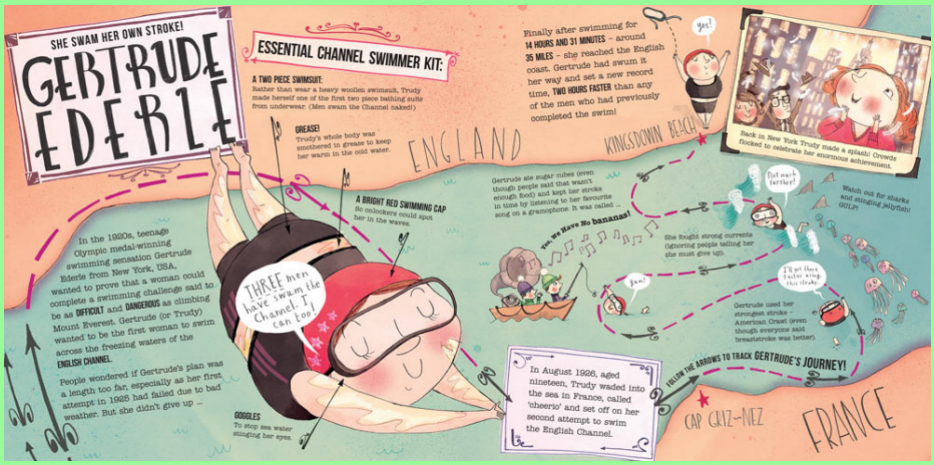
# Reading!

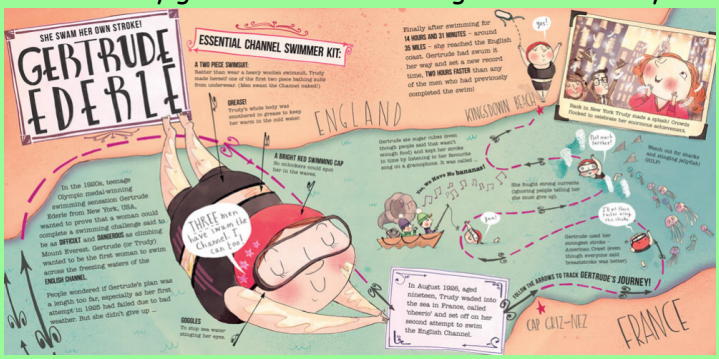
LO: To use inference skills to answer questions about a text



# Recap: what were we reading?

**Brief outline of the text:**

The English channel is a strip of water between England and France. Ferries cross the channel every day, and occasionally, very brave people decide to swim across it. It's very difficult to swim across, and it takes lots of practice and training. This text is an extract taken from 'fantastically great women who changed the world' by Kate Pankhurst.

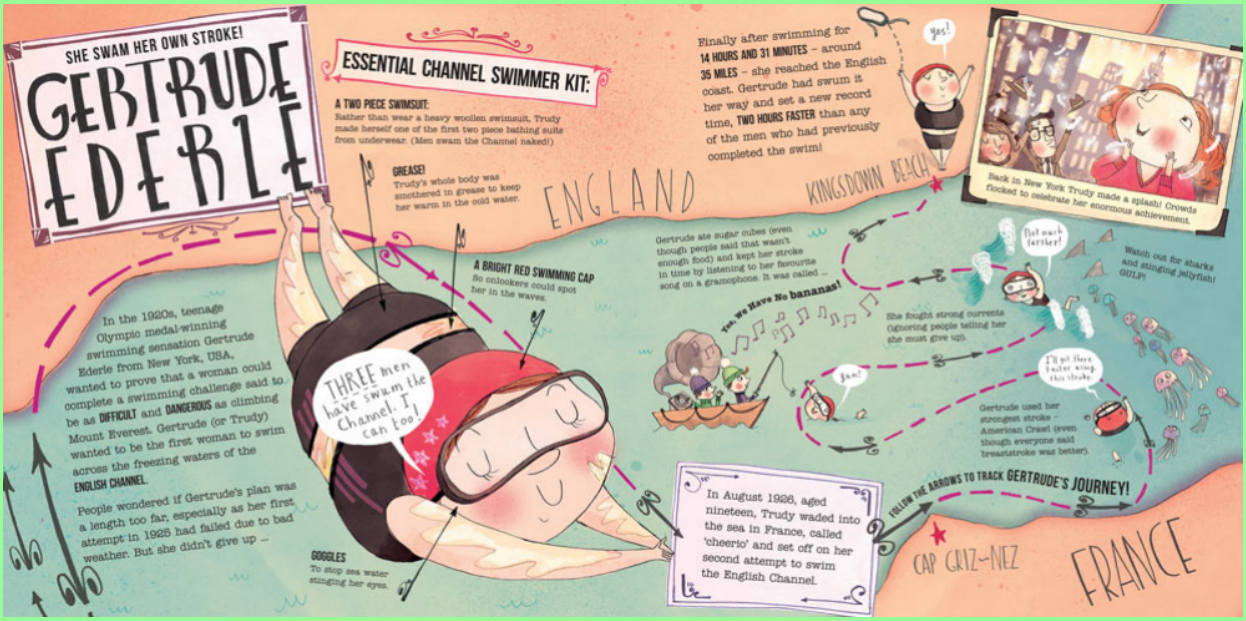


**Questions:**

1. Why did Gertrude want to swim the channel?
2. How do you think Trudy felt when she finally made it across the channel?
3. How do you think Trudy made other women in the world feel?

## Glossary:

- sensation – something fantastic
- bathing suit – swimming costume
- onlookers – people watching
- waded – pushed and walked through water
- stroke – a way of swimming. Eg. Breast stroke.
- currents – when water moves under the surface, pulling things with it.
- gramophone – a device for playing music
- flocked – gathered


SHE SWAM HER OWN STROKE!
GERTRUDE EDERLE
In the 1920s, teenage Olympic medal-winning swimming sensation Gertrude Ederle from New York, USA, wanted to prove that a woman could complete a swimming challenge said to be as DIFFICULT and DANGEROUS as climbing Mount Everest. Gertrude (or Trudy) wanted to be the first woman to swim across the freezing waters of the ENGLISH CHANNEL.
People wondered if Gertrude's plan was a length too far, especially as her first attempt in 1925 had failed due to bad weather. But she didn't give up –
ESSENTIAL CHANNEL SWIMMER KIT:
A TWO PIECE SWIMSUIT:
Rather than wear a heavy woollen swimsuit, Trudy made herself one of the first two piece bathing suits from underwear. (Men swam the Channel naked!)
GREASE!
Trudy's whole body was smothered in grease to keep her warm in the cold water.
A BRIGHT RED SWIMMING CAP
So onlookers could spot her in the waves.
THREE men have swum the Channel. I can too!
GOGGLES
To stop sea water stinging her eyes.
ENGLAND
KINGSDOWN BEACH
Finally after swimming for 14 HOURS AND 31 MINUTES – around 35 MILES – she reached the English coast. Gertrude had swum it her way and set a new record time, TWO HOURS FASTER than any of the men who had previously completed the swim!
yes!
Back in New York Trudy made a splash! Crowds flocked to celebrate her enormous achievement.
Gertrude ate sugar cubes (even though people said that wasn't enough food) and kept her stroke in time by listening to her favourite song on a gramophone. It was called ...
You We Have No bananas!
yes!
She fought strong currents (ignoring people telling her she must give up).
Not much farther!
Watch out for sharks and stinging jellyfish! GULP!
I'll get there faster using this stroke.
Gertrude used her strongest stroke – American Crawl (even though everyone said breaststroke was better).
In August 1926, aged nineteen, Trudy waded into the sea in France, called 'cheerio' and set off on her second attempt to swim the English Channel.
FOLLOW THE ARROWS TO TRACK GERTRUDE'S JOURNEY!
CAP GRIZ-NEZ
FRANCE

**Questions:**

1. Why did Gertrude want to swim the channel?
2. How do you think Trudy felt when she finally made it across the channel?
3. How do you think Trudy made other women in the world feel?