

The Story of the Umbrella

by Eric Demoff

When do you use an umbrella? On rainy days, of course! Well, not if you lived a very long time ago. People used an umbrella only on sunny days.

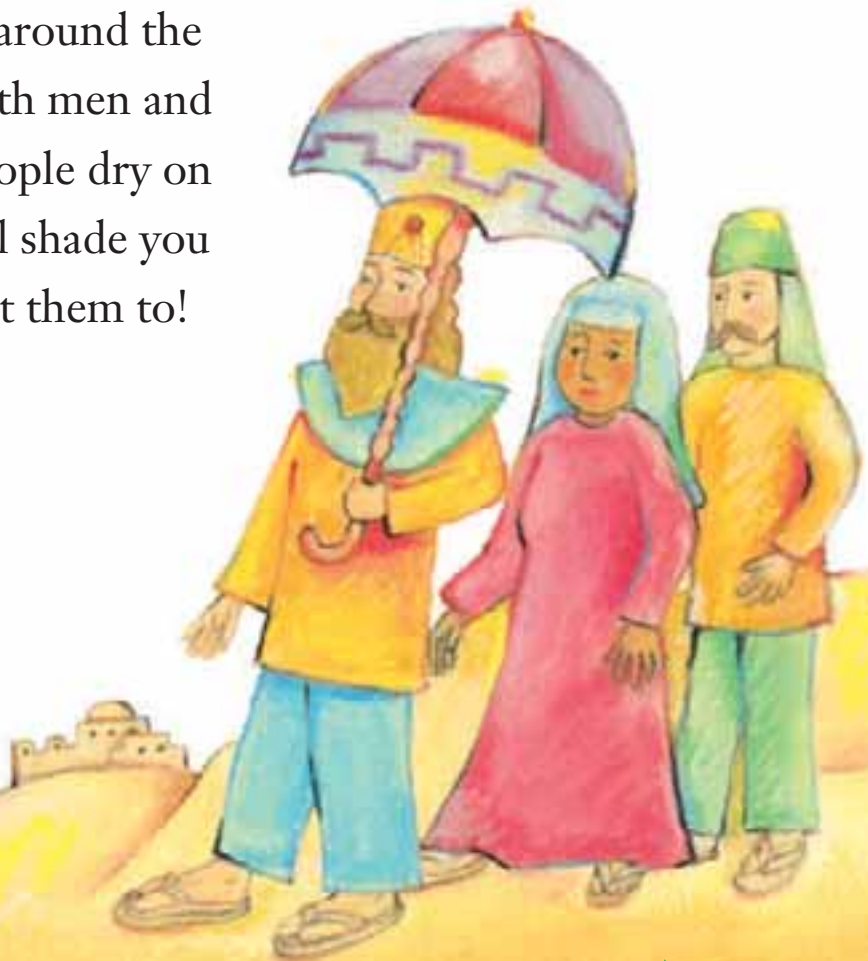
The word *umbrella* means shade. An umbrella would shade you from the sun. Maybe that is why an umbrella is in the shape of a tree. A tree shades you from the sun.

There is another reason why umbrellas were just for sunny days. The first umbrellas were made of paper. You could never use one in the rain.

At first, only kings carried umbrellas. An umbrella made you look important. Thousands of years later, women started carrying them. They used their paper umbrellas as sun shades. A hat on a stick was even used as an umbrella.

In England, oil was rubbed on paper umbrellas. It made the umbrellas waterproof. Now they could be used in sun or rain.

Umbrellas are now used around the world. They are used by both men and women. Umbrellas keep people dry on rainy days. But they can still shade you on a sunny day—if you want them to!



Bella Had a New Umbrella

by Eve Merriam

Bella had a new umbrella,
Didn't want to lose it,
So when she walked out in the rain
She didn't ever use it.
Her nose went sniff,
Her shoes went squish,
Her socks got soggy,
Her glasses got foggy,
Her pockets filled with water
And a little green froggy.
All she could speak was a weak kachoo!
But Bella's umbrella
Stayed nice and new.



Tip

Connect the clues.

Directions:
Answer the questions.

1. How is Bella's umbrella like a paper umbrella?
 - A Both are used in the rain.
 - B Both are never used in the rain.
 - C Both are made of paper.
 - D Both are used in sunny weather.

2. What would **MOST LIKELY** happen if you used a paper umbrella in the rain?
 - A It would tear and fall apart.
 - B It would keep you dry.
 - C It would shade you from the sun.
 - D It would get oily.

3. What else could Bella do to keep from losing her umbrella?

Writing Prompt

Write a summary of "The Story of the Umbrella." It should be about five sentences. Write just the main ideas.



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