normal hard cover book.
  3. Penguin Books were able to produce books that were splendid value for sixpence. He believed that smaller publishers could combine together and compete against Penguin.
  4. By selling his books at a low price his aim was to convert book borrowers into book buyers, referring to the fact that many readers borrowed their books from public libraries. They did not buy books for themselves.
  5. He believed in the existence in Britain of a vast reading public for intelligent books at a low price.
  6. Penguin books were charged under the Obscene Publications for publishing the controversial novel. The jury thought the prosecution was out-of-date and decided in favour of Penguin Books.