

Ninja: First Mission

By Chris Bradford

Teachers' Guide

This resource contains activities set at various levels to engage a wide range of students. Teachers or learning support assistants will find that many tasks can be completed independently, whilst others require pair or group work, thus providing flexibility and variety in lessons.

Our aim is to provide fun, stimulating and accessible resources which all levels of student will enjoy.

Activities and Cross-curricular links

Chapter 1: Cloze activity

Chapter 2: Personal and Social Education; Citizenship.

Chapter 3: Comprehension and Information Retrieval

Chapter 4: Art and Design, Graphic Communication.

Chapter 5: Matching exercise

Chapter 6: Creative writing (newspaper report) and research

Chapter 7: Art and Design and Information Retrieval

Chapter 8: Yes/No Activity

Chapter 9: Word game and dictionary skills

Chapter 10: Creative writing and word game

Answers provided at end, where appropriate.

Chapter 1: Floorboards**Activity 1**

Fill in the **blanks** with words from the box below.

My name is _____. This is my first _____ as a ninja and I must *not* fail.

I've been training to be a _____ and an assassin all my life. But I'm still only fourteen.

Lord Oda the _____ warrior wears a golden silk robe with the crest of a black _____ upon his back. In his hand, he holds a scroll of _____.

Lord Oda is the sworn _____ of the ninja and it's my task to stop him destroying our _____.

I can hear two _____ talking in the corridor. For a moment I'm worried they may have discovered me.

I'm now so close to Lord Oda, I can hear him _____. As I reach out, my arm blocks the _____ shining onto his face.

Lord Oda's _____ snap open.

clan	moonlight	paper
enemy	Taka	guards
mission	spy	eagle
breathe	samurai	eyes

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Chapter 2: Dragon's Gate**Activity 2**

'Well done, you even beat Renzo!' she whispers, glancing at a large sixteen-year-old boy with muscle-bound arms and a shaven head.

Renzo is glaring at me. He's not used to coming second.

'It doesn't count,' he grunts.

'Why not?' I protest.

'You're not a real ninja. You haven't gone on a mission yet.'

Renzo loves to remind me of this fact, and my joy at mastering the Five Blades technique is ruined.

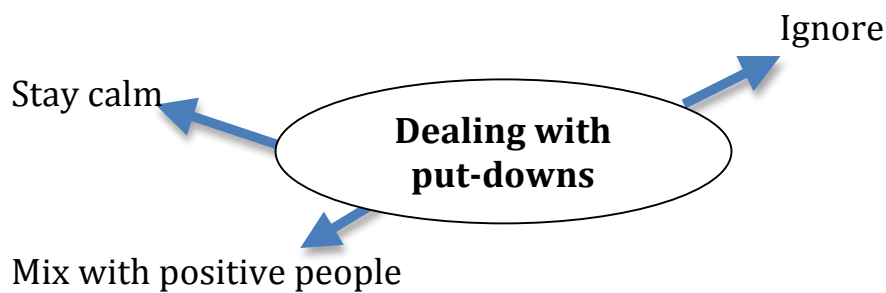
In Chapter Two, Taka is upset at being put-down by Renzo's negative remarks and it takes away the pleasure of him mastering the Five Blades technique.

Think about:

- Why some people regularly make negative 'put-down' comments like Renzo did to Taka. What does it say about them?
- What sort of feelings would Taka have experienced?
- What could Taka do to overcome these feelings and build his own confidence?

Mind Map

Using the mind-mapping chart below, **write down your ideas** on dealing with put-downs and building confidence. The first few ideas have been started for you.



Questionnaire

Now you need to find out how other people in your school deal with negative comments.

Using your ideas from the own mind-map, make up a **questionnaire** on this subject and see what other ideas come up from students in your class.

Your questionnaire should:

- Have at least 5 questions.
- Some are just yes or no answers and some a short reply.
- Give out to at least eight pupils.

Dealing with put-downs and building confidence questionnaire

Please answer yes or no, or give a short reply where asked for.

1. Has anyone ever put you down? YES/NO
2. In one word describe how it made you feel.
.....
3. What is confidence?
- 4.
- 5.

Once you have the completed questionnaires you might want to record your results like this and then share the full results with your class.

Question 1	YES 6	NO 2	
Question 2			Unhappy Cross
Question 3			Being brave Speaking up
Question 4			
Question 5			

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Chapter 3: Black Belt Test

Activity 3

1. Who is the Grandmaster the ancient head of?

2. At what age are the students invited to the temple to take a flower from the hand of Grandmaster, without being detected?

3. What do the ninja need to have to be allowed to go on a mission?

4. Renzo says to Taka 'Those who fail to prepare, must prepare to fail'. Explain what this saying means.

5. Read this chapter carefully and see how many numbers you can find. For example the word 'tenth' is on line one – there are at least 9 more.

6. What is grown in a paddy field?

7. Taka and Cho walk towards the 'temple'. Can you think of at least 3 names of other places where people go to pray?

8. What useful piece of information does Cho give to Taka to help him pass his black belt test?

9. Some of the words in this chapter have more than one meaning. Can you give other meanings to these words below. You may need to use a dictionary or a computer to look up the alternative meanings. To help the first has been done for you.

1. Filling

- what you have put in a hole in your tooth at the dentist's
- what you do when you put water in the kettle.
- what you put in a sandwich

1. filling	2. pass	3. spot	4. draw
5. temple	6. belt	7. steps	8. second

Chapter 4: Grandmaster

Activity 4

Read the first paragraph of chapter 4 which describes Taka's arrival at the temple courtyard.

- **Draw the scene** described and include some of the places and buildings that Taka sees, such as the pagoda (hint: look on the internet or in an encyclopedia to see what a pagoda looks like), rock garden and stream flowing into the pond.
- **Read the whole chapter** and then either draw or use IT to **produce a comic strip** set of pictures showing Taka avoiding all the traps that have been set for him by the Grandmaster.

Hint: You could start with Taka carefully stepping onto the gravel path.

- Make sure you write you name on the back of your drawings and perhaps display them for others to look at.

Chapter 5: A Lesson From An Ant

Activity 5

Match up the correct endings to these sentence starters. The first one has been done for you.

1	'I'll never be a ninja'
2	'Without my black belt'
3	'Failure is success'
4	'Do you hear the ant'
5	'I realize the Grandmaster is teaching me'
6	'Your third and final mistake was to'
7	'Always believe'
8	'Whatever the size of the task or obstacle'
9	With a final tug
10	'It doesn't matter how slowly you go, '

A	'if you learn from it'
B	'a valuable lesson in observation'
C	'in yourself'
D	'let doubt enter your mind'
E	I say, hanging my head in disappointment.
F	'so long as you don't stop'.
G	'I can't go on a mission'
H	'the ant pulls the leaf off the path.'
I	'that is at your feet?'
J	'the ant never gives up'

1	'I'll never be a ninja'
2	'Without my black belt'
3	'Failure is success'
4	'Do you hear the ant'
5	'I realize the Grandmaster is teaching me'
6	'Your third and final mistake was to'
7	'Always believe'
8	'Whatever the size of the task or obstacle'
9	With a final tug
10	'It doesn't matter how slowly you go, '

=	E	I say, hanging my head in disappointment.
=		
=		
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=		
=		
=		
=		
=		
=		

Chapter 6: The Scrolls**Activity 6**

Imagine you are a **reporter** for a local newspaper. Write a **newspaper report** on the theft of the Scrolls.

You should include:

- An eye-catching headline
- A sub-heading title.
- A short description of the Grandmaster and Taka receiving the news of the theft from Cho.
- When, where and why the Scrolls were stolen.
- Who took the Scrolls?
- Give a medical report on Monk Osamu.
- Finally, explain why the Grandmaster thinks there is time for the ninja to get to the Black Eagle Castle.
- It could help if you read a news item in a newspaper to see how other reporters write up a story.

Look up the following words in a dictionary or use the Internet and say what each word means .

Technique _____

Assassin _____

Scrolls _____

Reveal _____

Shrine _____

Chapter 7: Black Eagle Castle**Activity 7**

Use different sources (internet, library, or an encyclopedia) to find out what each of the following parts of a castle are and what they are used for. You could also draw a picture.

Part of a castle	Description/Use/Drawing
Moat	
Portcullis	
Drawbridge	
Rampart	
Dungeon	
Armory	

There are **many castles** in the United Kingdom. Use these different sources (internet, library, or an encyclopedia), to help you fill in the table below. The first castle has been suggested.

Name of Castle	Where is it?	When was it built?	Who lived or lives there?
1. Warwick			
2.			
3.			
4			
5.			

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Chapter 8: Black Eagle Castle**Activity 8**

Read the sentences below and write in the end column 'Yes' if you agree with the sentence or 'No' if you don't. You will need to re-read Chapter 8 to find out the answers.

	Yes or No
1. Does Taka follow Lord Oda to the castle's main tower?	
2. Does Taka climb the outside wall to the fourth floor window?	
3. Is there a painting of a black crane on the ceiling?	
4. Does Taka land on a loose floorboard in Lord Oda's bedroom?	
5. When the guard checks the bedroom does he think he must have heard the noise of a rat?	
6. Does Lord Oda tell the guard to double the number of patrols, and then double them again?	
7. Does Taka hide in Lord Oda's wardrobe?	
8. When Lord Oda seizes Taka, does Taka put his thumb up Lord Oda's nose?	
9. When Taka escapes does he put the box in his pack?	
10. Does Taka escape through the door of the bedroom?	
11. Is Cho waiting for Taka in the courtyard?	
12. Does Taka escape from the samurai guards?	

Chapter 9: The River**Activity 9**

Before you do the **Wordsearch** activity below, look up what these 3 words mean in the dictionary or by using IT.

1. Horizontal 2. Vertical 2. Diagonal

Find the words below hidden in this Wordsearch activity. Don't forget to look on the horizontal lines, the vertical lines and the diagonal lines.

*samurai**blossom**arrow**scream**alarm**guard**castle**bamboo**idea**butterfly**blade**bridge*

k	e	n	r	t	s	a	m	u	r	a	i	z	m	p
e	s	n	o	a	x	v	c	k	s	f	w	i	o	l
b	l	o	s	s	o	m	j	l	d	b	e	i	s	d
u	v	b	c	n	m	a	s	q	c	a	s	t	l	e
t	q	a	r	r	o	w	b	d	p	m	w	o	r	a
t	y	l	e	h	j	k	u	d	w	b	h	f	s	c
e	w	h	a	b	x	z	a	y	t	o	i	c	h	l
r	j	y	m	o	e	b	w	r	j	o	s	w	a	z
f	o	t	q	a	l	a	r	m	y	h	p	r	f	g
l	b	u	x	z	i	r	f	i	y	e	i	l	m	u
y	s	d	w	q	r	b	l	a	d	e	t	u	o	a
a	d	f	g	h	n	m	w	l	k	g	s	j	e	r
p	c	v	a	b	j	f	y	r	o	h	e	f	k	d

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Chapter 10: Decoy**Activity 10****Creative Writing**

Here are 15 words taken from chapter 10. **Write a short story** using at least 10 of these words (you could use all 15 if you **want!**)

bamboo	river	magic	glimmering	temple
friends	bird	plan	spiders	stone
red	belt	hot	real	globe

Word Game

How many words you can make from the letters of these two words:

The Grandmaster

Try and find at least 10 words. Here are 2 examples.

1. Mat
2. Head
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

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ANSWERS

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Chapter 1: Floorboards**Answers 1**

Fill in the **blanks** with words from the box below.

My name is **Taka** . This is my first **mission** as a ninja and I must *not* fail.

I've been training to be a **spy** and an assassin all my life. But I'm still only fourteen.

Lord Oda the **samurai** warrior wears a golden silk robe with the crest of a black **eagle** upon his back. In his hand, he holds a scroll of **paper**.

Lord Oda is the sworn **enemy** of the ninja and it's my task to stop him destroying our **clan**.

I can hear two **guards** talking in the corridor. For a moment I'm worried they may have discovered me.

I'm now so close to Lord Oda, I can hear him **breathe**. As I reach out, my arm blocks the **moonlight** shining onto his face.

Lord Oda's **eyes** snap open.

Chapter 2: Black Belt Test**Answers 3**

1. Who is the Grandmaster the ancient head of?

NINJUTSU

2. At what age are the students invited to the temple to take a flower from the hand of Grandmaster, without being detected?

14

3. What do the ninja need to have to be allowed to go on a mission?

BLACK BELT

4. Renzo says to Taka 'Those who fail to prepare, must prepare to fail'. Explain what this saying means.

IF YOU DON'T PRACTISE AND REVISE YOU WON'T PASS.

5. Read this chapter carefully and see how many numbers you can find. For example the word 'tenth' is on line one – there are at least 9 more.

FOURTEEN FIRST TEN TWICE TWO THIRD FIVE TWO SECOND

6. What is grown in a paddy field?

RICE

7. Taka and Cho walk towards the 'temple'. Can you think of at least 3 names of other places where people go to pray?

SYNAGOGUE, CHURCH, MOSQUE.

8. What useful piece of information does Cho give to Taka to help him pass his black belt test?

'WATCH OUT FOR THE SECOND STEP'

9. Some of the words in this chapter have more than one meaning. Can you give other meanings to these words below. You may need to use a dictionary or a computer to look up the alternative meanings. To help the first has been done for you.

1. Filling

- what you have put in a hole in your tooth at the dentist's
- what you do when you put water in the kettle.
- what you put in a sandwich

1. filling	2. pass	3. spot	4. draw
5. temple	6. belt	7. steps	8. second

- **Pass - succeed at some thing such as an exam.**

- **To pass someone as you are walking along**

- **Spot - see a friend in the crowd**

- **Spot - a zit on the face !**

- **Spot - a dirty mark on your clothes**

- **Draw - take water from a well**

- **Draw - make a picture with a pen/pencil/computer**

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- Temple – a place to worship
- Temple – your forehead which is above the eyebrows and below the hairline.

- Belt – keeps your trousers up.
- Belt – an area of region where something is grown or found such as the wheat belt.

- Steps – the stairs you climb up outside a building perhaps
- Steps – a distance travelled

- Second – comes after First
- Second – there are 60 in a minute

Chapter 4: Grandmaster**Answers 4**

Classroom Notes:

- If this has been done as a class activity get the students to write their names on the back of the comic strip and swap with another student to see how different they all are and to give each other some feedback.
- It would be useful to have a short discussion before this exercise to list how to give constructive feedback to each other.
- The students could make a display of both the pictures of Taka arriving at the Temple and the comic strip drawings of him avoiding the traps, which could be put in a place for other students and members of staff to see.

Chapter 5: A Lesson From An Ant

Answers 5

1	'I'll never be a ninja'	=	E	I say, hanging my head in disappointment.
2	'Without my black belt'	=	G	'I can't go on a mission'
3	'Failure is success'	=	A	'if you learn from it'
4	'Do you hear the ant'	=	I	'that is at your feet?'
5	'I realize the Grandmaster is teaching me'	=	B	'a valuable lesson in observation'
6	'Your third and final mistake was to'	=	D	'let doubt enter your mind'
7	'Always believe'	=	C	'in yourself'
8	'Whatever the size of the task or obstacle'	=	J	'the ant never gives up'
9	With a final tug	=	H	the ant pulls the leaf off the path.
10	'It doesn't matter how slowly you go, '	=	F	'so long as you don't stop'.

Chapter 6: The Scrolls

Answers 6

Look up the following words in a dictionary or use the Internet and say what each word means .

Technique **the way in which something is done**

Assassin **a murderer, especially of a political leader.**

Scrolls **a roll of paper, sometimes made of paper called parchment**

Reveal **show**

Shrine **a sacred place of worship**

Chapter 7: Black Eagle Castle**Answers 7**

Use different sources (internet, library, or an encyclopedia) to find out what each of the following parts of a castle are and what they are used for. You could also draw a picture.

Part of a castle	Description/Use/Drawing
Moat	A wide water-filled ditch around a castle.
Portcullis	A strong heavy gate which moves up and down vertically and is used to block the entrance to a castle.
Drawbridge	A bridge that is hinged at one end or in the middle and can be lifted up to cut off access to a castle or allow something in.
Rampart	A defensive bank often topped by a wall to keep enemies out of a castle.
Dungeon	A prison cell often found underground.
Armory	A building in which weapons are stored.

There are many castles in the United Kingdom. Use these different sources (internet, library, or an encyclopedia), to help you fill in the table below. The first castle has been suggested.

Name of Castle	Where is it?	When was it built?	Who lived or lives there?
Warwick	Warwick, Warwickshire	In 1068	William the Conqueror
Bodiam	East Sussex.	14 th Century	Sir Edward Dalymgriggenot

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Chapter 8: Black Eagle Castle**Answers 8**

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3. Is there a painting of a black crane on the ceiling?	No
4. Does Taka land on a loose floorboard in Lord Oda's bedroom?	Yes
5. When the guard checks the bedroom does he think he must have heard the noise of a rat?	No
6. Does Lord Oda tell the guard to double the number of patrols, and then double them again?	Yes
7. Does Taka hide in Lord Oda's wardrobe?	No
8. When Lord Oda seizes Taka, does Taka put his thumb up Lord Oda's nose?	No
9. When Taka escapes does he put the box in his pack?	Yes
10. Does Taka escape through the door of the bedroom?	No
11. Is Cho waiting for Taka in the courtyard?	No
12. Does Taka escape from the samurai guards?	No

Chapter 9: The River

Answers 9

Before you do the **Wordsearch** activity below, look up what these 3 words mean in the dictionary or by using IT.

1. Horizontal – in a level position, perhaps with the horizon
2. Vertical - in an upright position, running lengthways up and down
3. Diagonal – running from one side to another in a slanting way

Find the words below hidden in this Wordsearch activity. Don't forget to look on the horizontal lines, the vertical lines and the diagonal lines.

samurai

blossom

arrow

scream

alarm

guard

castle

bamboo

idea

butterfly

blade

bridge

k	e	n	r	t	s	a	m	u	r	a	i	z	m	p
e	s	n	o	a	x	v	c	k	s	f	w	i	o	l
b	l	o	s	s	o	m	j	l	d	b	e	i	s	d
u	v	b	c	n	m	a	s	q	c	a	s	t	l	e
t	q	a	r	r	o	w	b	d	p	m	w	o	r	a
t	y	l	e	h	j	k	u	d	w	b	h	f	s	c
e	w	h	a	b	x	z	a	y	t	o	i	c	h	l
r	j	y	m	o	e	b	w	r	j	o	s	w	a	z
f	o	t	q	a	l	a	r	m	y	h	p	r	f	g
l	b	u	x	z	i	r	f	i	y	e	i	l	m	u
y	s	d	w	q	r	b	l	a	d	e	t	u	o	a
a	d	f	g	h	n	m	w	l	k	g	s	j	e	r

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p	c	v	a	b	j	f	y	r	o	h	e	f	k	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

					s	a	m	u	r	a	i			
														I
b	l	o	s	s	o	m				b				D
u			c						c	a	s	t	l	E
t		a	r	r	o	w				m				A
t			e							b				
e			a							o				
r			m			b				o				
f				a	l	a	r	m						g
l								i						u
y						b	l	a	d	e				a
										g				r
											e			d

Chapter 10: Decoy**Answers 10****Word Game**

How many words you can make from the letters of these two words:

The Grandmaster

Try and find at least 10 words. Here are 2 examples.

1. Mat

2. Head

3. Man

4. Rats

5. Grand

6. Master

7. Heat

8. rest

9. name

10. her

11. matter

12. team

13. steam

14. gram