

Bird Nests



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Most birds build nests, but all nests are not alike. The most common bird nest is the kind made by robins. Robins build nests that look like cups. They make a frame of twigs and sticks and cover it with mud. When this is done, robins line their nest with fine moss, feathers, and hair they find on the ground.

Barn swallows build nests of mud.

They make them in barns, close to the roof where it is safe. Sometimes several swallows build nests near one another.

Some birds build their nests in unusual ways. All birds use their beaks to help make their nests, but Tailorbirds use their beak as a needle to sew leaves together. Tailorbirds use threads they gather from the cotton in cotton plants.

Some birds don't build nests at all. Some lay their eggs right on the ground or on a rocky cliff. Auks are birds that lay their eggs on rocky cliffs near the sea.

Auks' eggs are pointed at one end. This shape lets the eggs roll in a circle if another animal tries to move them or if the wind blows hard. Because the eggs can roll in a circle, they do not roll off the cliff.

King penguins also do not build nests. Instead, they tuck their eggs into the folds of skin on their lower belly. The eggs rest on their feet and stay warm in the cold arctic winds.

Some bird species also lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Cuckoos get other birds to keep their eggs safe and to feed their babies.

Most birds build a new nest each year. Some use the same nest for several years but clean the nest a little each year. Eagles build huge platform nests that they use for several years. However different they are, though, birds build nests that are just right for their families.



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Going With the Flow

The next time it rains, watch the water run down your street. Where does it go? It probably goes down a drain or into a ditch. But the water doesn't stop



flowing once it reaches those places. Instead, it joins with water flowing from other drains and ditches. Then it flows into a stream or river. Finally, the water that ran down your street flows into the ocean.

What does that mean for the health of the ocean? It means that when people put garbage, oil, or chemicals into a stream, the water becomes polluted. The polluted water flows down streams and rivers and reaches the ocean.

In addition, the pollution can end up in the water people drink. People might also use the water for swimming or for watering their plants. In this way, pollution can get into people's bodies and make them sick.

But there is good news. People are thinking about

the things they put into rivers and streams. They're also making plans to clean up the water around them.

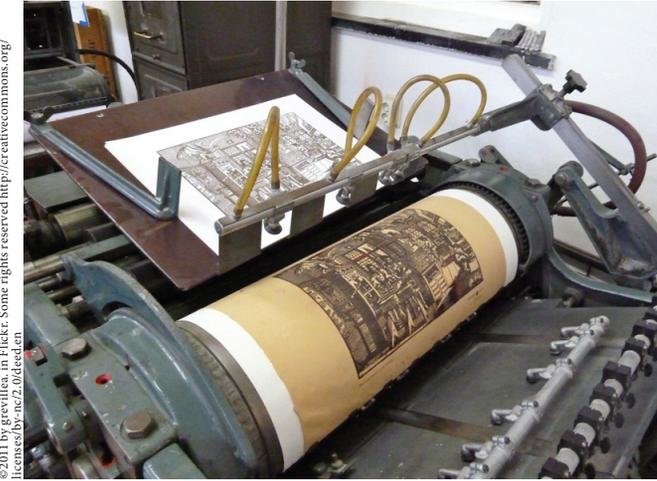
They're keeping garbage and chemicals out of the water. They're creating places where people can safely put their garbage, oil, and chemicals. They're not just throwing things out, they're recycling or reusing them. All of these ideas mean that water around the world is getting cleaner. That means that animals' homes are getting cleaner. It means that plants don't have as many chemicals in them. It also means people have cleaner water for drinking and swimming.

You can join these people in cleaning up the water.

What can you do? You can throw your garbage into garbage cans or recycling containers, not into streams. You can tell others not to pour oil or chemicals into drains or ditches. And you can teach others to treat rivers and streams with care. People, plants, and animals will be glad you're helping.



Posters Over Time



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Before posters were created, people got their news from someone who ran around town shouting it. People shouted the news because paper cost a lot. Also,

copies of messages had to be made by hand. It took a long time to make 100 copies of a message.

Once the printing press was invented, news could be spread more quickly. People made posters that told what was happening, and they hung them on walls. Printing presses made copies quickly, so the news could be spread quickly.

Finally, even faster printing presses were invented. People no longer needed to read posters for the news. Instead, they could read newspapers, which could tell them the news quickly and cheaply.

Posters then became the main way of advertising events or products for sale. Posters would tell people about places to go, things to buy, and who they might vote for. Even today, when most homes have radios and

TVs, posters are used to advertise products and events.

Posters used to be much smaller, too. Today, posters can cover large billboards that can be seen from a long distance. Advertisers hope that a colorful billboard will catch the eye of people going past. If the billboard interests people, advertisers hope that people will buy a product or go to an event.

Posters today are also used to advertise bands, movies, or TV shows. Many posters are made to be used in the same way as paintings. Some people hang posters in their homes, offices, and even schools. When a poster is used as art, advertisers can make money in two ways. They can make money from the sale of the poster. They can also advertise their product so more people will know about it.

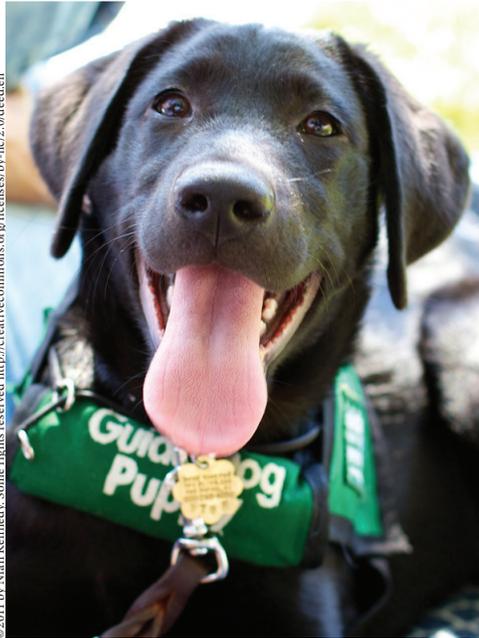
Look around you. What posters are in your home or your classroom?



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Working Dogs



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Dogs make great pets. You can run with them. You can play ball with them. You can teach them tricks. One of their most important jobs is to make you happy.

Some dogs, though, have real jobs. Their work is to help people do things they can't do on their own. One type of working dog is the Seeing Eye dog. Seeing Eye dogs are specially trained to help people

who are blind. The dogs help people lead independent lives by keeping them safe on the streets.

Seeing Eye dogs begin their training when they are puppies. They live with a volunteer family for about a year. In that time, the family gives the puppy lots of love and teaches it basic commands. The family also takes the puppy to many different places to help it feel comfortable with new people and in new places.

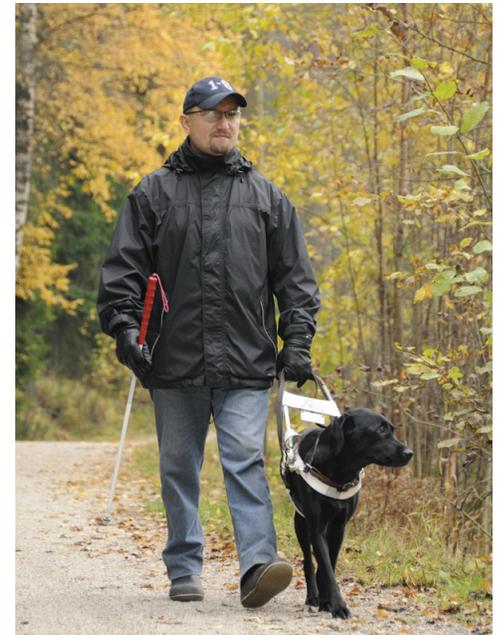
After they are about a year old, Seeing Eye dogs begin their training. They learn how to walk in a harness and how to safely lead a person. They learn to stop at

curbs, stay away from things that might trip a person, and keep the person from bumping into others.

Seeing Eye dogs also learn not to obey a command that might lead a person into danger. For example, if a person tries to walk in front of a car, the dog will stop or put his or her body in front of the person.

When a Seeing Eye dog is wearing a harness, it is working, so you shouldn't try to pet, feed, or talk to it. The dog needs to focus on keeping the person safe. If you would like to pet the dog, ask the person if it's okay.

These dogs help people who are blind live and travel about on their own. They help people hold jobs, shop, and visit others. They help people lead independent lives. Seeing Eye dogs do a very important job.



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Cool Hats



What's so cool about hats? They come in all shapes and colors. They make you look cool. They also make you feel cool. That's because the sun beats down on your head when you're outdoors in the summer.

Smart people protect their head from the sun's burning rays with a hat or a cap. And while hats protect your head from sunburn, they do more, too. They also provide

shade for your eyes. You can see more clearly when your eyes are shaded. In addition, hats protect your eyes from sunburn. Plus, hats can make a fashion statement. Not only do hats keep you cool, hats are cool!

Hats usually have a crown and a brim. The top of your head is called the crown. The top of a hat is called a crown, too. Many hats also have a brim or a visor, which is the part of the hat that shades your eyes. Visors are usually made from cardboard or plastic that is covered with fabric. They control the amount of light that reaches your eyes.

There's also a kind of hat called a visor, which doesn't have a crown. It's really just a shade for the eyes. Years ago, tennis players used visors. Later, they began wearing caps with visors. Soon, players of many summer sports were wearing caps with visors.

Today, baseball caps are the most common type of cap. Often baseball caps have a team name, but baseball caps aren't just used by ball players. Now anyone can wear one, and there are many different names and designs on the caps. In addition, the bill, which once only pointed forward, can now point in any direction!

Of course, you use sunscreen when you're out in the sun in the summer. Why not look and feel cool, too, by also wearing a hat?



Drums: Keep the Beat

Voices do amazing things. They shout. They talk. They sing. Voices were probably the first way people made music. To make other kinds of music, people used objects around them. One of the oldest musical instruments found is a drum. This drum, which was made of clay, is more than 8,000 years old!

Most drums have a shell made of wood, metal, or clay. The shell is

covered on one or both ends with something that can be stretched tight. Early people used animal skins. Today, some drums have plastic coverings. When a covering is hit with a hand or a stick, it vibrates and makes a sound.

Some drums have additional parts that give them a particular sound. For example, the bottom covering of snare drums has strings stretched across it. The strings vibrate when the drum is struck, making a sound like metal balls bouncing.

The size of a drum changes the drum's sound. Large drums produce low sounds, like booms. Small drums

produce high sounds, like bops. The drum's sound can be changed by making the covering tighter or looser. Tight coverings make higher sounds. Loose coverings make lower sounds. When they are tuned to different notes, drums can actually play a tune.

Drums are used for many reasons. They provide rhythms for singing and dancing. Marching bands use them to help people step in time. Some religions also use drums.

Drums were often used by armies as well. Drums could be heard over long distances, so they kept an army together. Certain drum beats told soldiers when it was time to move. Their booming sound could also make enemies afraid.

Like early people, you can make a drum out of objects around you. You can bang on a can with a stick or bang your hands on a piece of wood. Soon, you may notice that people are dancing or singing along with the beat you create.



Quilts: Pieces of Art



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Quilts keep us warm. Layers of cloth in different patterns and colors are stitched together to form a blanket. However, while quilts were first made to keep

us warm, they are also a form of art.

The history of quilts is long. A statue from about 3400 BCE shows an Egyptian ruler wearing quilted clothing. In Asia, a quilted rug was dated to the first century BCE. In the 11th century, European knights brought quilting techniques from the Middle East. They wore quilted clothing under their armor to stay warm. The oldest known bed quilt was found in Italy and dates to the late 1300s.

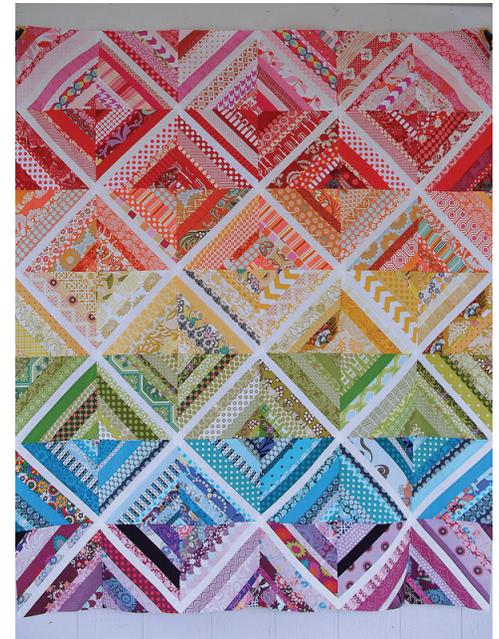
In the United States, bed quilts tell about women in American history. When the earliest European immigrants came to America, there were few or no stores. Women cut up old clothes and used them to make new clothes or blankets. Quilting kept families alive in the harsh, cold environment.

During the 1700s and 1800s, pioneer women made quilts. Some were used as play mats for children or as curtains. Women met for quilting bees, or parties, to help each other finish quilts and to exchange news.

Quilting may also have played a role in helping some African Americans escape slavery. Some stories tell of slaves sewing codes into their quilts to show others the way to freedom.

In addition to their many uses, quilts are also a form of art. Every quilt is an expression of the artist. Each one uses different patterns and colors. Each one also uses different techniques for sewing the pieces together. Originally, the layers of material were simply tied together with small crossed stitches. Later, though, quilters stitched designs, such as feathers, or flowers, into quilts.

So the next time you climb into bed with a nice warm quilt, look at it carefully. Notice the care that someone took to make a beautiful blanket that can also keep you nice and warm.



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The Wide World of Bread

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How many ways do you eat bread? You might have toast with jelly at breakfast, a cheese sandwich for lunch, and a roll with dinner. Bread comes in many

delicious varieties.

Bread is made with a few basic things: grain and liquid. That's why almost every culture has a kind of bread. In addition, people can make bread with products that grow well where they live. For example, bread is made with corn in Mexico and with wheat in the United States.

There are two basic kinds of bread: bread made with yeast and bread made without yeast. Yeast needs to rise before baking, so yeast breads take longer to make. Breads made without yeast does not have to rise before baking.

Almost 1,000 years ago, the people who spoke Old English used the word *hlaf*, or loaf, as their word for bread. The word *lord* also came from *hlaf*. It meant "one

who guards the loaves." That shows how important bread was at that time. Later, the word became *lof*.

The word *bread* came into English later. It came from the German word *brot*. The word may also have come from an Old English word that meant "bits" or "pieces." It then came to mean "pieces of bread." Finally, *bread* came to have the meaning we know today.

Bread is often shaped into loaves. However, it can also be shaped into disks, called flat breads. You probably know one type of flat bread, which was first made in Italy. When it is topped with tomato sauce and cheese, it is called *pizza*. *Pizza* means "pie" in Italian.

Bread is an important part of many people's diets. That's because it doesn't cost a lot to make, and it can be served in many ways. No matter how you slice it, bread is delicious.



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The Hidden Meanings of Names

volume 1
issue 9



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What is the name of your state? What does the name mean? Place names often tell about the history of a place. They may also honor important people.

Many states in the United States have names that come from the language of the native people who lived in the area. Missouri may mean “people of the big canoes,” and Kentucky may mean “meadow” in

Native American languages.

Even though the United States has never had a king or queen, seven of the 50 states are named for kings or queens. These states were named by the European explorers who claimed them. Georgia was founded in 1733 as a British colony. The colony’s founders named it for the king of England—King George II. Georgia kept the name even after the American Revolution, when England no longer ruled the United States.

Two states are named after another English king, Charles I. In 1629, long before the American Revolution,

Charles I gave land to colonists who went to live there. To honor him, they named the colony Carolina. In 1729, it was divided into North and South Carolina.

Another state was named after Charles I’s wife: Queen Henrietta Maria. The colonists used the queen’s second name—Maria—for the colony’s name, Maryland.

Two states are also named after Queen Elizabeth I of England. She was known as the Virgin Queen because she never married. These states are called Virginia and West Virginia.

Finally, one state is named for a French king. French settlers named their colony after their king—Louis XIV. That land was later bought by the United States, but the state of Louisiana kept the name of the French king.

Some places were also named for places in another country. New York and New Jersey, for example, were named for York and Jersey, places in England.

Every state’s name has a history. What does your state’s name mean?



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Voting Makes a Difference

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“Today you can choose a playground activity, class. You can run relay races or play on the swings. Raise your hand if you want to run races. Raise your hand if

you want to play on the swings. Okay, the swings win!”

This example shows democracy in action. In Greek, the word democracy means, “rule by the people.” The majority, or most, of the people in this class voted that they wanted to play on the swings. So because the swings had the most votes, the swings won.

The United States government is a democracy, so it is ruled by its people. Because it’s such a large country, the people can’t vote on every decision. Instead, they vote for leaders who will represent their wishes. The leaders then make decisions based on what people tell them. How do the people tell the government what they want? They vote!

Every United States citizen has the right to vote. Adults vote on issues about your school, your town, and

your country. By voting, they tell their government what they want to happen. For example, people might vote on whether to buy new playground equipment for a park.

Even though voting is important, many people do not vote. Some think that one vote won’t make a difference, but this is not the case. For example, in 1820, one vote kept James Monroe from being elected president.

In the United States, the legal age to vote in a government election is 18. But you can participate in the voting process long before you become 18. Ask your mom or dad to work with you to look up information on topics that interest you. Talk to others about issues that are important to you. Get in the habit of knowing what’s going on around you and taking a position. That way, you’ll be prepared to vote like a responsible citizen.



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Video Games for Work and Play

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It seems like everyone plays video games today. Kids play, moms and dads play, even grandparents play. In fact, more than half of the families in the United

States today play video games.

Video games haven't been around for a long time, though. The first computer game was invented in 1958. It was based on the game of tennis. At that time, few people had computers in their homes. Computer programmers, or people working on the computers in labs, made games for fun and to show off their skills.

In 1972, a programmer named Ralph Baer began to think about how to play video games on a television. He invented a home gaming console that allowed people to play video games on TVs. After that, many people began designing home gaming consoles. In the late 1980s, hand-held games also became popular.

As technology developed and more people owned computers, the number of games grew. Soon, people

were sitting around TVs with controls that were wired to consoles. They played sports games, mystery games, and games in which characters chased one another. Then people started playing games over the Internet. Instead of just two people playing a game in a room, hundreds of people could play a game together.

Although video games are often used for fun, they can be used in other ways, too. You may have played games that helped you recognize letters and words or that helped you learn how to add numbers.

Video games can also be used to help people in other ways. Doctors have used games to treat children and adults with brain injuries. The U.S. military uses video games to train soldiers. They have also been used to train people who respond to emergencies.

Video games have changed a lot in 60 years, from playing tennis to helping people get well. If you could program a new video game, what kind of game would you create?



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Adding Up Pennies



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Do you have a piggy bank for saving money? How many pennies, or one-cent pieces, do you have? Some people have lots of pennies because they rarely use them. Some countries, too, rarely use pennies. In addition, it can cost more to make pennies than they are worth. For these reasons, some countries are phasing out small coins.

In 2012, Canada began to phase out pennies. This process helps the Canadian government save about \$11 million dollars a year. But what would happen if you needed pennies? Suppose you were visiting Canada, and you wanted to buy a bottle of water and a key chain. You would owe the store \$5.92. Because you were paying with cash, though, your total would be rounded down to \$5.90. No pennies would be needed.

If you were paying with a credit card or check, however, the amount would not be rounded. Instead, people who use credit cards and checks pay the exact

amount. Businesses in Canada can accept pennies, but they cannot give pennies back to customers.

The process of making coins is called minting. Many countries have their own mint, or place that makes coins. That's because most countries have their own system of currency, or money. Coins are made by melting metals. The liquid is poured into sheets and cooled. A metal stamp is used to cut out the coins. Then they're stamped with images. This process is called striking. For example, in the United States, the mint strikes Abraham Lincoln's head on pennies. After striking, coins are inspected and counted. Finally, trucks take them to banks.

Some countries are phasing out more than pennies. Australia is one country that is becoming a cashless society. A cashless society uses no paper money or coins.

Despite these examples, the United States is not planning to phase out pennies. So for now, keep saving pennies. Soon, you'll save enough to buy something special.



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What Makes a Wall Great?



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We may call it the Great Wall of China, but the Chinese call it the Long Wall of Ten Thousand Li. (A li is a unit of length in China.) At more than 12,000 miles long, the Great Wall of China is one of the largest engineering projects ever built. Length is not the only reason the wall is great, though. Some parts of it are 30 feet high and 25 feet wide.

However, although it's called the Great Wall, it is made of many different walls. Sections were built over hundreds of years by different emperors, or rulers, in China. The oldest sections were built in the 7th to 4th centuries BCE. It is interrupted by natural features that also act as barriers, such as mountains and rivers.

The Great Wall was built both to protect the Chinese empire and to preserve Chinese culture. If enemies could be kept out, so could their culture. The wall was used this way for more than 2,000 years.

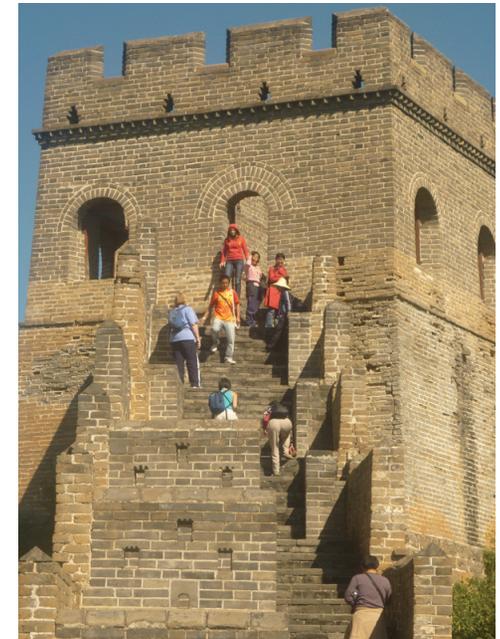
Unfortunately, thousands of people died building the

wall. Peasants, soldiers, and criminals were the primary builders. It has been said that the wall has the skeletons of people who died building it. This may or may not be true.

The wall was built using many different materials, including dirt, brick, and stone. Workers used the materials that were available in each area.

Today, thousands of people visit the Great Wall every year. The Badaling section, which was built during the Ming Dynasty, stands north of Beijing, China's capital. This section is the most popular. People can see holes in the wall that Chinese soldiers used to shoot arrows at their enemies. They can also see platforms that were used for signal fires.

After the Ming Dynasty ended in 1644, areas of the wall began to fall apart. However, much of it still stands. Today, it shows the dreams and the power of the Chinese empire.



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Can People Live on the Moon?

volume 1
issue 14



Image of Astronaut Edwin Aldrin walks near the Apollo 11 Lunar Module (1969-07-20). Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



What might it be like to walk or even live on the moon? In 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. He said, “That’s one small step for a man. One giant leap for mankind.” Although astronauts have taken many steps since then, scientists still have much to learn about the moon.

The moon is quite different from Earth. The

moon’s ground is covered in 10 to 50 feet of dust. There is no air that people can breathe. A day and a night there each last two weeks, and the temperatures are extreme. Can people live in such a place? Some scientists think they can answer that question when they learn if plants can survive there.

On Earth, plants help humans survive in many ways. People eat plants. Plants also produce the oxygen that people breathe. But to grow, plants need food and water, which are not present on the moon.

On the International Space Station in 2010, scientists

discovered that the roots of plants grow away from the seed and toward moisture and food, just as they do on Earth. Scientists now want to use plants to discover if the conditions in space could harm people. If plants are harmed when they live in space, people could be, too.

NASA, which builds space craft and studies space, designed an experiment to test if plants can live on the moon. In 2015, NASA will try to grow basil and turnip seeds on the moon. They will plant the seeds in containers that have everything plants need to live for five to 10 days. Their growth will be recorded by cameras and other devices that allow scientists to see exactly how the plants react.

The results of this experiment might help scientists learn about how space might affect Earth’s plants and animals. It might also help them decide if people can live there, too.



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A Hero Who Gives Things Away

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issue 15



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What do you do with the things you love? You probably take care of them and keep them safe. That's not what Cameron Payne does. This fifth

grader from North Carolina is sharing his love of books by giving them away.

In 2008, Cameron was looking for a way to help his community when he heard about a family who lost everything in a house fire. He was sad that all of their books were destroyed, and he wanted to find a way to help them. That's when he created his program, which gives books away to people in need.

Cameron's program collects books for young people of all ages and reading levels. He collects books for kids who are blind or low vision, too, because he wants everyone to have books.

Cameron knows that books can help kids think about their future. They do this by helping kids dream about what they might be when they grow up. Learning

about new things can give kids new interests. Six years later, Cameron is still giving away books.

Many of the books he gives away were given to him by others, but Cameron's grandmother also shops for books that don't cost a lot. She buys books that are new or that look new. In addition to working with schools, Cameron and his grandmother give books to children in places near their home, such as hospitals, libraries, and day camps.

Cameron wants to keep his program going and growing. Over the past six years, he has given away more than 3,000 books. He has also won many prizes for his work. His program has grown over the years, too. Last Christmas, Cameron was even able to give away toys and books.

Cameron Payne is making a difference in kids' lives by giving away the things he loves: books. Who needs help in your community? How might you help?



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Taking Out the Trash— By the Ton

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issue 16



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Brightly colored fish swim through the ocean. That's what 17-year-old Dutch student Boyán Slat expected to see when he went diving in Greece.

Instead, he saw plastic bags. Someone has to clean this up, he thought. Then he decided that would be his job.

Because more than half of Earth's surface is ocean, cleaning it is a huge job. In fact, one patch of garbage in the Pacific Ocean has about 3.5 million tons of trash. Just stopping people from throwing trash into the ocean will help in the future, but it won't remove the trash that's already in the water now.

First, Boyán studied the ocean's trash problem. He learned that trash kills thousands or even millions of ocean animals each year and puts harmful chemicals into the water. Boyán also learned that the winds and tides keep the ocean constantly moving. That means that the trash in the ocean is constantly moving, too.

In 2012, Boyán came up with a plan. He'd let the

ocean do the work. He designed a huge floating barrier that would be attached to the sea floor. It would stay in place while the ocean's movement brought the trash to it. Animals could swim under or around the barrier, but trash would be trapped.

Once the trash is gathered, people can easily pick it up. Boyán even thinks that the plastic he takes out of the ocean could be recycled and sold. That means that cleaning the ocean may even make money. Or at the very least, recycling the plastics may make enough money to build the huge floating barriers.

Boyán is still experimenting to see if his idea works. Like all inventors, he will test his design many times and make changes that improve it. That's what inventors do: they test ideas until they build something that works.

Someday, we may once again have clean oceans.

And that may be because 17-year-old Boyán Slat saw a problem and decided it was his job to solve it.



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Name _____

Bird Nests

Most people know about how birds use leaves and twigs to build nests in trees. But not many people know about the other ways birds build nests, and that some birds don't build any kind of nest. Choose two of the birds from this article and write what you would tell a friend about these birds and their eggs. You can look back at the article before you start writing to pick your birds and review the information but do not look at the article while you are writing. When you finish writing, you can look back at the article and see if you included all the facts you want to share and add facts if you want to. Here is a word bank to get you started and help with spelling.



barn swallows	mud	roof	tailorbirds	other birds
sew	thread	leaves	beaks	eagles
auks	cliff	circle	pointed	platforms
king penguins	lower belly	feet	cuckoos	years



Going With the Flow

Most people know about air pollution, but now many people understand that water pollution is also a huge problem. Write what you would tell a friend about how water gets polluted and what we can do to stop water pollution. You can look back at the article before you start writing but do not look at the article while you are writing. Use some of these words to tell how to solve this problem.



pollution	streams	rivers	ocean
chemicals	garbage	drinking	swimming
people	plants	animals	drain



Name _____

Posters Over Time

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about posters. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



bands	billboards	buy	events	walls
movie	people	products	TV show	ways

Posters are used to advertise _____ that _____ can buy. Posters are also used to advertise _____ people can attend. _____ use posters to make people want to come to their concerts. Posters can also make people want to go to see a new _____ or tune in to a new _____. Advertisers make money in two _____ when they make a poster. They make money when people _____ the poster. They also make money if their poster is shown on _____ that people can see when they are walking or driving past them. Many kids hang smaller posters on their bedroom _____.

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Name _____

Working Dogs

Most people know that Seeing Eye dogs can help blind people, but they don't know exactly how. Write what you would tell a friend about how Seeing Eye dogs help blind people. You can look back at the article before you start writing but do not look at the article while you are writing. Here are some words you might use.



harness	lead	stop	curb	safe	bumping
obey	command	body	travel	job	independent

Comprehension Response Activities
FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Name _____

Cool Hats

Do you like hats? Most kids do, and many kids have lots of hats. Write about how hats can make you look cool and stay cool. Use some of these words.



baseball	cap	fashion	visor
sun	rays	shade	eyes
sunburn	protect	earn	summer



Drums

Most people know that drums make different kinds of sounds, but they don't know why. Write what you would tell someone about how different drums make different sounds. Use some of these words.



vibrate	high	low	small
large	stretch	shell	covering
strings	snare	tight	loose

Comprehension Response Activities
FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Quilts

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about quilts. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



art	blankets	bees	escape	freedom
knight	other	stores	thousands	used

People have been making quilts for _____
 of years. Long ago, quilts were _____ for
 clothing. _____ wore quilted clothing under their
 armor to keep warm. When the earliest immigrants came to the United States,
 there were very few _____ where they could
 buy things. Women cut up old clothes and used them to make new clothes and
 _____. Women often got together and helped
 each _____ finish quilts. These parties were called quilting
 _____. African American slaves also made quilts. Some
 of these quilts may have helped slaves _____ by
 showing them the way to _____. Today we can
 easily buy clothes and blankets in stores. But people still enjoy quilts and see quilts as a
 form of _____.

Comprehension Response Activities

FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Name _____

The Wide World of Bread

What kinds of bread do you eat? Do you have toast or muffins for breakfast? What kinds of sandwiches do you like? Do you like sandwiches that come on buns? Pita and pizza are flatbreads. Do you like them? What do you like on your pita or pizza? Here are some words you might use to write about your favorite ways to eat bread.



toast	roll	bun	sandwich
pita	pizza	cheese	jelly
butter	hamburger	hot dog	pepperoni

Comprehension Response Activities

FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Name _____

The Hidden Meanings of Names

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about state names. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



canoes	Charles	George	history	queens
Louisiana	Maryland	meadow	New York	West Virginia

Many state names tell you something important about that state's _____.

Because Native Americans often traveled in boats, *Missouri* may mean "people of the big _____." Also, because Kentucky had large fields, its name may mean _____ in Native American languages. Many states were named after kings and _____.

Georgia was named for King _____. North and South Carolina were named after King _____.

_____ was named after King Charles' wife, Queen Henrietta Marie. Virginia and _____ were named after Queen Elizabeth I, who was called the virgin queen because she never married. _____ was named for a French king named Louis. Some states are named for places in other countries. New Jersey and _____ are named for places in England: Jersey and York.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Name _____

Voting Makes a Difference

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about voting. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



1860	can	citizen	democracy	people
difference	don't	eighteen	James Madison	vote

The United States government is a _____ . This is a Greek word that means "rule by the _____ ." The people _____ for their leaders. To vote, you have to be at least _____ years old and a United States _____ . Some people _____ vote because they think their vote won't make a _____ . But sometimes that one vote _____ make a difference. _____ lost the presidential election by one vote in _____ .

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Name _____

Video Games for Work and Play

What do you think about video games? Do you play them? Do your friends play them? What about your family members? Do they play video games? Some people think kids spend too much time playing video games. Do you agree? Write about your experiences with video games and those of your friends. Give your opinion about whether or not video game time should be limited and why you think so.



Comprehension Response Activities

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Name _____

Adding Up Pennies

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about pennies. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



banks	coins	countries	make	metal
minting	more	pay	pennies	stop

Did you ever wonder where money comes from? _____
are made in a mint, so the process of making them is called _____.
Coins are made by melting _____. Once the metal is cooled, it is cut into round pieces. Trucks take the coins to _____.
Pennies cost more to _____ than they are worth. Some countries are not making any _____ small coins like pennies. Canada is one of those _____. In Canada, if you were paying with cash and you owed \$10.62, you would _____ only \$10.60. The United States is still making _____. Do you think we should _____ making them?

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Name _____

What Makes a Wall Great?

Put all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about the Great Wall of China. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



Beijing	brick	died	dirt	hundreds
miles	people	skeletons	stone	thirty

The Great Wall of China is twelve thousand _____ long. Some parts of it are _____ feet high. The wall took many _____ of years to build. People used local materials to build the wall including _____, _____, and _____. Many workers _____ while building it. Some people say the _____ of those who died are buried in the wall. Every year thousands of _____ visit the Great Wall. Most of these people visit the part of the wall that is near _____, the capital of China.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



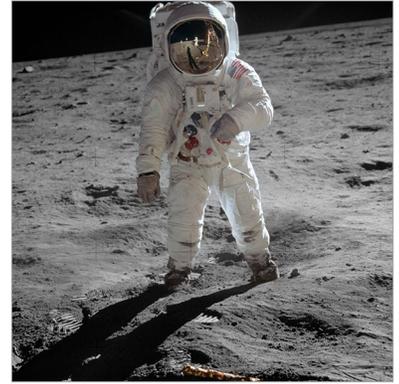
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Name _____

Can People Live on the Moon?

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about the moon. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



able	air	cold	dust	Earth
experiments	move	Neil Armstrong	people	survive

The moon is very different from _____. There is no _____ on the moon. The moon's ground is covered with many feet of _____. Temperatures are both extremely hot and extremely _____. In 1969, _____ was the first man to walk on the moon. Scientists want to figure out if _____ could live on the moon some day. Because people need plants to _____, scientists are doing _____ to see if plants can live on the moon. If the plants can grow and live there, scientists think that one day people will be _____ to live there, too. How about you? Would you _____ to the moon?

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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Image of Astronaut Edwin Aldrin walks near the Apollo 11 Lunar Module (1969-07-20). Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Name _____

A Hero Who Gives Things Away

Cameron Payne started giving books away when a family lost everything in a house fire. He couldn't replace everything they had lost, but he could do something. What can you do to make your community—and the world—a better place? Can you organize some of your friends and clean up some part of your neighborhood? Can you be a “big buddy” and read to or spend time with a younger child? Can you help older people in your neighborhood by walking a dog or doing some chores the people cannot do? Imagine what you would like to do, and then write the article that might appear in the newspaper about what you did to be a hero.



Comprehension Response Activities

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Name _____

Taking Out the Trash—By the Ton

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about one teen's attempt to clean the ocean. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don't look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.



animals	decided	trash	diving	floating
inventor	money	problems	recycled	seventeen

Boyan Slat was _____ years old. While he was _____ in the ocean in Greece, he saw lots of plastic bags. Someone has to clean this up, he thought. He _____ that cleaning up the ocean would be his job. Boylan designed a huge _____ barrier that would stay on the surface of the ocean. Fish and other _____ could swim under or around this barrier, but _____ would be trapped. Once it was trapped, people could pick it up. The plastic could be _____. The _____ earned from recycling the plastic could be used to build more floating barriers. Boyan is an _____. Inventors like Boyan can help us solve some of our biggest _____.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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REVIEW

Going With the Flow

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



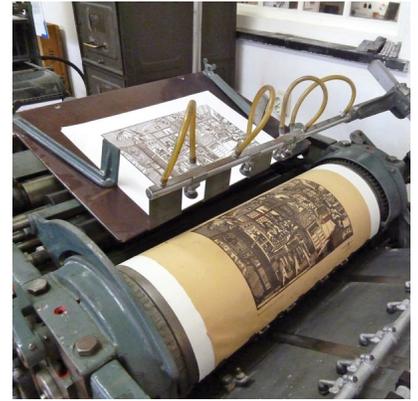
Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



REVIEW

Posters Over Time

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.





REVIEW

Working Dogs

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal solid black lines.



REVIEW

Cool Hats

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



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REVIEW

Drums: Keeping the Beat

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.







REVIEW

The Wide World of Bread

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



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REVIEW

The Hidden Meaning of Names

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



.....



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REVIEW

Voting Makes a Difference

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.





REVIEW

Video Games for Work and Play

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



Eight sets of horizontal lines for writing, each consisting of a solid top line and a solid bottom line, with a dotted line above each set.



REVIEW

Adding Up Pennies

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal solid lines, each preceded by a short horizontal line on the left side.



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REVIEW

What Makes a Wall Great?

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



.....



.....

REVIEW

Bird Nests

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal solid lines.



REVIEW

Taking Out the Trash—By the Ton

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal solid lines.

