

# Parliament, laws and you



GO LORD

Save  
Froggypop

GO QUEEN



BAN  
Froggypop



# Is the Froggypop bubble about to burst?

(Turn over to read the full report)



Parliament today 26th September

# Parliament today

## Is the Froggypop bubble about to burst?



Froggypop, the fizzy drink enjoyed by thousands of school children, is today under threat. Parliament is about to try and introduce a new rule, or law, that will force the makers of Froggypop to change their special recipe. Jane Bloggs, Member of Parliament and a government minister told us, “It’s no joke. Health experts have discovered that drinking too much Froggypop can have unpleasant side effects. We think that making a new law to control what goes into these fizzy drinks will make young people healthier.”

# Lord Wellness, an expert in healthy eating, says



Everyone in Parliament agrees that something has to be done. The experts will need to decide whether the drink will be banned, which will be very unpopular, or whether the recipe will need to be changed.

## Have your say

What do you think of Froggypop and do you think we need a new law?

**Text your views to Leap 123**

## What others are saying

“When I drink Froggypop, it makes my mum hopping mad.” Emma, 9

“We need to do something – and fast. We should all jump to it.”  
Government scientist, 99

“My class just can’t sit still.”  
Teacher, quite old

“I think it’s just a fizzical thing.” Matt, 10

“My investigations have shown that having green hair is not dangerous, but the other side effect, constant hopping, is making life very difficult for the affected children. For example, simple things like cleaning your teeth, sleeping and getting on and off the school bus are very, very difficult.”





What's this about Parliament banning Froggypop? I've heard about Parliament, but I wonder what happens there. How does Parliament come up with these new laws...?

## **What is a law?**

A law is a rule made by Parliament. Laws tell us what we must and must not do. Laws help make sure our lives go smoothly.

## **What's it all about?**

In this booklet you can follow the story of Froggypop, a make-believe drink that has strange effects on children. All the different parts of Parliament will examine it and make important decisions, just as they do every day to keep us safe.

# What is Parliament?

I'm a Member of Parliament. The UK Parliament is in London in a big building next to the River Thames. The famous clock tower has an enormous bell that has the nickname Big Ben.



Parliament is where Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the House of Lords (Baronesses and Lords) work to make new laws and discuss important topics. Once a year, the Queen visits Parliament for a grand ceremony called the State Opening of Parliament.



## The great stink

In the past, there were no proper drains in London so **EVERYTHING** used to end up in the river. Once it was so smelly in Parliament that everyone had to leave the building.



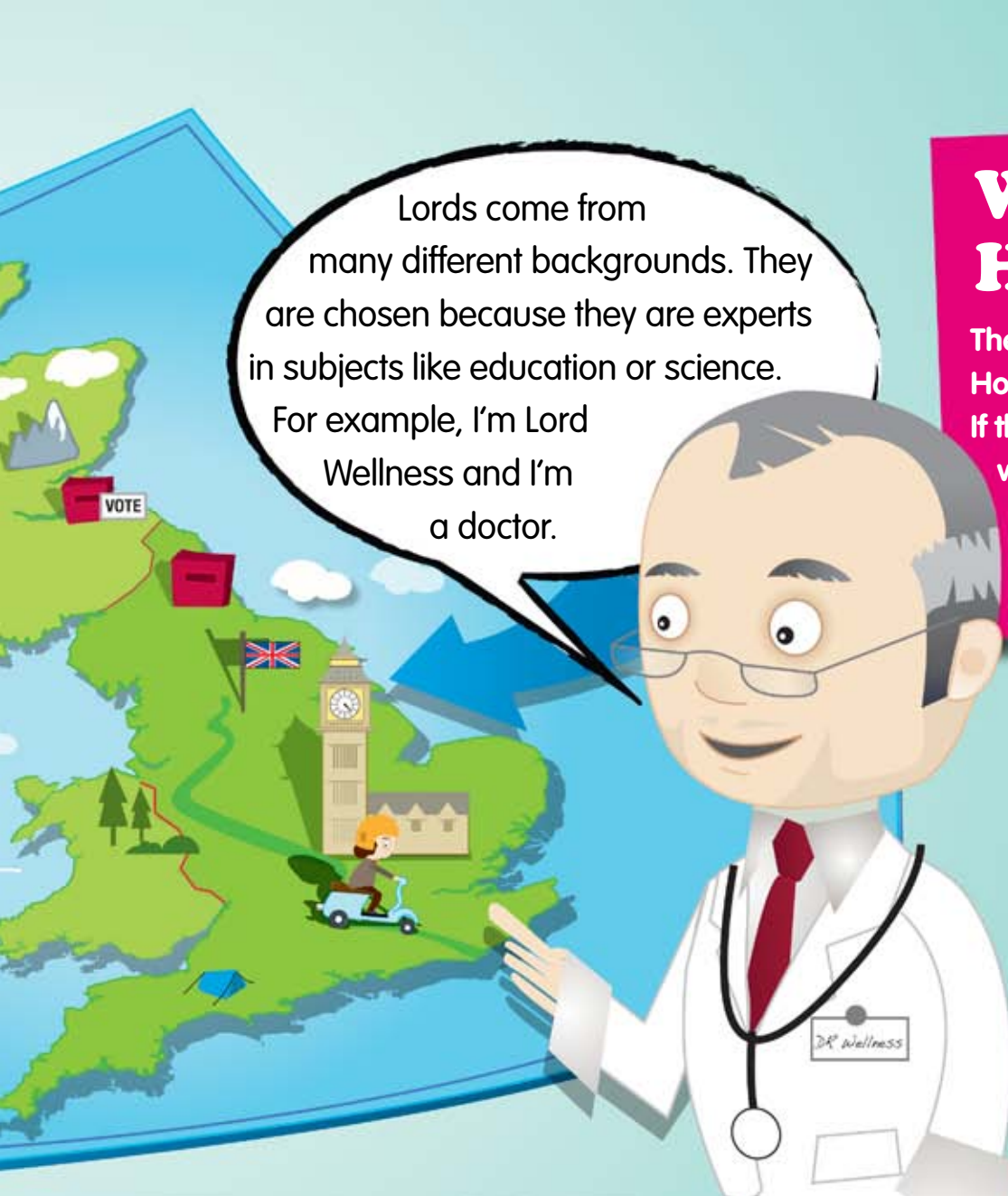
# How do you become an MP or a Lord?

The United Kingdom is split up in to 650 different areas called constituencies. Each constituency has an MP who looks after the interests of the people who live there. People who want to be an MP can put their names forward to be elected.

People over the age of 18 then get to vote in an election for the person they like best or think will do the best job. The person who gets the most votes in each area becomes the MP for that constituency.







Lords come from many different backgrounds. They are chosen because they are experts in subjects like education or science. For example, I'm Lord Wellness and I'm a doctor.

## What's a peer? Have a look!

There are about 740 Members of the House of Lords, and about 150 are women. If the men are Lords, you might expect the women to be Ladies, but actually they are called Baronesses. Members of the House of Lords are often called peers.

## Find out the name of your local MP

Hint: Have a look at  
[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

# Who's in charge?

Most of the MPs and Lords are members of a political party, which is a group of people who have similar thoughts about how the country should be run. The leader of the political party that has the support of the most MPs after the election becomes the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and a team of about 100 MPs and Lords run the country, and come up with most of the ideas for new laws. This group of people is called the government. All the other MPs and Lords at Parliament have to make sure that the laws the government suggests are going to work.





My government will  
ban Froggypop!

## What's in the cupboard?

One of the most important parts of the government is the Cabinet. Even though it sounds as if it's the Prime Minister's favourite piece of furniture, it's really a group of about 22 MPs and Lords. Each one is in charge of particular things like education or the health service.

# Parliament: the law-making factory

Any idea for a new law has to be brought to Parliament. A law tells us what we must and must not do. Laws keep us safe and help our lives go smoothly.

A lot of thought goes into making and changing laws because they affect everyone in the country. For example, sometimes laws are passed to make sure the ingredients in our food and drink are safe. At Parliament, ideas for new laws are called Bills. MPs and Lords always check Bills very carefully.





# ING MACHINE

House of  
Lords



## A bit of a squeeze

There are 650 MPs at the moment, but there are only 427 seats in the main meeting room, which is called the House of Commons chamber. So when they all go in there to make important decisions, some of them have to stand up.

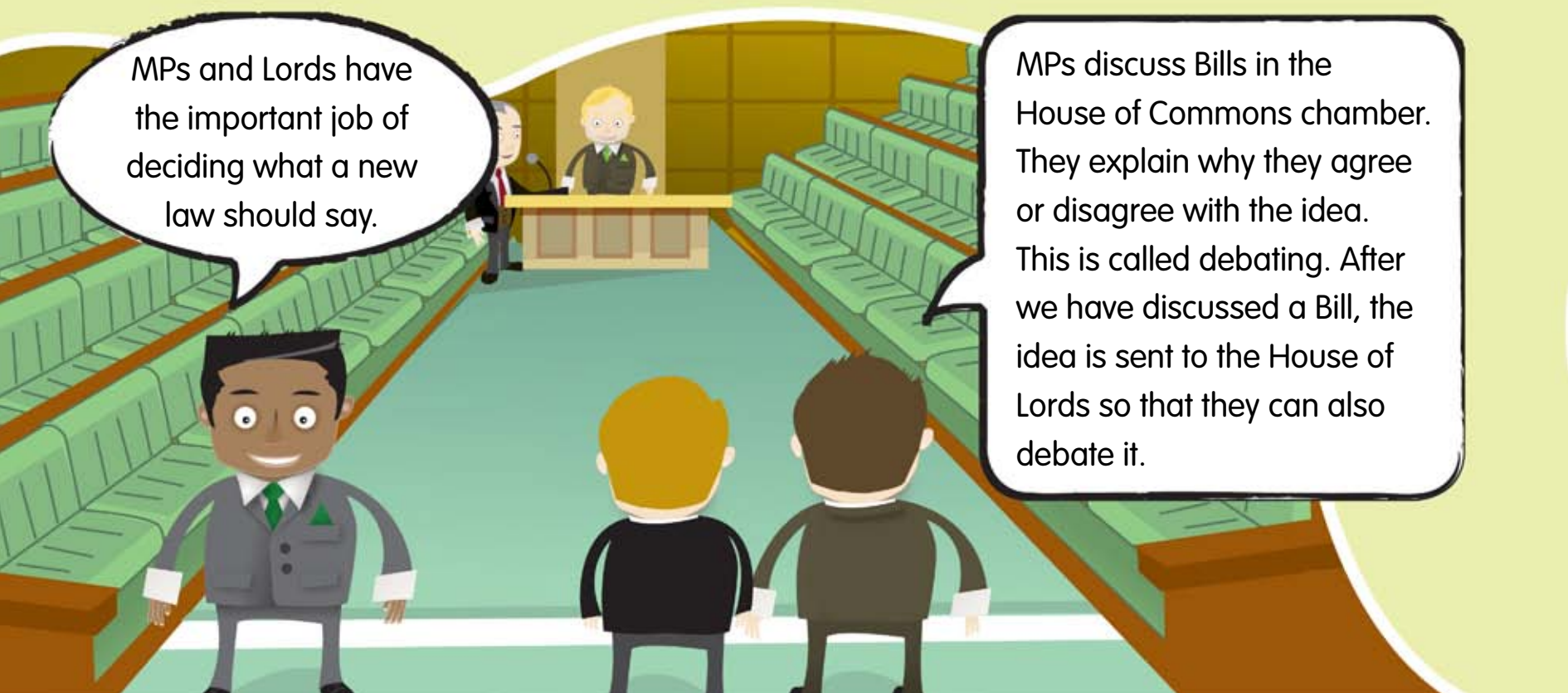


### Joke

**Customer:** Have you got frog's legs?

**Waiter:** No, I always walk like this.

# What do all the MPs and Lords do?



MPs and Lords have the important job of deciding what a new law should say.

MPs discuss Bills in the House of Commons chamber. They explain why they agree or disagree with the idea. This is called debating. After we have discussed a Bill, the idea is sent to the House of Lords so that they can also debate it.

The Lords look very carefully at the Bill. They have many discussions and suggest changes. When more than half the Lords voting are happy, the Bill goes back to the MPs. It can sometimes take a long time for the MPs and Lords to agree on a Bill. Once they do, there's one more person who has to have a look...

## Currant affairs

There are some very strange old laws. Did you know that in England it used to be against the law to eat mince pies on Christmas Day? Every few years Parliament gets rid of lots of these out-of-date laws.



# ...and then it's the Queen's turn







Once Parliament has agreed that a Bill is going to make a good law, it's the Queen's job to sign the Bill. This turns it into an Act of Parliament, known as a law. This is how almost every law in the country gets made.



## Anyone for tea?

The Queen's regular meetings with the Prime Minister traditionally take place on Wednesday evenings in the Queen's Audience Room at Buckingham Palace. Since she became Queen in 1952, there have been 11 different Prime Ministers.

Parliament today 5th November

# Parliament today

## Froggypop gets the green light



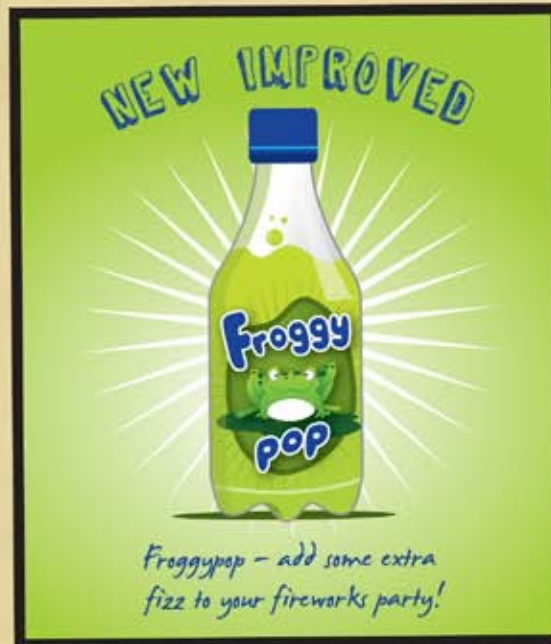
There will be more than just the sound of fireworks tonight as children all over the country celebrate a clean bill of health for Froggypop. Parliament has just passed a law that approves the new recipe for the nation's favourite soft drink.

# Lord Wellness comments on Froggypop



Lord Wellness, the government spokesperson on food and nutrition commented, “We’ve looked into it and we are happy that Froggypop was always safe. A small reduction in the quantity of just one ingredient is enough to prevent all the side-effects.”

The new recipe seems to be a hit with everyone. At a school in Gasforth a very bubbly Hardeep told us, “We’re all really pleased... and it tastes even better now.” While his teacher, Ms C Lever, added “All that hopping made my job very difficult and the green hair clashed terribly with our school uniform. I’m delighted that the children are back to normal.”



# Who's who in Parliament?

Come and find out for yourself what happens at Parliament. If you would like your school to visit Parliament, see [www.parliament.uk/education](http://www.parliament.uk/education)

## MPs

MPs look after the interests of all the people who live in their constituency. They also check the work of the government and have important discussions called debates to make sure that our laws are good and fair.



## And just for fun...

Can you clean Big Ben against the clock?  
Play Race Against Chime and other games at  
[www.parliament.uk/education](http://www.parliament.uk/education)

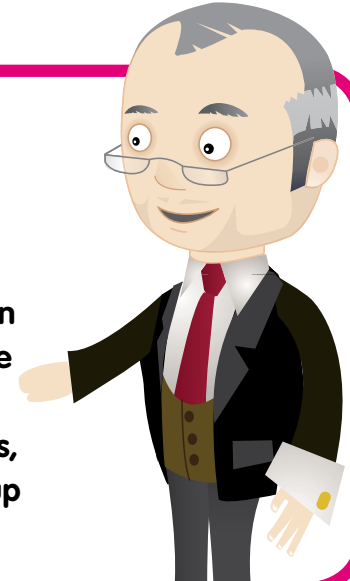
## The Queen

The Queen is our Head of State and takes part in lots of grand ceremonies. She visits places all over the country and represents us in other countries.



## Lords and Baronesses

Members of the House of Lords play an important part in making laws and checking the work of government. They do this by asking lots of questions, holding debates and setting up committees of experts.





# Puzzle time

H	X	K	Q	D	Q	V	D	S	X	C	F	I	R	P
F	A	P	O	P	Y	G	G	O	R	F	R	S	F	A
H	O	U	S	E	O	F	C	O	M	M	O	N	S	R
L	T	B	X	I	C	B	N	Y	L	W	W	B	E	L
H	O	E	G	U	C	E	S	Y	W	K	H	T	R	I
E	Q	R	W	K	E	N	W	C	C	N	S	L	T	A
X	O	O	D	U	Y	W	A	V	D	I	P	C	B	M
C	I	R	Q	S	S	M	L	F	N	T	P	V	M	E
G	U	E	W	O	I	V	E	I	W	I	C	O	I	N
E	H	K	R	T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	T
T	S	H	O	U	S	E	O	F	L	O	R	D	S	D
T	L	Y	Y	Q	M	K	N	H	Y	P	Q	Y	D	U
L	L	Q	Y	I	W	N	R	M	P	S	H	F	B	R
U	I	X	R	B	N	C	F	G	D	X	C	V	B	N
K	B	P	O	W	V	O	T	I	N	G	P	S	Y	F

## Words to find:

House of Commons, Prime Minister, House of Lords,  
Government, Parliament, Froggypop, The Queen, Bills,  
Corgi, Lords, Laws, MPs, Voting.

Q How many members are there in the House of Lords?

A

Q What is the name of the leader of the government?

A

Q What are ideas for new laws called?

A

Q Where do MPs discuss Bills?

A

Q What is the name of a rule made by Parliament?

A

Q Who visits Parliament every year for the grand ceremony of the State Opening?

A

Q How many MPs are there?

A

Q What is the name of the famous bell in the clock tower?

A

Q What is a female Member of the House of Lords called?

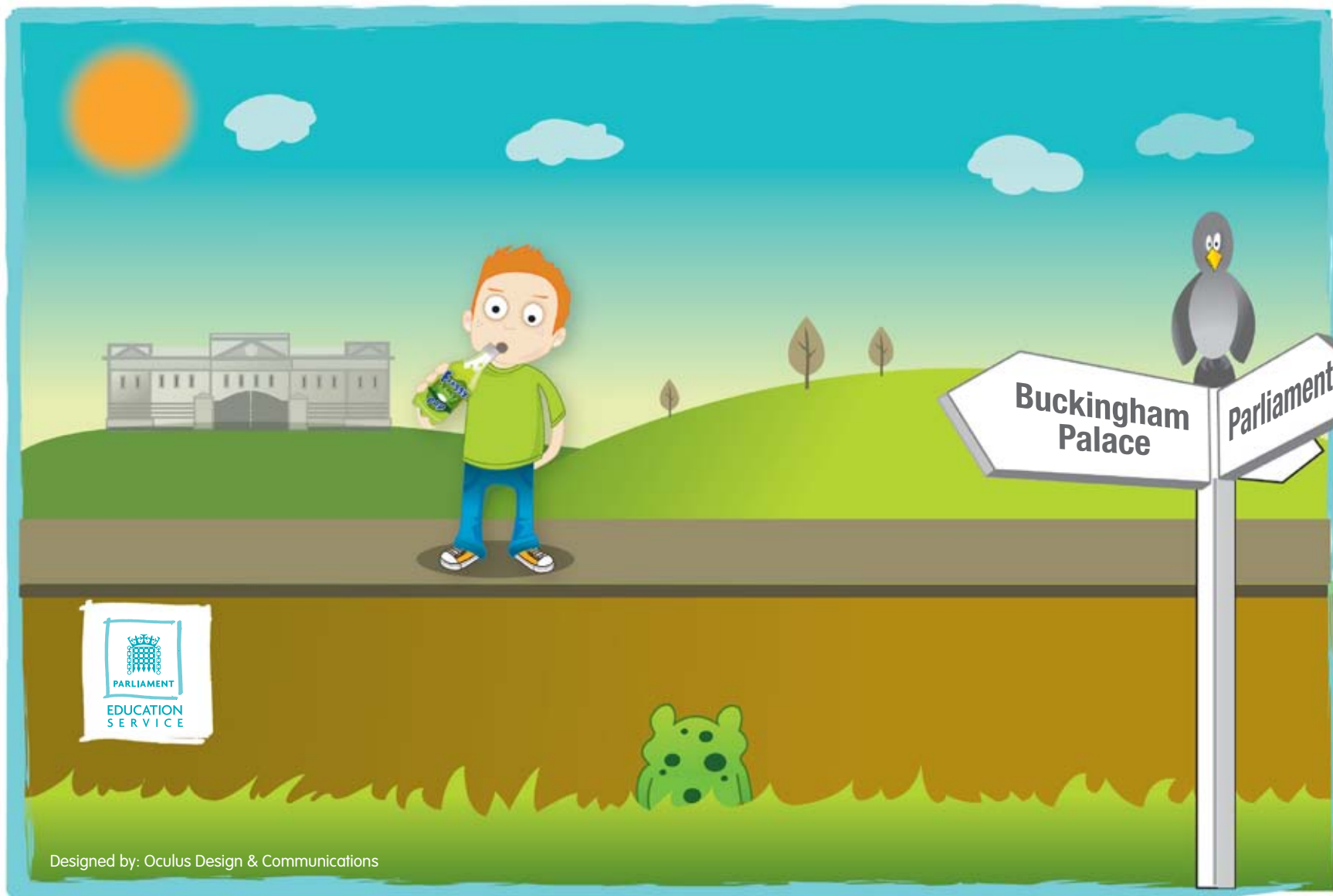
A

Q At what age are you allowed to vote?

A

Q How many bottles of Froggypop are there in this book?

A



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