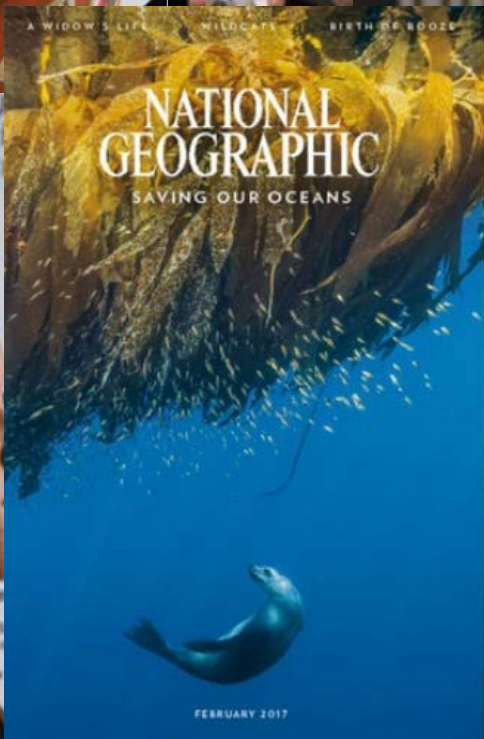
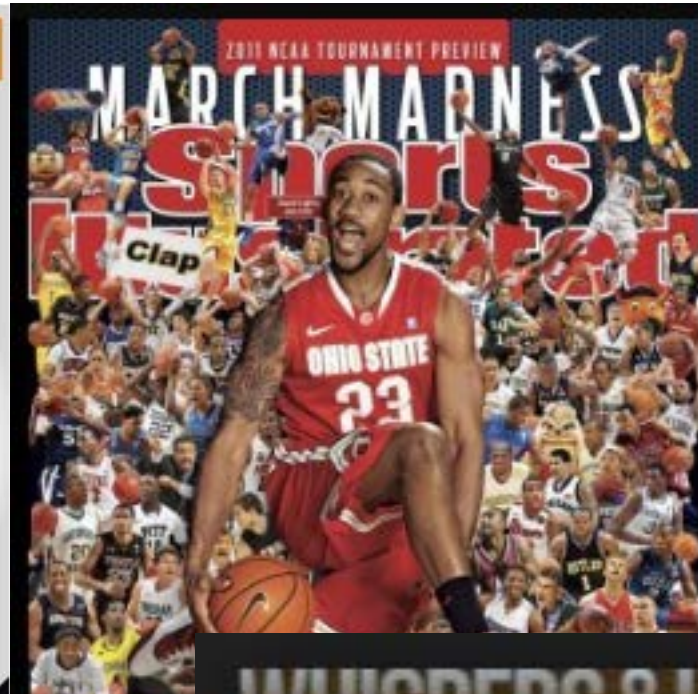


Read an Article a Day (RAD): Why It's Critical for Reading Success

Elfrieda H.
Hiebert
TextProject







Why Knowledge?



Knowledge in the Digital Age

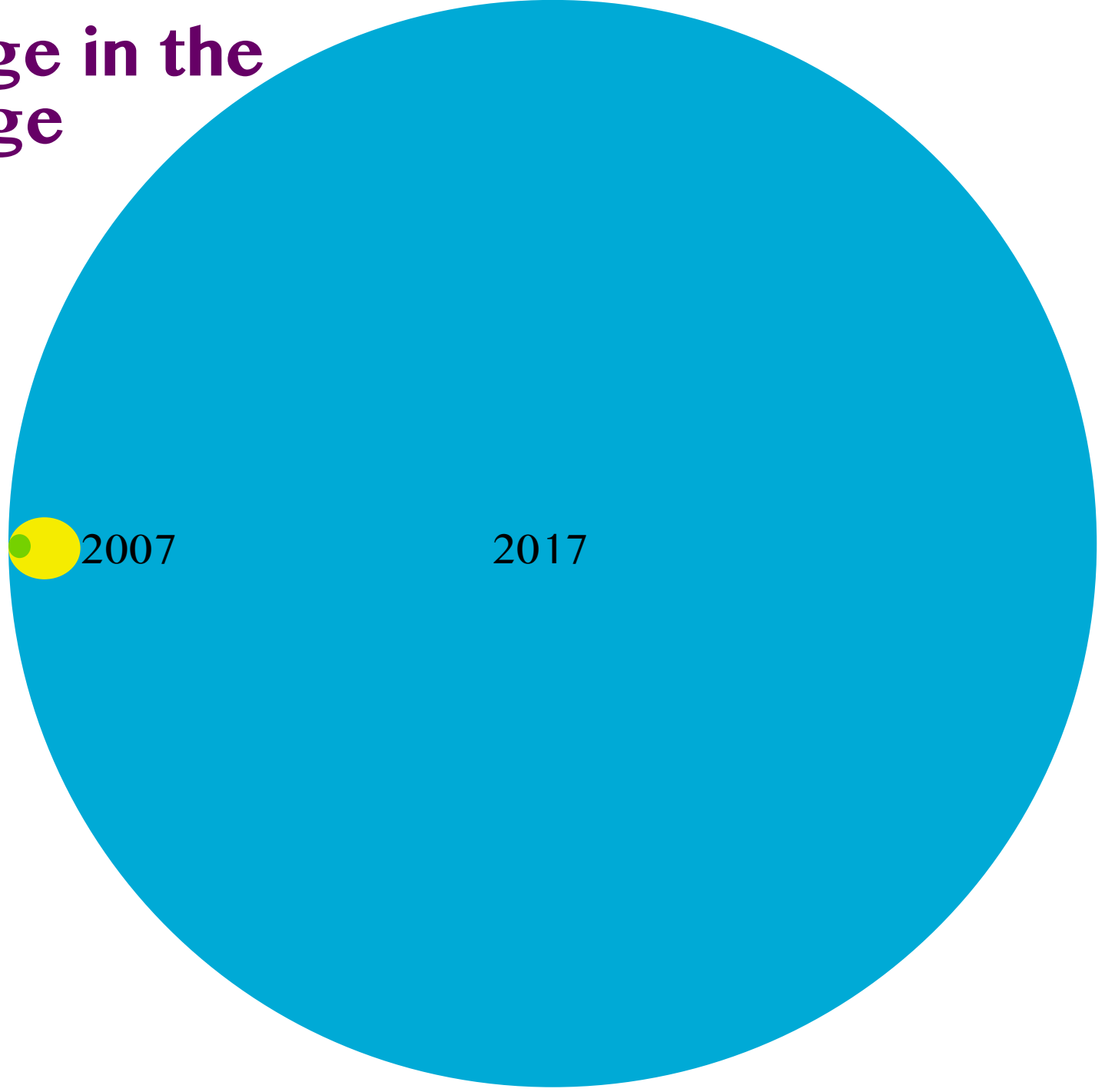
1986



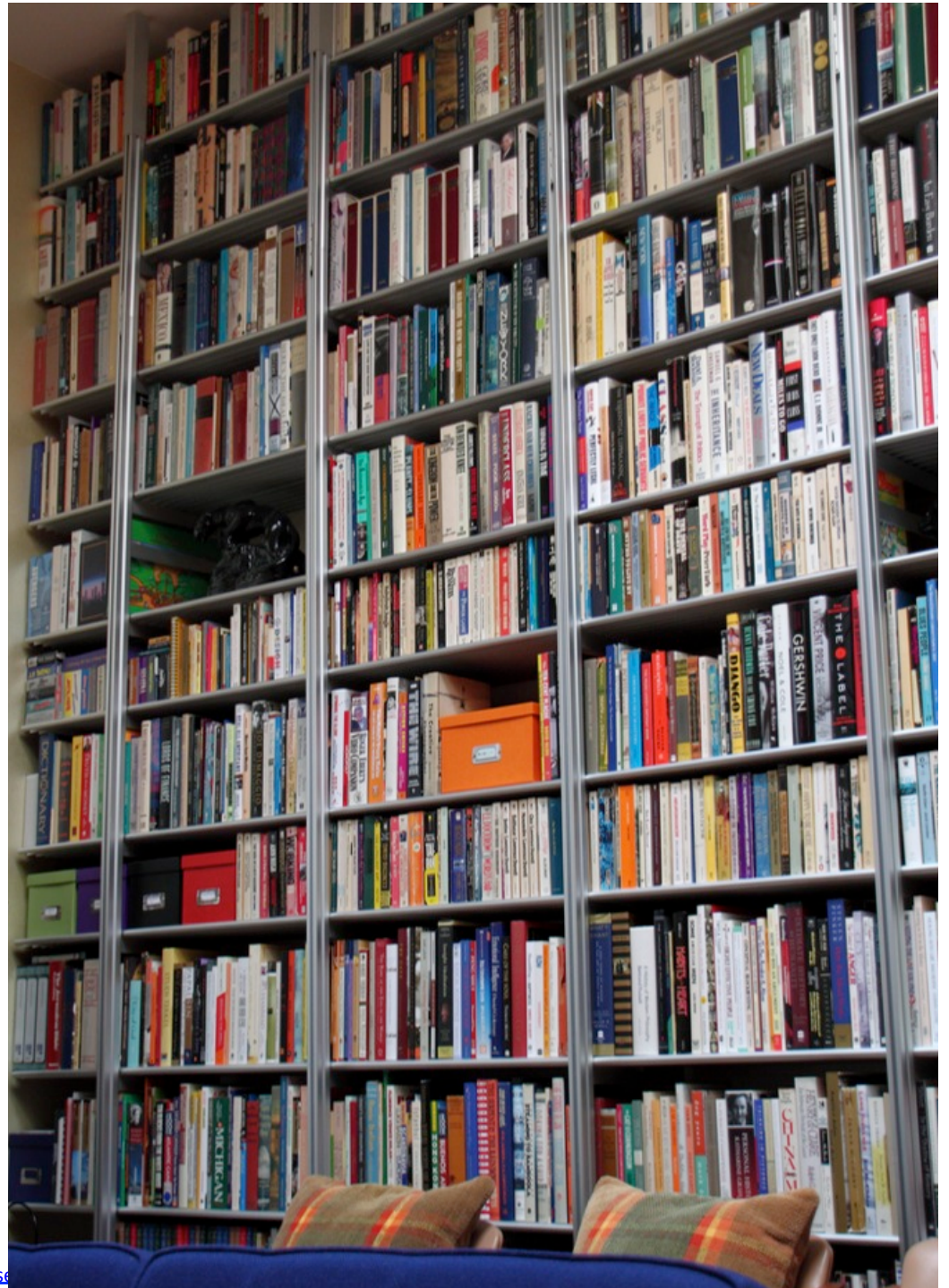
2007



2017



Knowledge
is “stored” in
texts and...



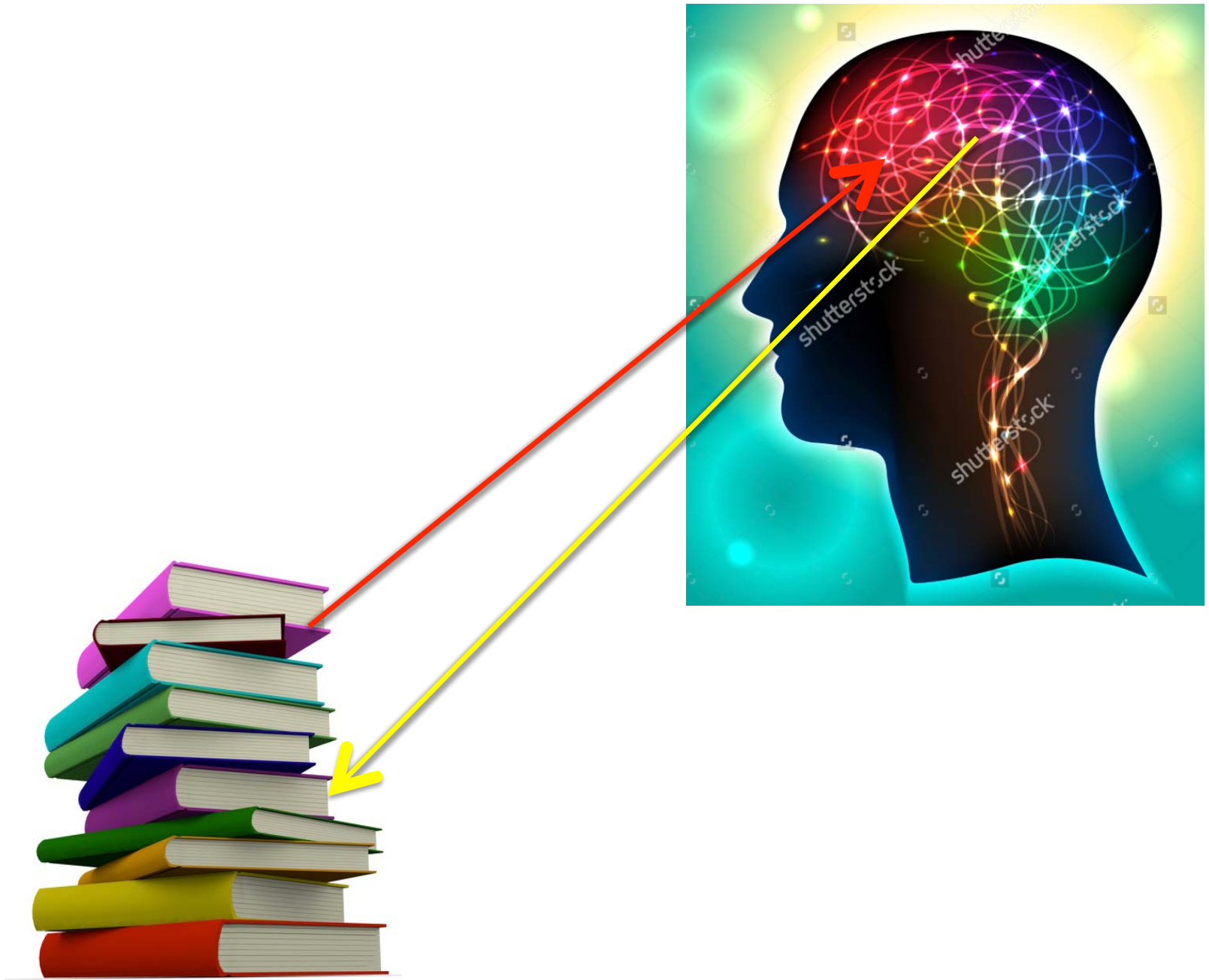
**texts typically
have more
rare words
than
conversations/
oral language.**



Correlation between Background Knowledge & Comprehension = .94

Reading for Understanding Network Study of Comprehension in Grades 7-12

Slide is from the presentation of David Francis (April 19, 2013). CCSS Assessments and Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners. Plenary session at Institute on Assessment in the Era of the Common Core State Standards, International Reading Association.



Topics on Grade 4 NAEP: 2011 & 2013

Granddaddy (boy & his
grandfather go fishing)

La Ñapa: Boy and girl go with
their mother back to her native
country (Dominican Republic)

Little Great White Shark:
Description of a shark at
Monterey Aquarium.

Daisy: Girl tries out for
wrestling team.

Marian's Revolution:
True Biographical
Account of Marian
Anderson's singing at
Lincoln Memorial

Parable about a gardener and a nightingale

Daddy Daycare: Descriptive essay about
role of male emperor penguins with young
of species

Ducklings Come Home to
Boston: Description of the
sculptures stemming from
McCloskey's *Make Way for
Ducklings*

He was the largest trout I had ever caught and the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, silver and sleek and pretty as a rainbow, and I could hardly wait to take him home to Granddaddy.



We are Americans!" Miguel pipes up. He wonders what makes him a real American. Because he was born in New York unlike his parents, who were both born in the Dominican Republic? Because he speaks English? Because his favorite baseball team is the Yankees?



Before letting her go, scientists attached a special pop-up satellite tag to the white shark. A month later the tag automatically popped off the shark, floated to the surface, and sent data to an orbiting satellite.

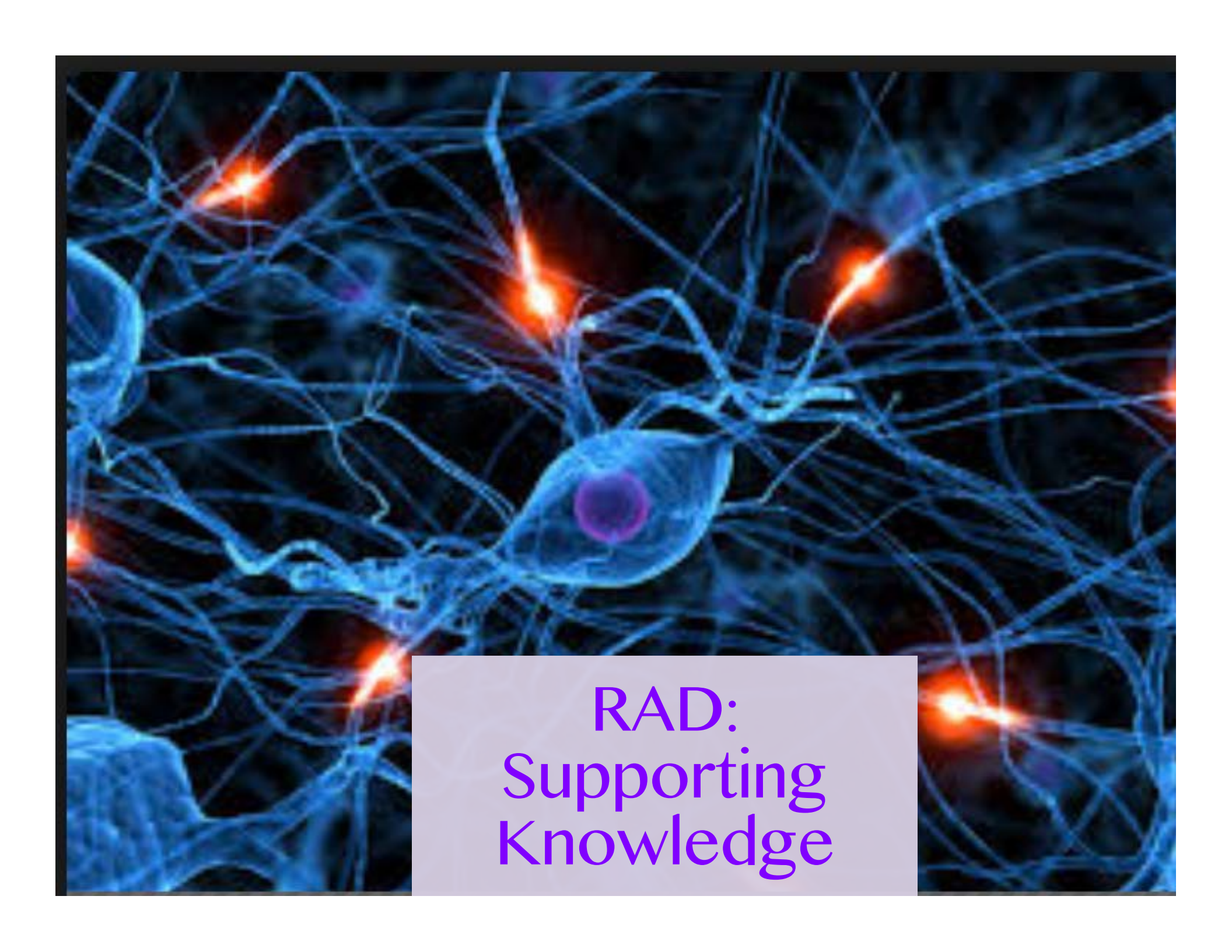


Deep
knowledge
of some
topics



Broad knowledge of many topics



A detailed illustration of a neural network. Numerous blue, branching neurons are shown against a dark background. Several bright orange-red spots are visible along the axons, representing action potentials or signal transmission. The neurons are interconnected, forming a complex web.

RAD: Supporting Knowledge

Celebrating Independence



The Canadian people celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 1.

1. Create knowledge across texts

On July 4th, the United States celebrate their independence with parades and fireworks. On July 1st, the people of Canada²⁵ celebrate their own independence with parades and fireworks. On this day, called Canada Day, Canadians celebrate the day their national government was established.

Like the⁵⁰ United States, Canada began as a group of British colonies. Unlike the United States, however, Canada did not have a war to gain its independence⁷⁵ from Great Britain.

Instead, on July 1, 1867, the British North America Act gave the Canadian colonies the right to form their own national government.¹⁰⁰ Canada was the first country to gain its independence from Great Britain in this way. Since then, more than 50 other former colonies have gained their independence from Great Britain in a similar way.¹³⁴

A large crowd of people in Mexico City celebrating Independence Day with fireworks. The image shows a massive gathering of people in a plaza, with many holding Mexican flags. In the background, the illuminated facade of a large, ornate building, likely a cathedral, is visible. The sky is filled with numerous bright, exploding fireworks, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Celebrating Independence

In Mexico City, the people celebrate their independence with fireworks.

Mexican Independence Day

Mexico's national celebration marks the beginning of its war for independence. During the night of September 15, 1810, Father Hidalgo rang the ²⁵ church bell in the village of Dolores. When the people of Dolores gathered in the plaza, Father Hidalgo made a speech that encouraged the people ⁵⁰ to fight for their independence. The speech ended with these words: "Mexicans, long live Mexico!" This call began Mexico's war of independence against Spain. The ⁷⁵ war lasted until 1821.

To celebrate their independence, Mexicans gather in plazas on the night of September 15th to hear the cry, "Mexicans, long live ¹⁰⁰ Mexico!" In Mexico City, the Mexican president gives this cry and rings the bell that Father Hidalgo rang in Dolores. People then spend the next day celebrating their independence with parades and fireworks. ¹³³

Celebrating Independence



The people of the Philippine Islands celebrate their independence by raising their flag.

Independence Day in the Philippines

In the summer of 1898, the Spanish, who had ruled the Philippine Islands for hundreds of years, were defeated in²⁵ a war. The country that had won the war—the United States—then took over governing the Philippines.

For almost 50 years, the United States⁵⁰ guided the government of the Philippines. However, on July 4, 1946, the Philippine Islands became an independent nation.

Although the Philippine Islands gained its independence⁷⁵ from the United States on July 4th, the people of the Philippines decided to celebrate their independence on June 12th. That is because the national¹⁰⁰ flag of the Philippine Islands was first flown on June 12, 1898. This is the day that the people of the Philippines mark as the day when their country's independence really began.¹³²



Celebrating Independence

On Freedom Day, people in South Africa celebrate their independence with parades and dances.

Freedom Day

In most countries, the national holiday celebrates the country's independence from the rule of another nation. Until recently, South Africa had a national²⁵ holiday of this kind. This holiday recognized South Africa's independence from Great Britain, which it gained in 1961.

The independence from Great Britain, however, did⁵⁰ not mean that all South Africans were free. The laws of South Africa favored white people. Black people had few rights, could live only in⁷⁵ certain places, and could not vote in national elections. Finally, on April 27, 1994, South Africa held its first national election in which all people¹⁰⁰ could vote.

South Africans now celebrate April 27th as their national holiday, not the day their country became independent of Great Britain. Freedom Day celebrates the day all South Africans gained their rights.¹³³

Celebrating Independence



The French people celebrate their independence on Bastille Day with fireworks and parades.

Bastille Day

By 1789, many French citizens had become unhappy with their monarch, Louis XVI. France had been a monarchy, or a government ruled by²⁵ a king, for several hundred years. However, the people wanted to replace their monarchy with a government that would be fair to all citizens.

King⁵⁰ Louis XVI had put citizens who disagreed with him into a prison called the Bastille. For many French citizens, the Bastille was a symbol of⁷⁵ what was wrong with France.

On July 14, 1789, an angry mob stormed the Bastille and freed its prisoners. Soon after, the people overthrew the¹⁰⁰ monarchy and established a form of government called a republic. The republic gave French citizens their rights. Today, the French celebrate July 14th, Bastille Day, as the day their republic was born.¹³²

Physical Exercise



Written by **Elfrieda H. Hiebert**

What *Some People* Say About: Physical Education

Pacifica Examiner: Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am in the 4th grade at North Shore Elementary. Every week on Friday we have a PE class. I used to hate PE classes. We used to just play games like football and basketball. I am not very good at them. Now we do exercises and play other sports. We run relays and play tennis. Our PE teacher, Mr. Kroger, says these skills will last us a lifetime.

Now our principal, Ms. Blair, says that our school is going to get rid of PE class because our test scores are so low. She also said that we are getting enough exercise after school and at recess, and that we don't need PE class. I am not very good at soccer and basketball, and so I am not signed up for after-school sports. PE class is one of the only times that I

Talking Points

For Kids

get to run around and have fun. I think it is important to have a time during school where we learn about exercise, just like we learn about math and science. Please don't get rid of our PE class!

Sincerely,
Gregory Diller





Written by
Alice Lee Folkins &
Andrew Funk

The Story of Knut

In 2006, twin polar cubs were born at a zoo in Germany. For unknown reasons, the cubs' mother couldn't take care of them. The zookeepers stepped in and took care of the cubs. But one cub died. The other cub they named him Knut. Zookeepers fed, bathed, played, and even slept next to him.

Visitors to the zoo fell in love with Knut. Because of Knut, people became interested in polar bears. They learned that ice and snow are slowly melting in the northern homes of the polar bears. This change makes it difficult for polar bears to survive. The interest in Knut led people to ask for laws to save wild polar bears.

When he was only four years old, Knut suddenly died. His unexpected death stunned people around the world. Doctors found that Knut had been sick for weeks. Many questions were asked about whether Knut would have lived longer in the wild, even if his mother had not cared for him. These are hard questions without easy answers. But many believe that Knut's story has helped many people care about wild polar bears and the places they live.

Photo: Polar Bear Knut at age 2. Zoo of Berlin, Germany. December, 2008. ©2008 by Aconcagua. Some rights reserved: GNU Free Documentation License and Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Talking
Points

For
Kids



For more information about Talking Points for Kids visit www.textproject.org
Prototype © Elfrieda H. Hiebert. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-cd/3.0/us/>).

iLit



Popular Foods in the U.S.

Foods People Love

Do you know who made the first ice cream cone? What about the first hot dog? These foods have been around for a long time. But someone had to invent them!

Input Answers



Popular Foods in the U.S.

Foods People Love

Do you know who made the first ice cream cone? What about the first hot dog? These foods have been around for a long time. But someone had to invent them!

Ice Cream Cones

Many people love ice cream cones, especially in the summer. Ice cream cones were first made at the World's Fair in 1904. A food vendor ran out of serving dishes for ice cream. He quickly grabbed a waffle. He rolled it up to form a cone. Then he scooped in ice cream. People loved waffles with ice cream. Soon, ice cream cones were sold everywhere.

Pizza

Another food that nearly everyone loves is pizza. The modern pizza was first made in Italy in the late 1880s. A cook wanted to please an Italian

Part 1: Comprehension Questions

1. What food was first used for the ice cream cone?

- ☐ A bun
- ☐ B flatbread
- ☒ C waffle
- ☐ D tortilla

Submit



United States, they began making pizza. Today, people all over the world make pizza with many different kinds of toppings.

Hot Dogs

Across the sea from Italy is Greece. Greece is where the hot dog got its start. Drawings from long ago show Greek people eating a food similar to the hot dog. However, people in Germany claim that they invented the hot dog in the late 1400s.

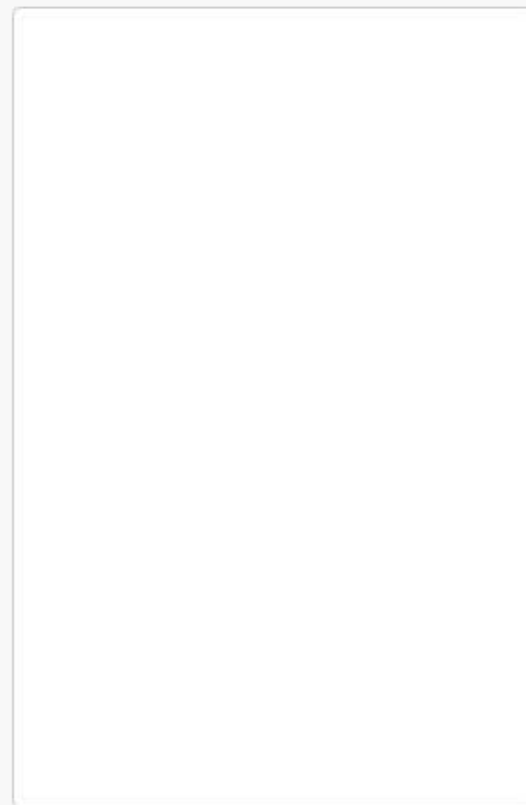
In the United States, many people first ate hot dogs at a Chicago fair in 1893. People liked this new food. It was tasty, easy to eat, and low in cost. That same year, hot dogs began to be served widely at ball games. Today, hot dogs are one of the most popular foods.

Tacos

The word *taco* started with Mexican silver miners in the 1700s. The miners rolled up gunpowder in pieces of paper. They put these tacos in holes in rock to blow out the ore.

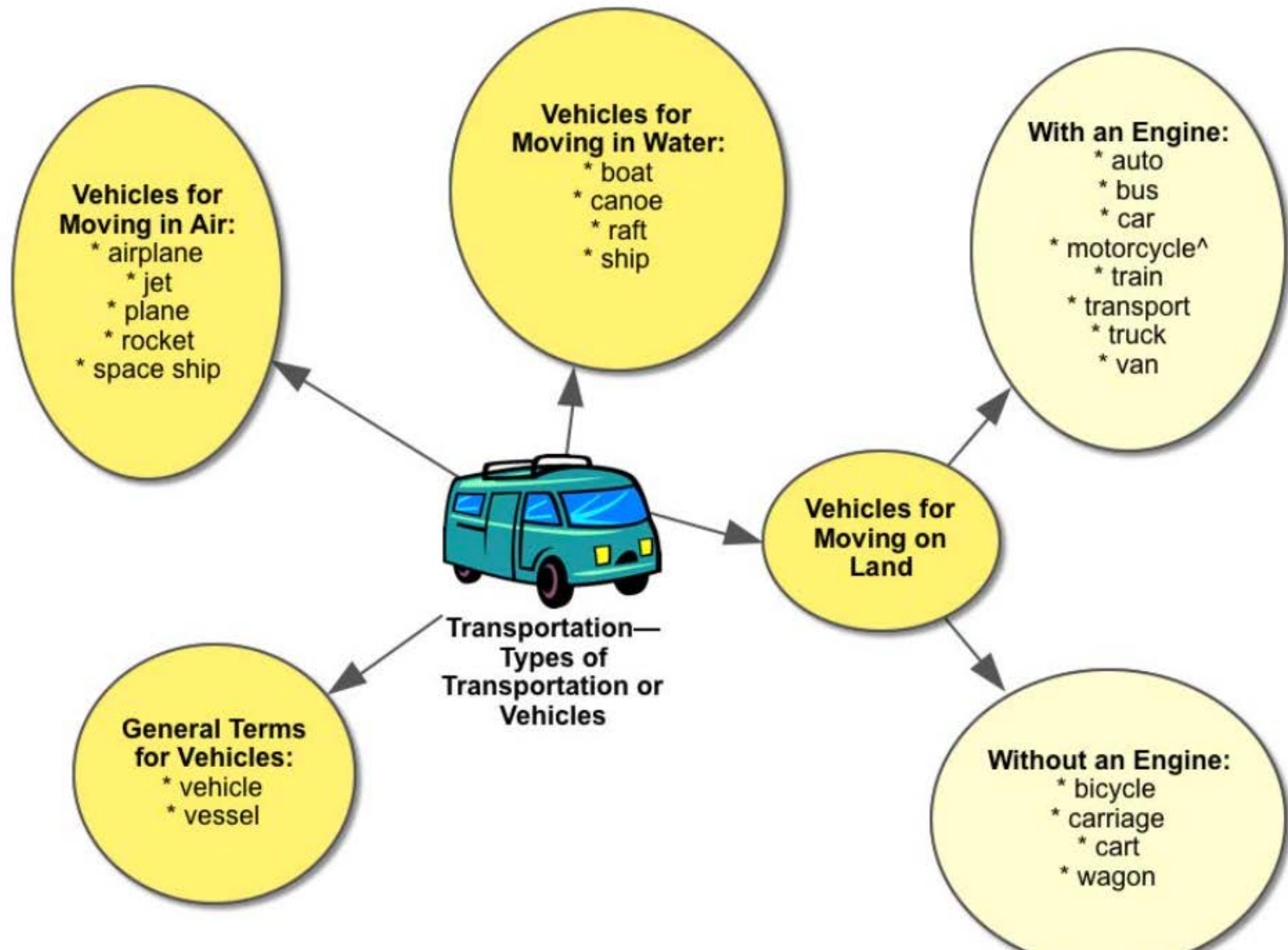
In Mexico in the 1800s, tacos were a low-cost food that people could buy on the street. A spoonful of meat and spicy sauce were rolled up in a corn tortilla. This food was easy to carry and eat.

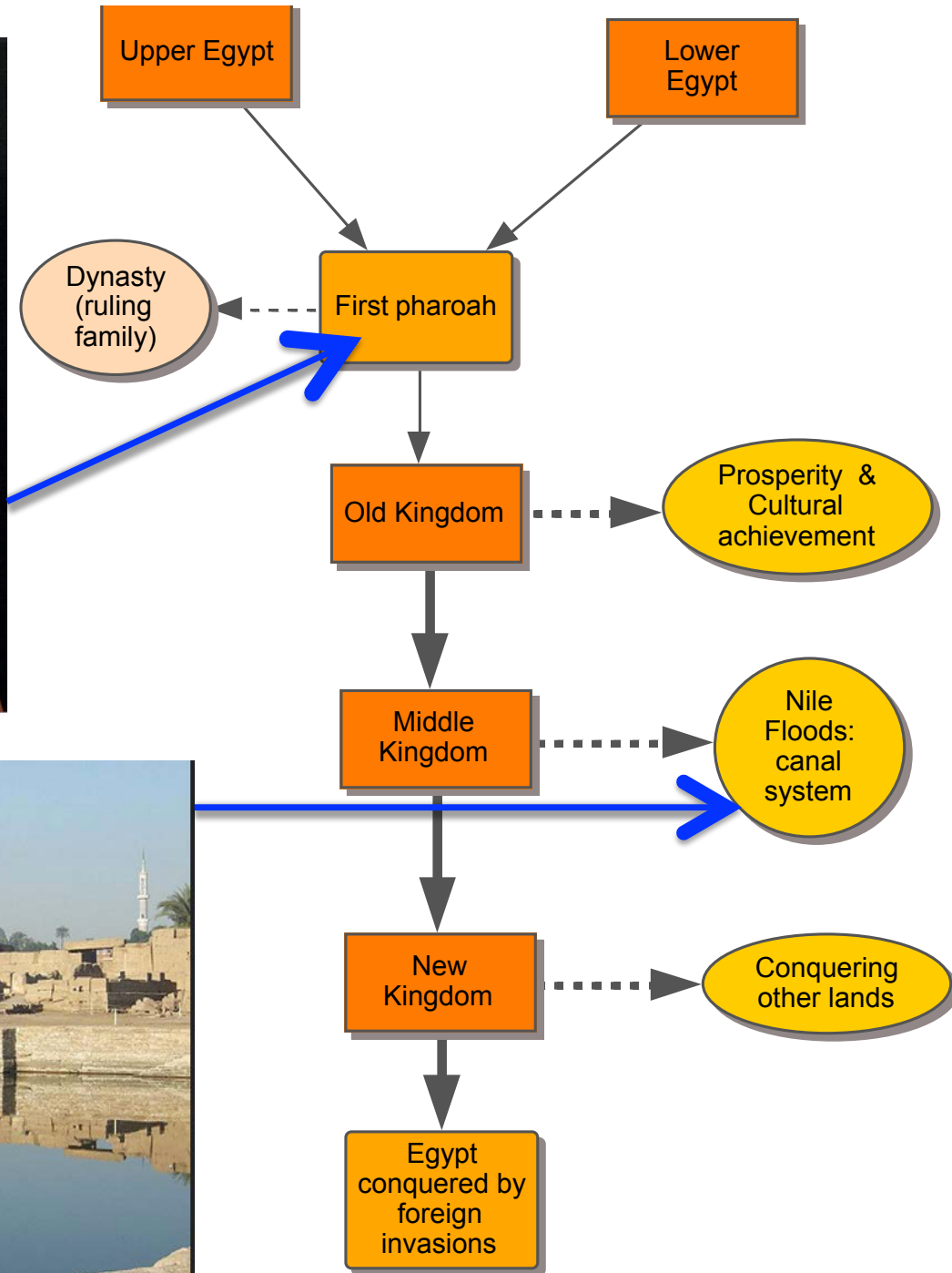
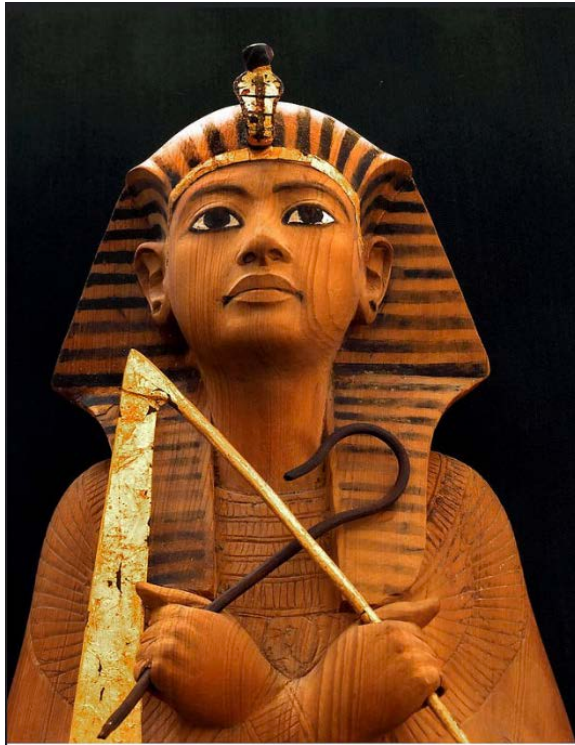
8. Reread the second paragraph in the section titled "Hot Dogs." Drag and drop the word that has the suffix *-ly*.

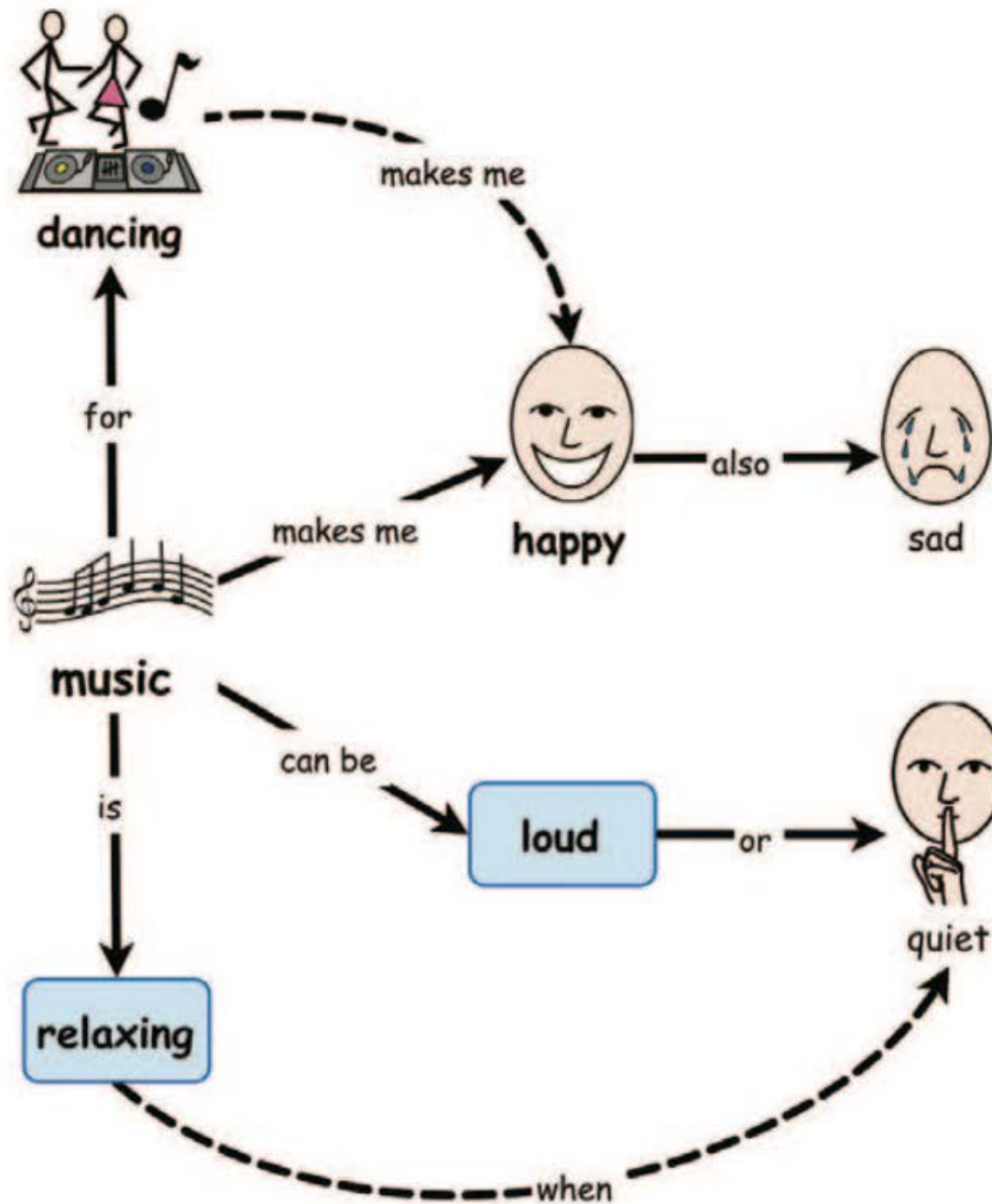


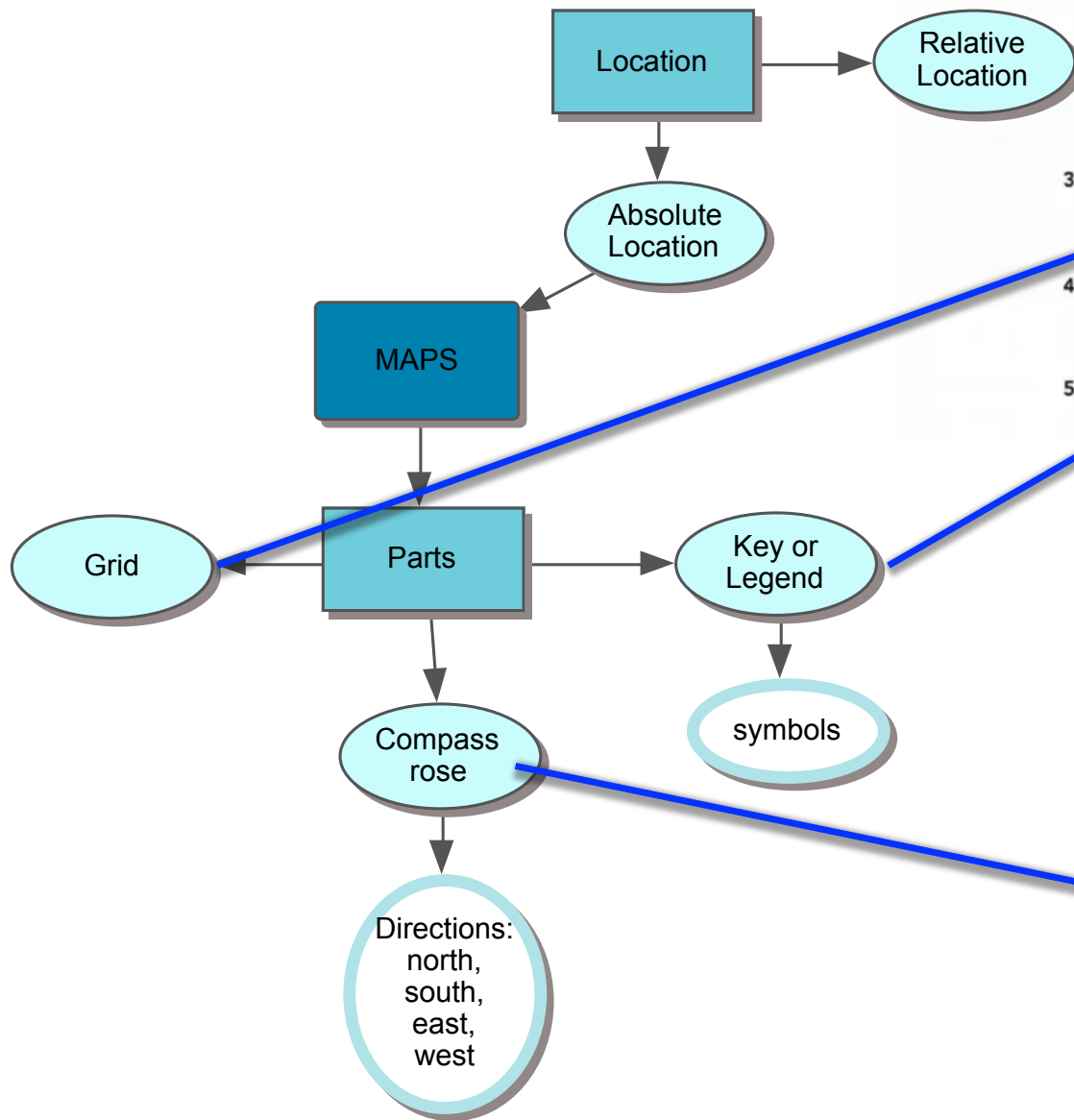
Submit

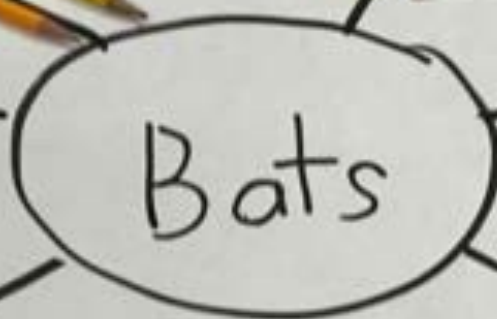
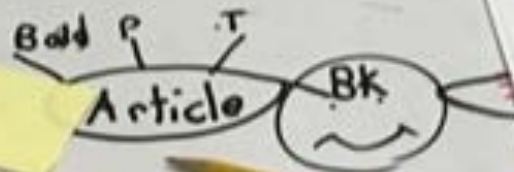
2. Document what has been learned











Bats



There are more than 1,000 kinds of bats. Like birds, bats have wings and can fly. However, bats are not birds. Bats have fur, not feathers. Also, baby bats drink milk from their mothers. They don't eat worms or seeds.

Bats have thin, light bones that help them fly. However, because their bones are thin and light, most bats cannot walk on land. Only vampire bats have legs that are strong enough to let them walk on land. In fact, vampire bats walk on their legs and their wings. Most bats have sharp claws that they use to grab onto a tree or a cave so they can hang upside down to rest. When bats rest, they look small. Bats look much bigger when they stretch their wings. Their wingspan, or the distance between the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, can be as much as five feet. That's probably taller than you are. Some bats, though, have wingspans that are only as big as your hand.

Most bats rest during the day and fly at night. Many

bats eat bugs. Some eat up to 1,000 bugs in one hour, or 10 bugs in one minute. Other bats eat fruit. Vampire bats feed on small amounts of blood from animals like pigs and birds.

Many bats have noses that tell how they look. Dog-faced bats look like dogs. Flying foxes, which are bats, look like foxes.

Other bats have noses that tell what they do. Fishing bats use their long legs and sharp claws to grab fish from the water. Tent-making bats build tents around themselves with leaves.

Bats cannot see well, but they can hear well. Bats make a high sound as they fly. The sound is so high that most people cannot hear it. These waves of sound bounce off walls, trees, and insects. They keep bats from flying into things. They also help bats find food and stay safe.



Bats



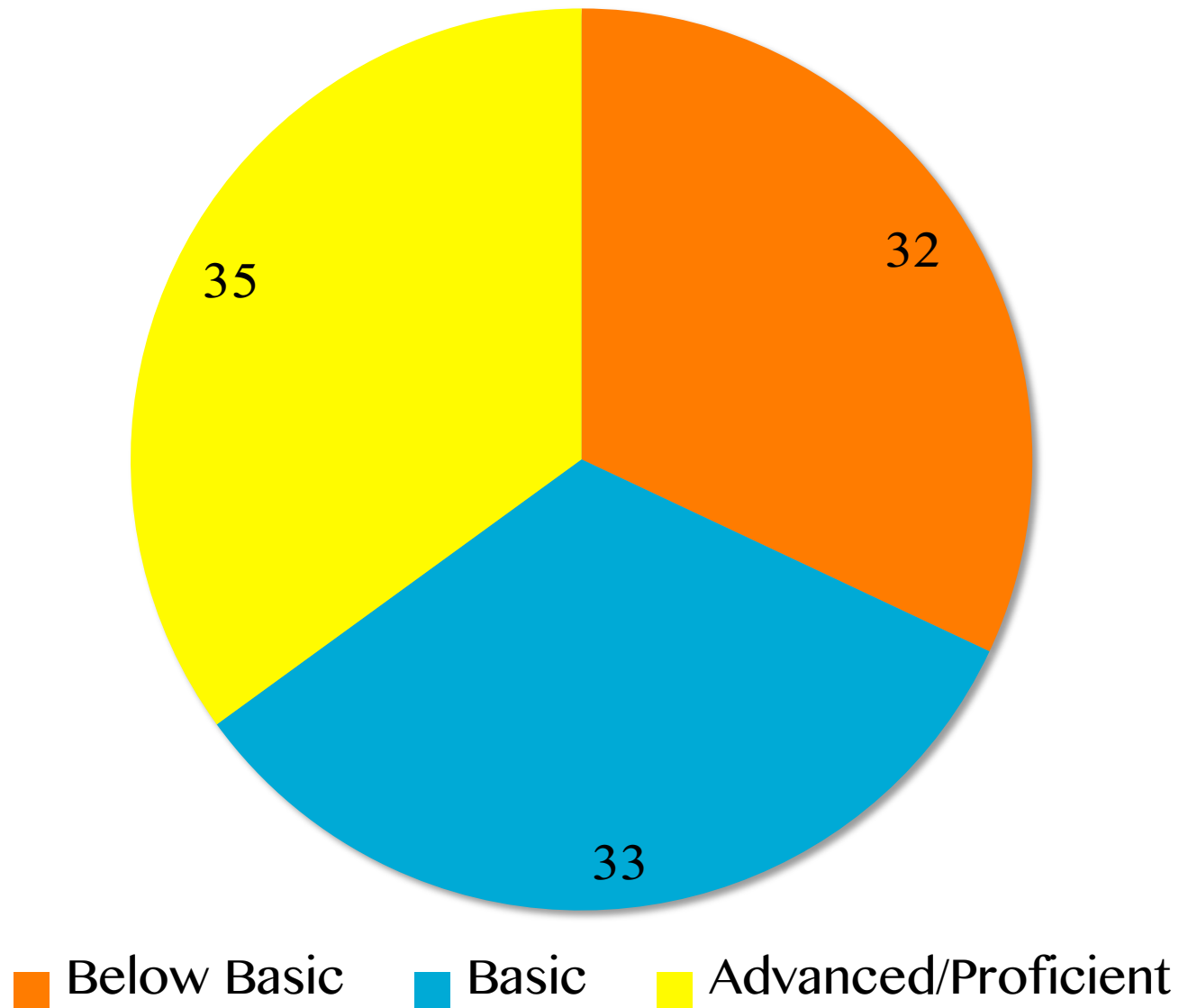
love their mothers. They don't eat worms or seeds. Bats have thin, light bones. However, because their bones are thin and light, most bats cannot walk on land. Only vampire bats have legs that are strong enough to let them walk on land. In fact, vampire bats walk on their legs and their wings. Most bats have sharp claws that they use to grab onto a tree or a cave so they can hang upside down to rest. When bats rest, they look small. Bats look much bigger when they stretch their wings. Their wingspan, or the distance between the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, can be as much as five feet. That's probably taller than you are. Some bats, though, have wingspans that are only as big as your hand.

Most bats rest during the day and fly at night. Many

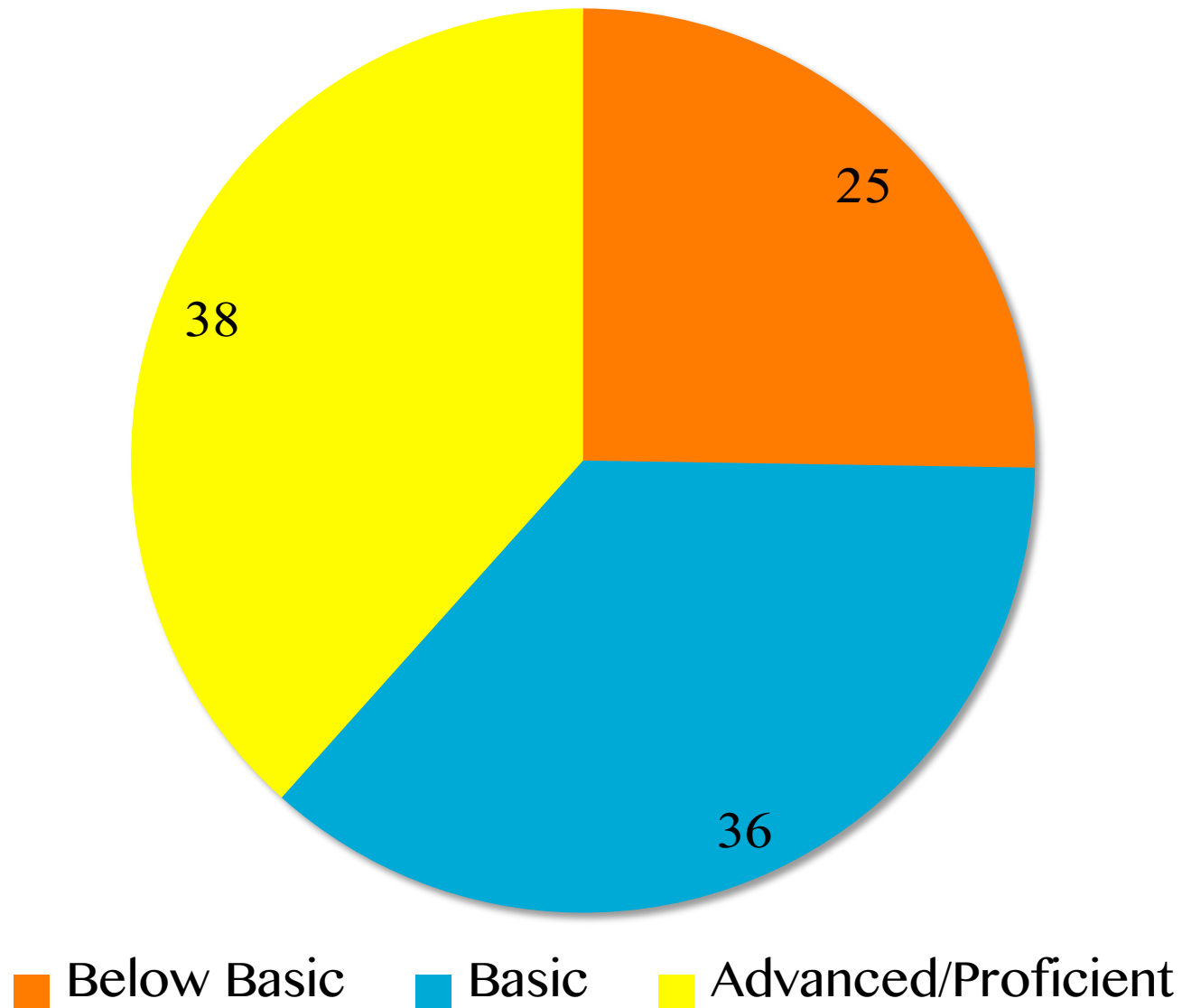
Why Stamina?



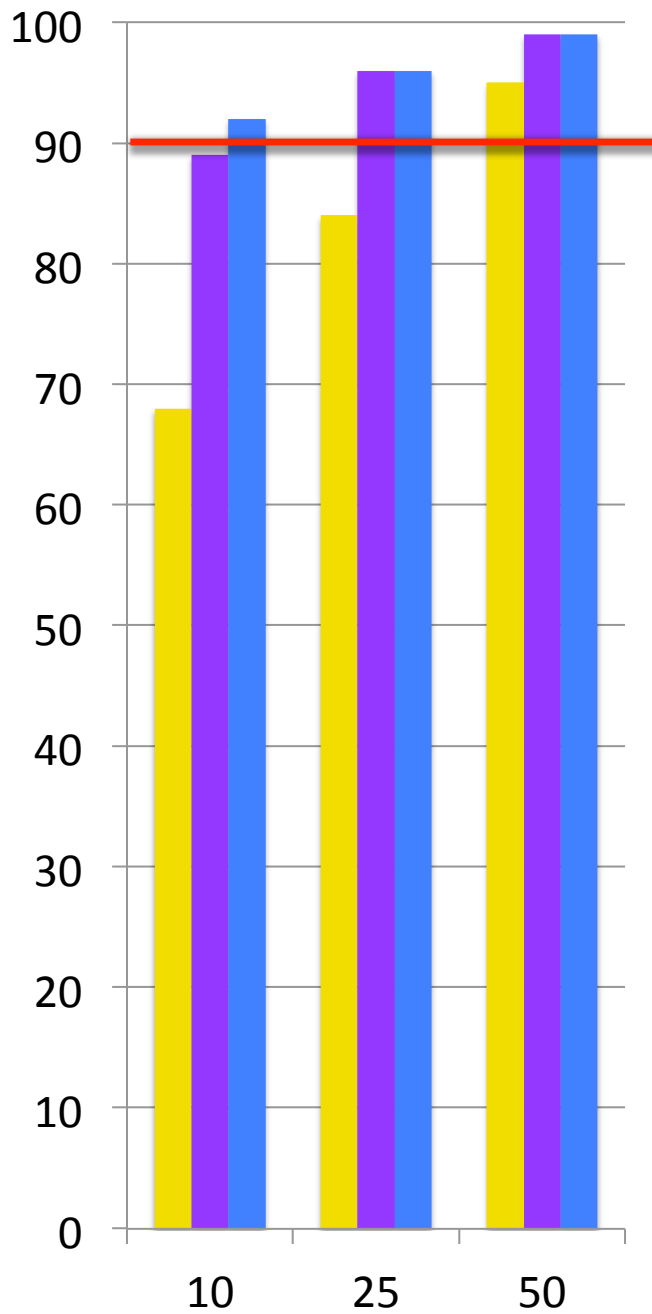
NAEP 2015 Grade 4 (Reading)



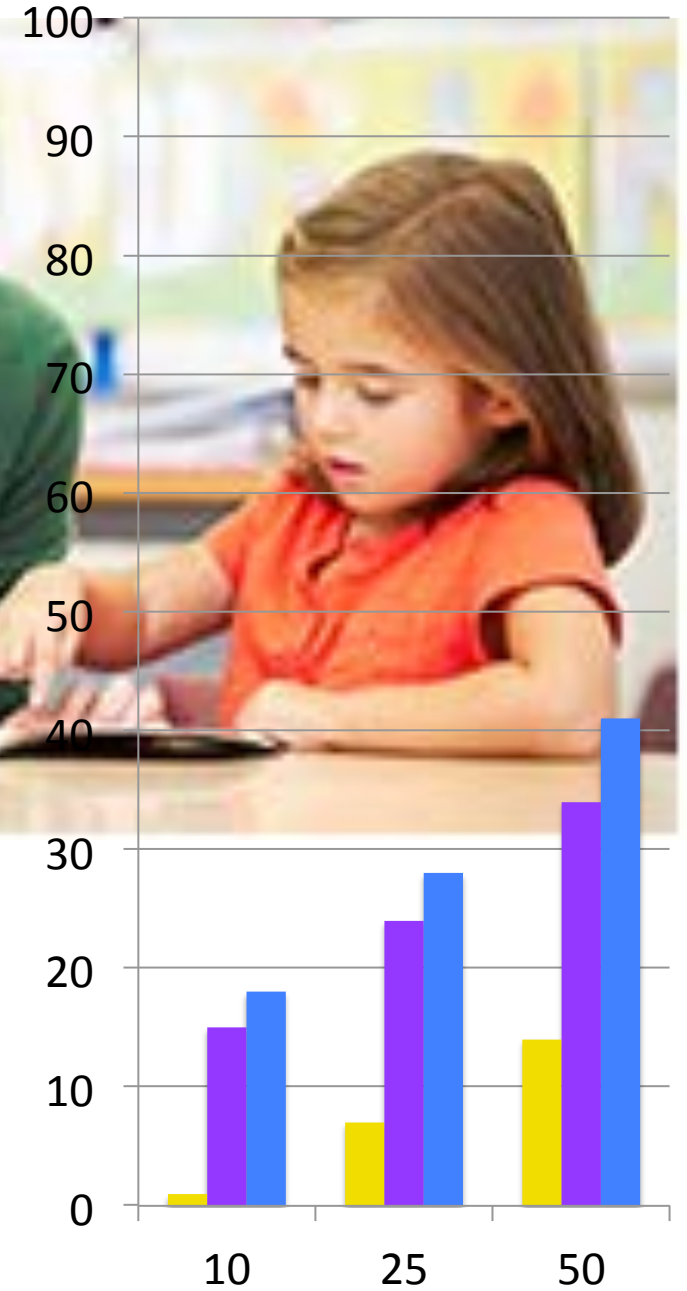
NAEP 2015 Grade 4 (Reading): Florida



WORD RECOGNITION ACCURACY



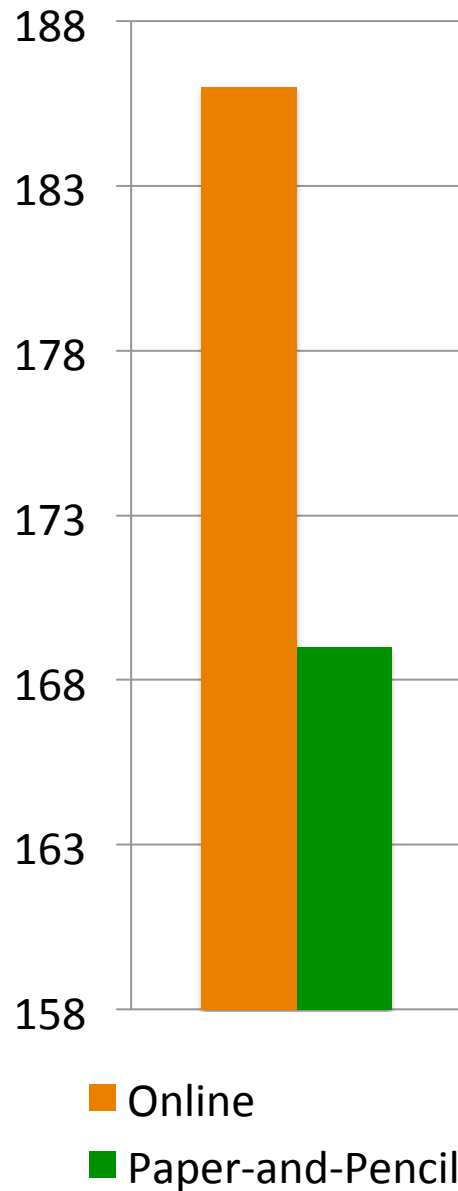
COMPREHENSION



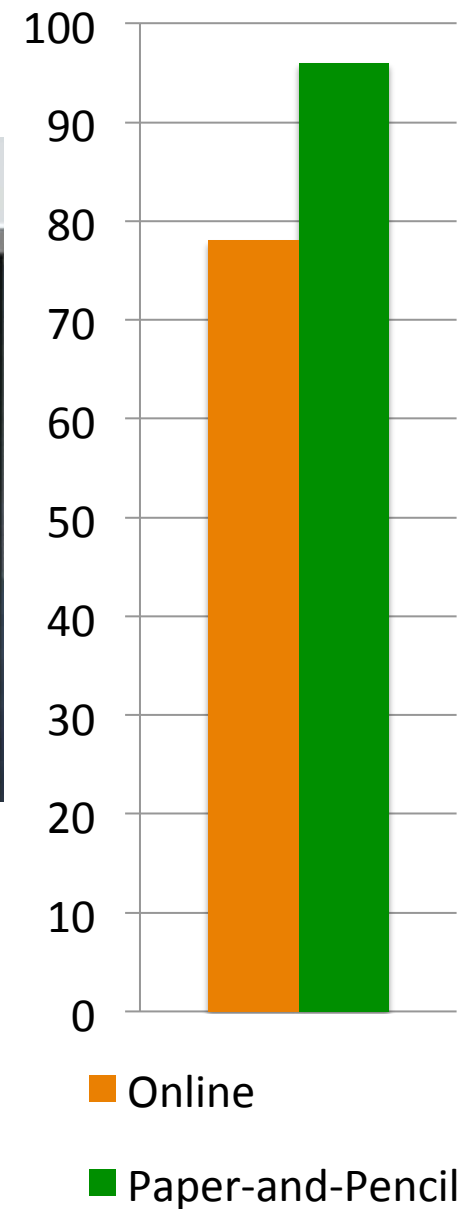
Gr1 Gr2 Gr3

Silent Reading (Low to Moderate Comprehenders in Gr. 6)

Words Per Minute



Comprehension



RAD: Supporting Stamina



Celebrating Independence

1. Chunk texts

Canada Day

On July 4th, the people of the United States celebrate their independence with parades and fireworks. On July 1st, the people of Canada²⁵ celebrate their own independence with parades and fireworks. On this day, called Canada Day, Canadians celebrate the day their national government was established.

Like the⁵⁰ United States, Canada began as a group of British colonies. Unlike the United States, however, Canada did not have a war to gain its independence⁷⁵ from Great Britain.

Instead, on July 1, 1867, the British North America Act gave the Canadian colonies the right to form their own national government.¹⁰⁰ Canada was the first country to gain its independence from Great Britain in this way. Since then, more than 50 other former colonies¹³⁴ have gained their independence from Great Britain in a similar way.



The Canadian people celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 1.

A large crowd of people in Mexico City celebrating Independence Day with fireworks. The image shows a massive gathering of people in a plaza, with many holding Mexican flags. In the background, the illuminated facade of a large, ornate building, likely a cathedral, is visible. The sky is filled with numerous bright, exploding fireworks, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Celebrating Independence

In Mexico City, the people celebrate their independence with fireworks.

Mexican Independence Day

Mexico's national celebration marks the beginning of its war for independence. During the night of September 15, 1810, Father Hidalgo rang the ²⁵ church bell in the village of Dolores. When the people of Dolores gathered in the plaza, Father Hidalgo made a speech that encouraged the people ⁵⁰ to fight for their independence. The speech ended with these words: "Mexicans, long live Mexico!" This call began Mexico's war of independence against Spain. The ⁷⁵ war lasted until 1821.

To celebrate their independence, Mexicans gather in plazas on the night of September 15th to hear the cry, "Mexicans, long live ¹⁰⁰ Mexico!" In Mexico City, the Mexican president gives this cry and rings the bell that Father Hidalgo rang in Dolores. People then spend the next day celebrating their independence with parades and fireworks. ¹³³

Chunk texts with purpose-setting question, giving students responsibility for the first read...and follow-up with “evidence verification” in the text (sometimes, called close reading)

2. Students Set Goals

Goal: Increase amount of reading each trimester of the school year.

Step 1: Get baseline data:

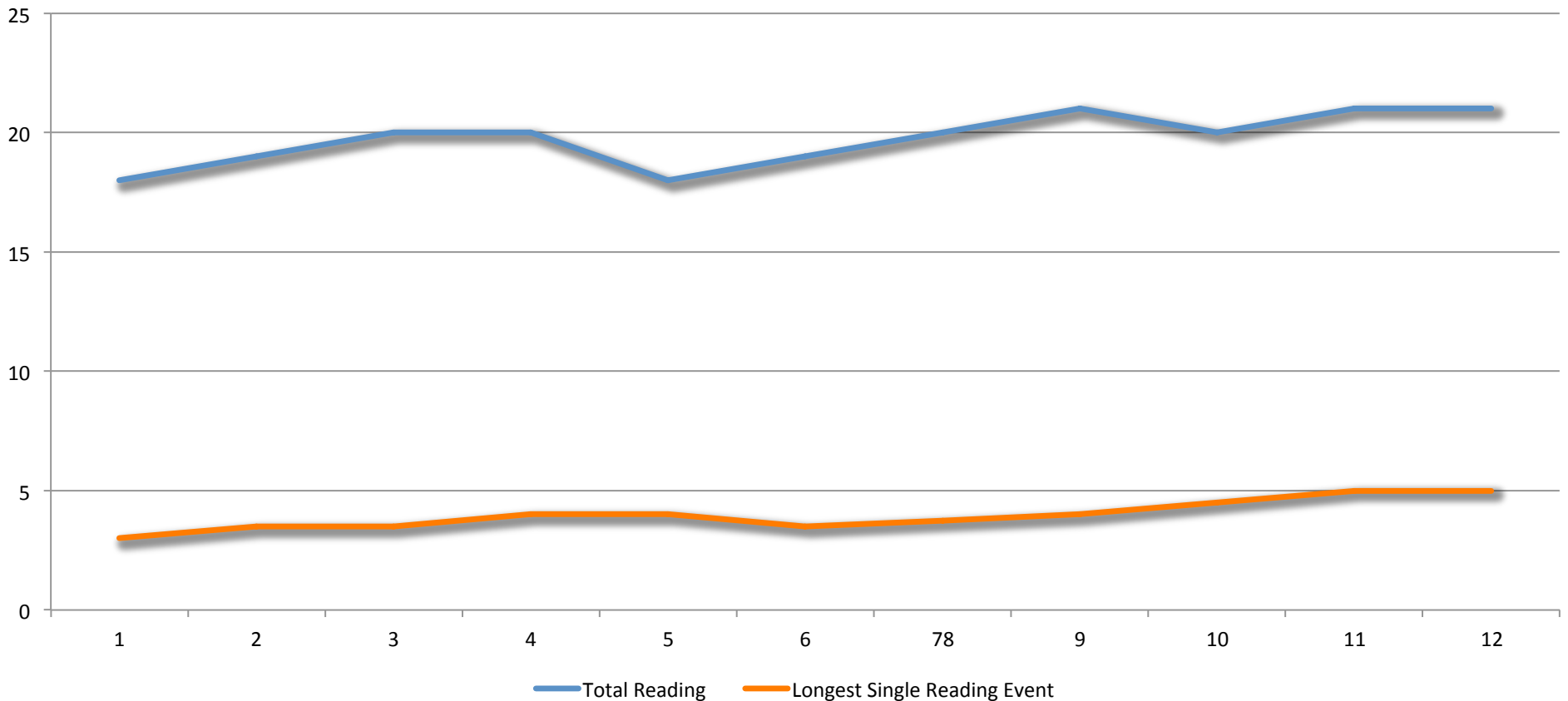
- Establish length of time spent reading
- Establish length of typical reading event

Step 2: Set the goal (students in charge in Grades 3+; students guided in Grades 2-)

Example: Goal for trimester: 22 min.
daily, with at least one event for 5 min.

Step 3: *Always* keep a record of what you've learned from reading

Illustration of Student Goal Setting:



Record of what I learned from reading:

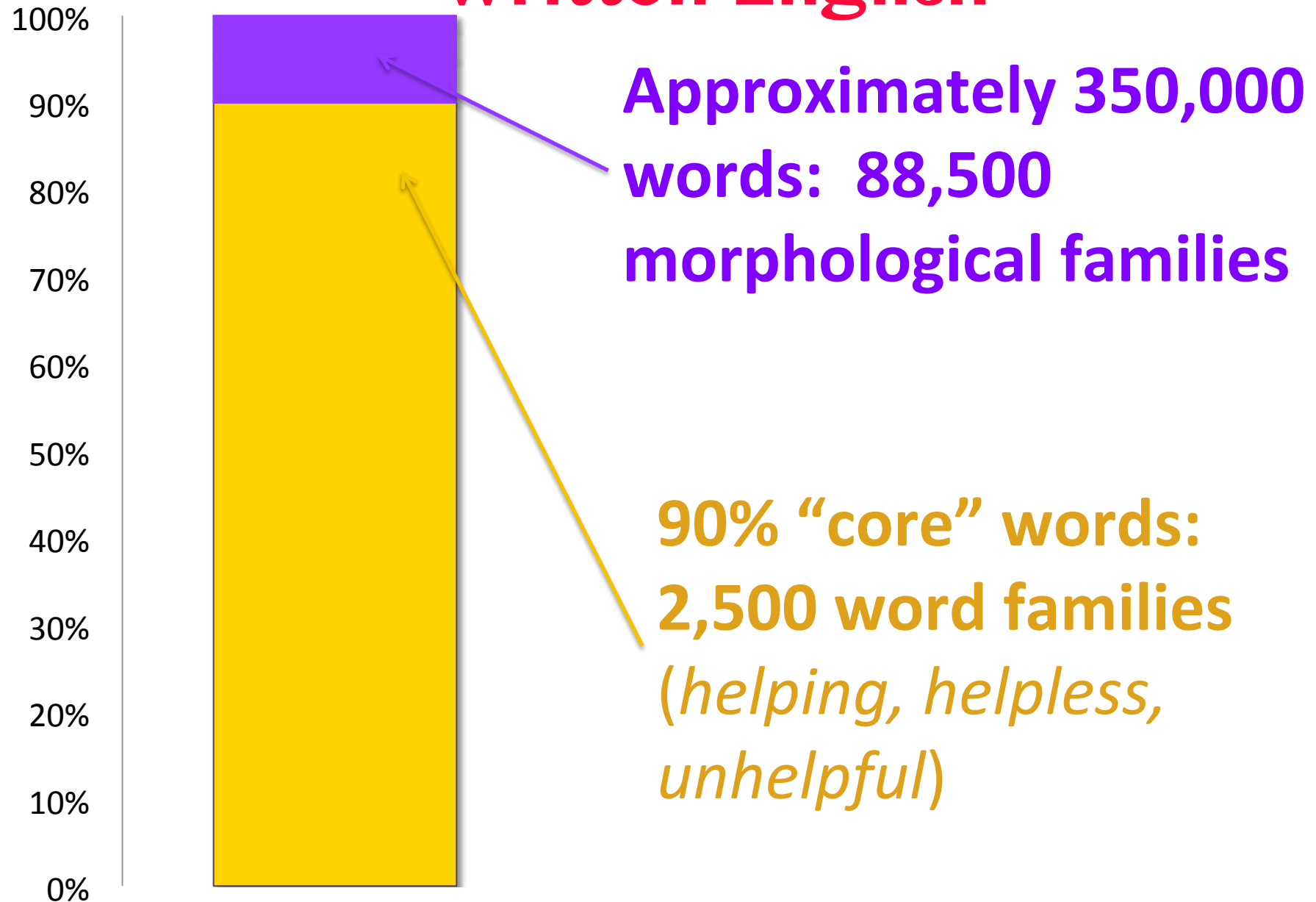
- Fibonacci patterns (I read *Blockhead; Patterns of Nature*):
- Musicians (*John's Secret Dreams; Lives of the Musicians*): Some people like John Lennon use music to deal with hard things in their lives. Often, musicians need to make many sacrifices to do what they do.

Why Vocabulary?

Merriam-
Webster's
Dictionary of
English
Usage

"One of the great books on language..."
—William Safire, THE NEW YORK TIMES

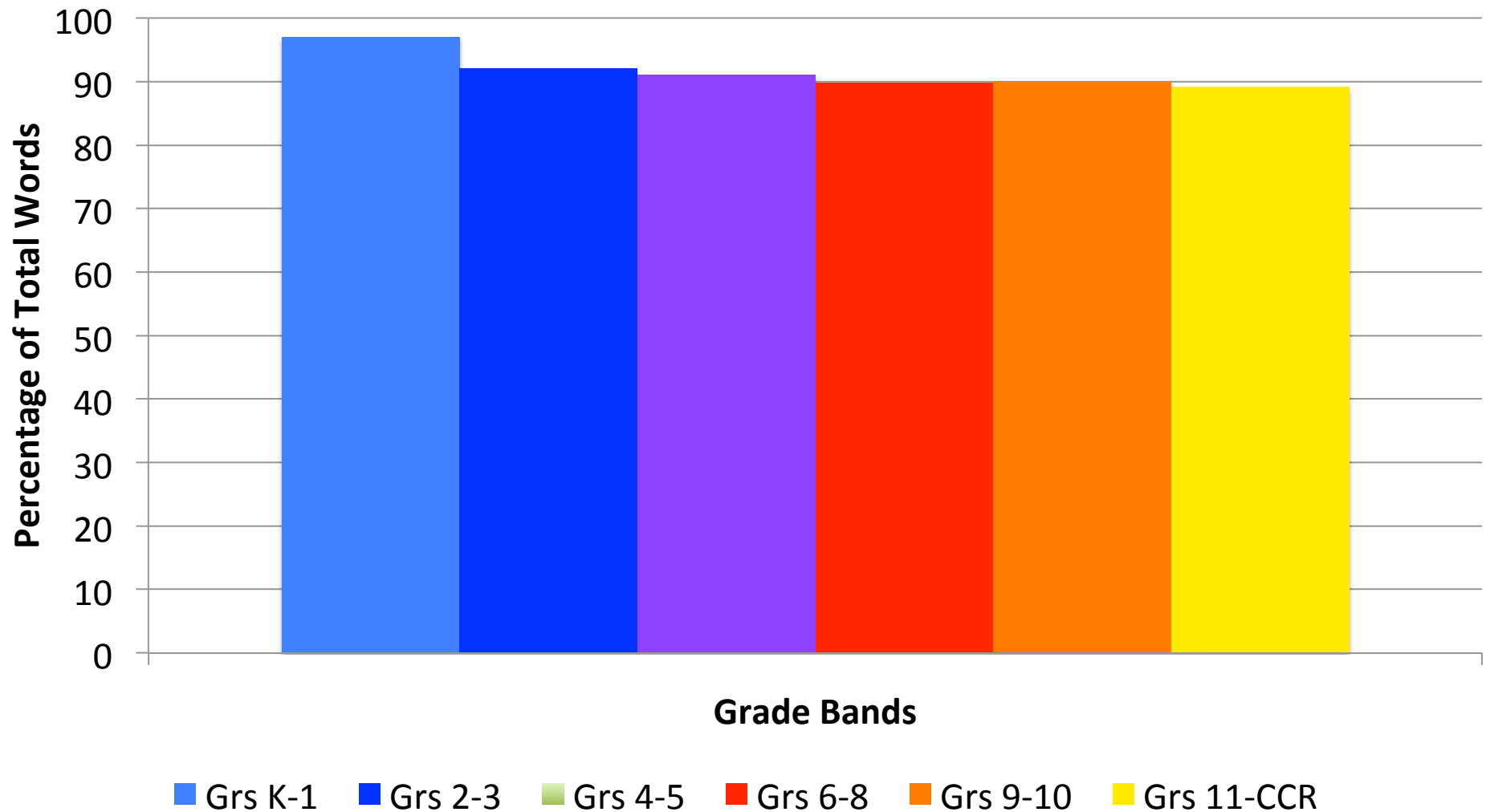
The Distribution of Words in Written English



Examples of the Words in the Core Vocabulary

	Prototypical words
1st 100	the, by, no, through, must
101-300	long, great, put, last, family
301-1,000	power, north, story, strong, answer
1,001-1,500	valley, imagine, motion, nearby, importance
1,501-2,000	character, responsible, design, presence, trail
2001-2,500	mixture, discovery, civilization, attitude, assume

2,500 Core Families & Complex Texts



The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of wooden blocks and a board game. The blocks are light-colored and have numbers on them. The board game has a grid of colored squares (blue, green, red) and some text on them. The text "RAD: Supporting Vocabulary" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, red font.

RAD: Supporting Vocabulary

Talking
Points

For
Teachers

1. Talk about 90-10 pattern

Why?

- Develop the understanding that every complex text has new, challenging vocabulary. Vocabulary instruction gives students the means for figuring out new words in text, rather than instruction in every single word that might appear in new texts.

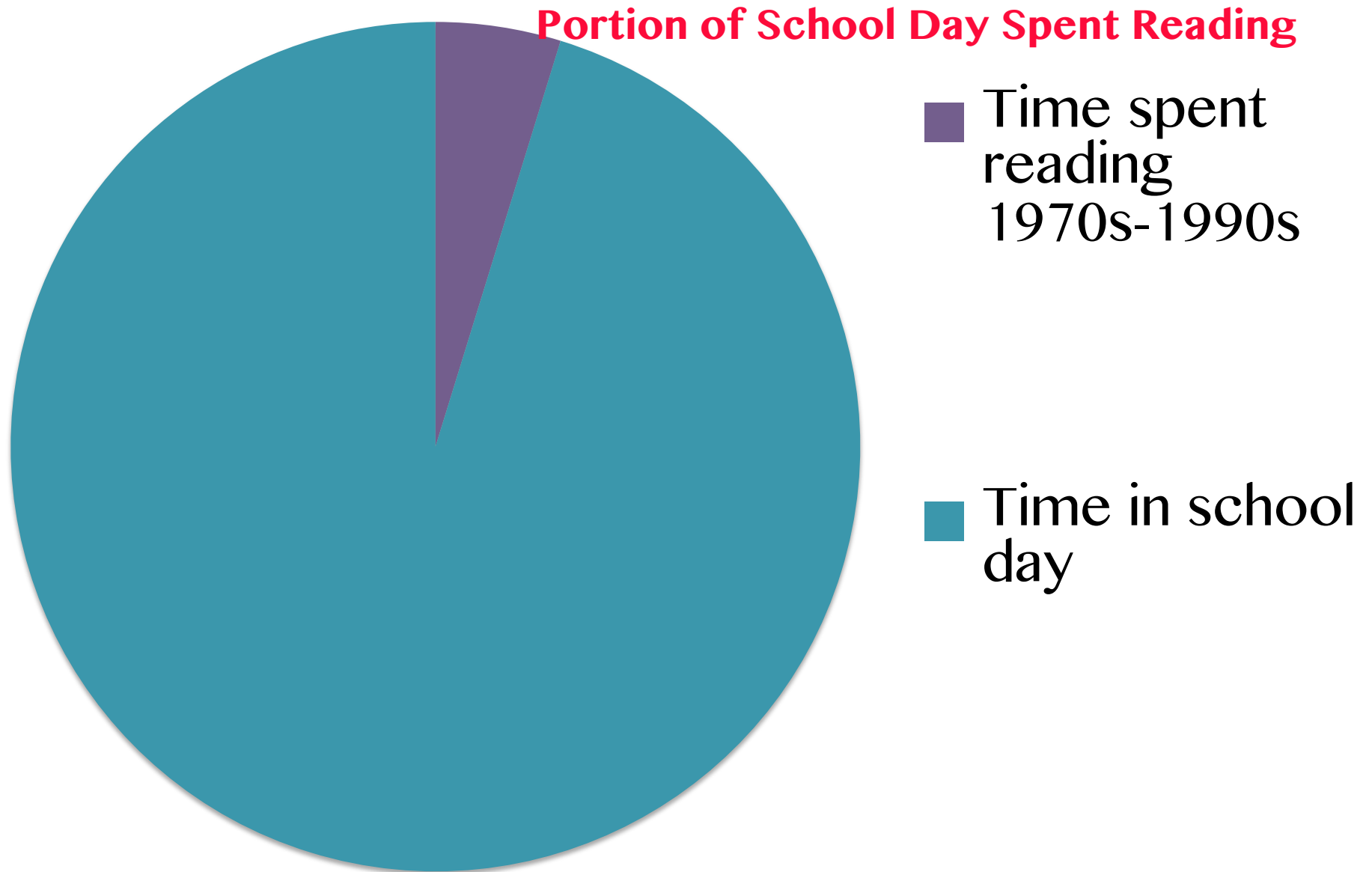
When?

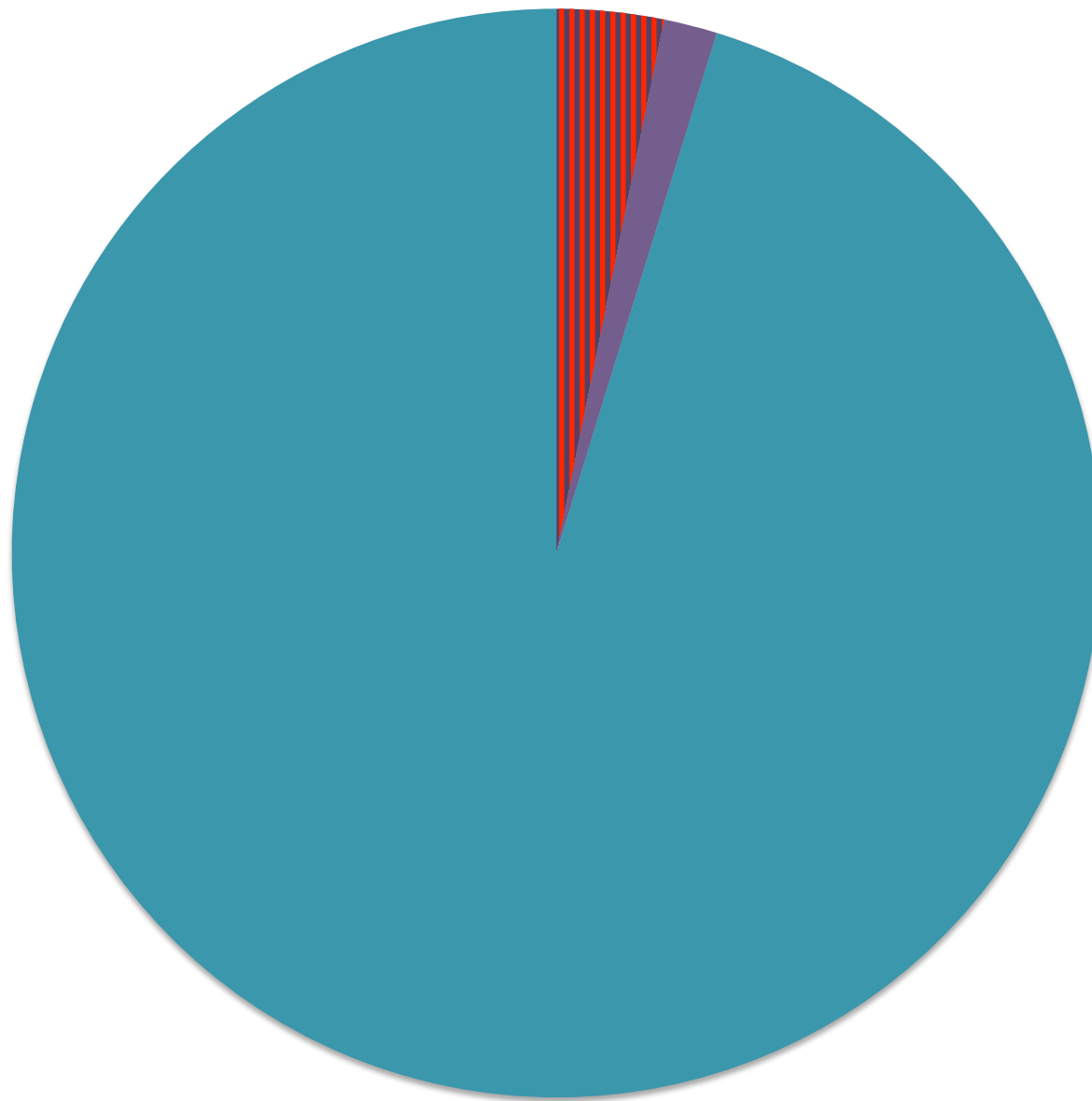
- Talks about the vocabulary of new texts need to occur across a school year (with extra doses prior to assessment periods).

Illustration of making the task visible and what it is that students can do:

When 10-year old **Amelia** Mary **Earhart** saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed. "It was a thing of **rusty** wire and wood and looked not at all interesting," she said. It wasn't until **Earhart** attended a **stunt** flying **exhibition**, almost a decade later, that she became seriously interested in **aviation**.

2. Increase Time Spent Reading

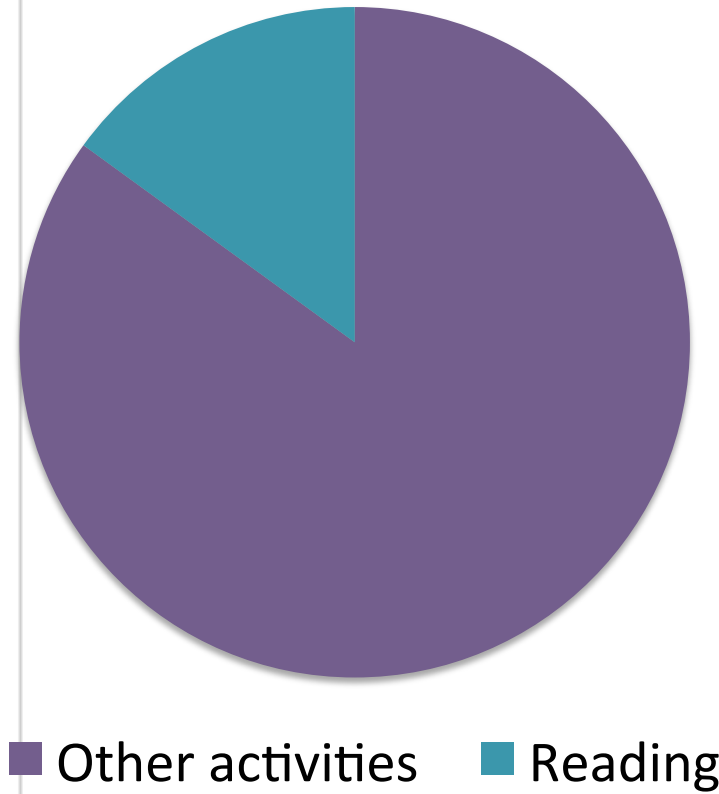




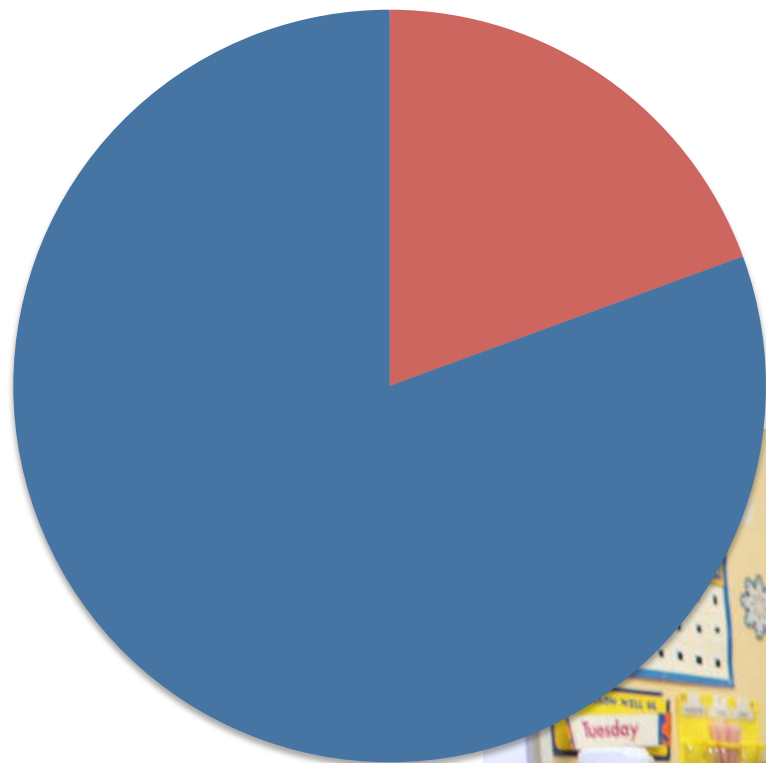
 Time spent
reading 2000

 Time spent
reading
1970s-1990s

 Time in scho
day



Swanson, Wanzek, McCulley, Stillman-Spisask, Vaughn Simmons, Fogarty, & Hairrell, 2015).

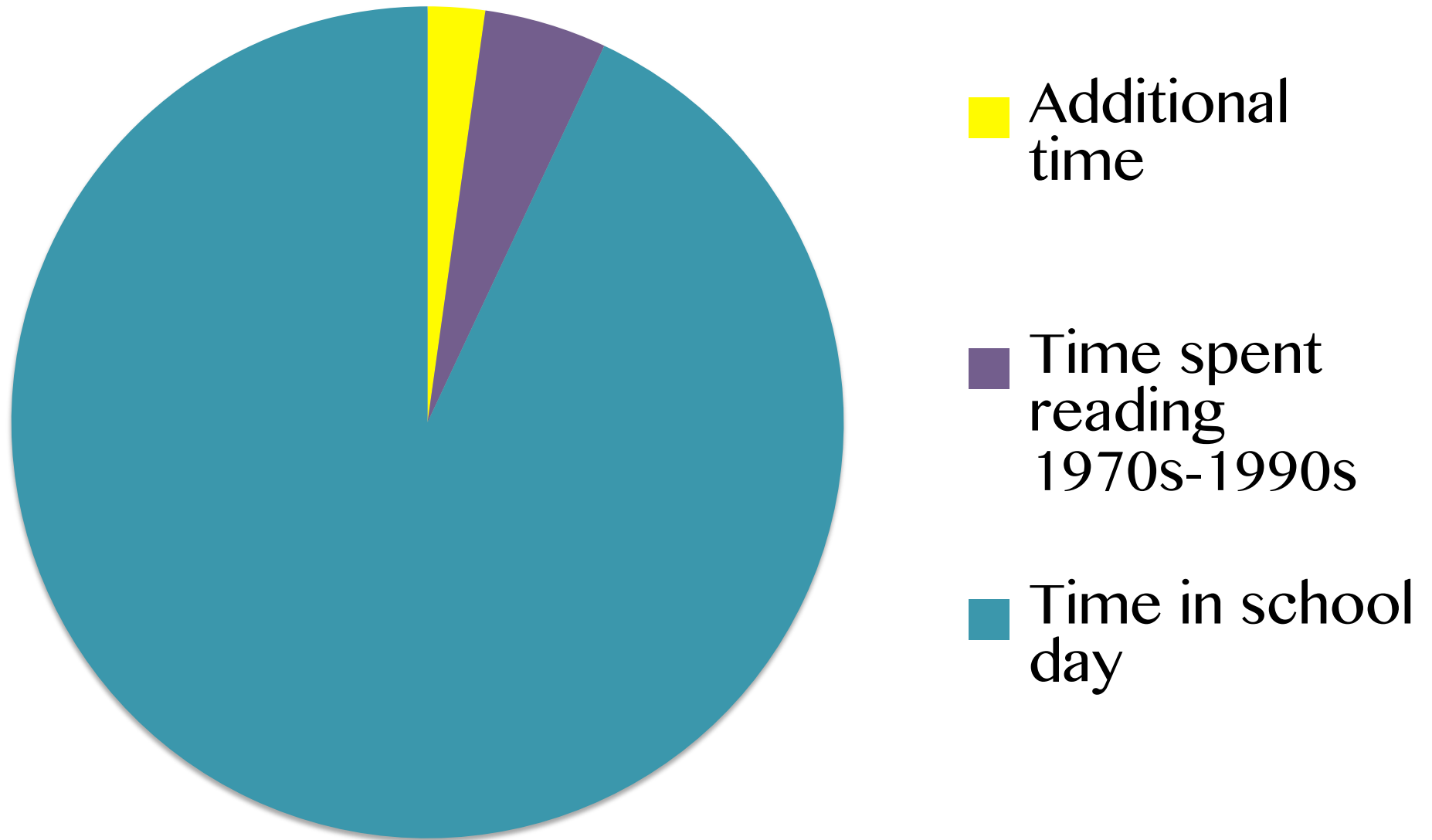


■ Silent Reading

■ Listening,
Following Along to
Oral Reading



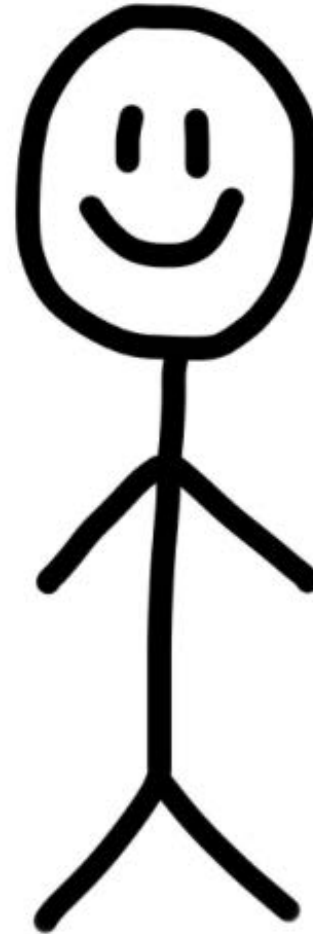
Adding 7 minutes a day



Which texts to use



**Beware of
easy
solutions**



Lexile-leveled texts

Koala forest homes are being cleared to make room for cattle pasture

By Joshua Robertson, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff
08.23.16

Grade Level **5**
Word Count **619**



A koala feeds on eucalyptus leaves in its new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo, May 20, 2015, in Singapore. Photo: AP/Wong Maye-E

MAX

1210L

1040L

850L

620L

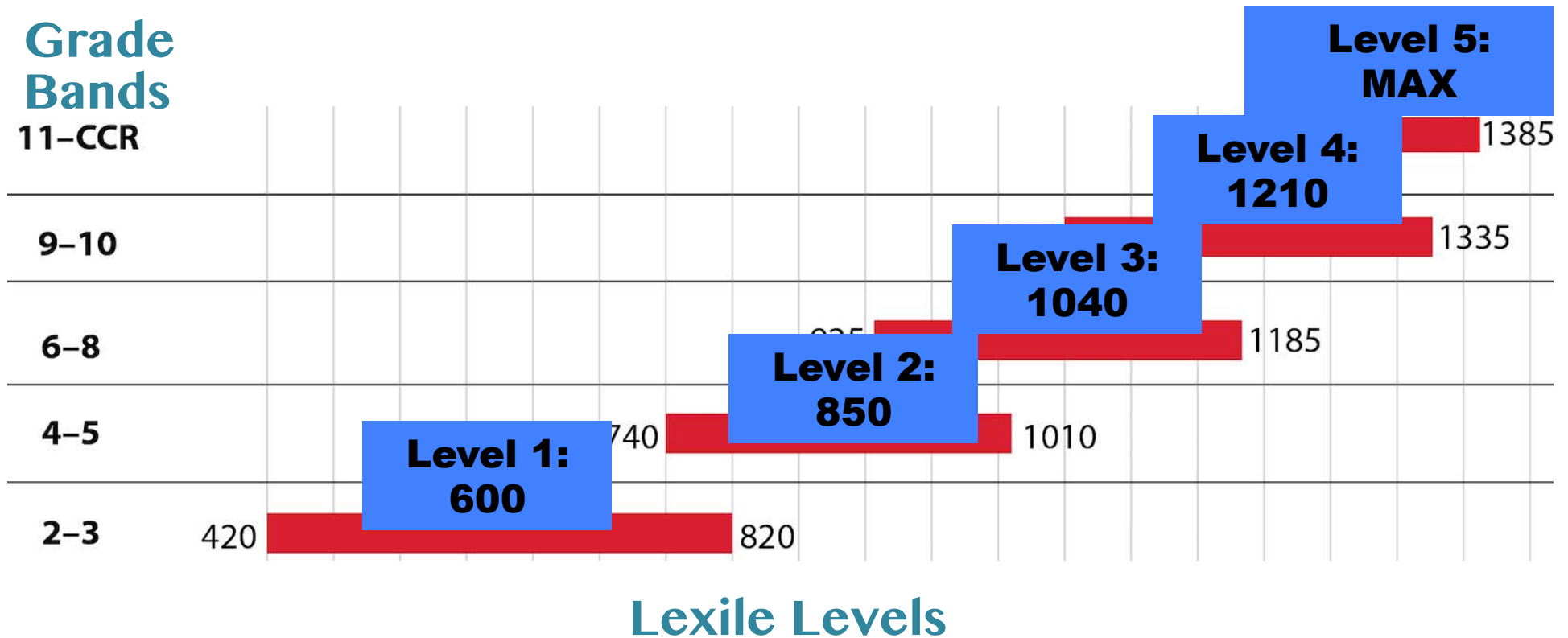


WRITE



QUIZ

Common Core State Standard's Staircase and Leveled Texts for a Topic



Endangered koalas affected by forest clearing in Queensland

By Joshua Robertson, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff
08.23.16

Grade Level **7**
Word Count **682**



A koala feeds on eucalyptus leaves in its new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo, May 20, 2015, in Singapore. Photo: AP/Wong Maye-E

In Queensland, Australia, the laws over cutting down trees were made less strict. As a result, new maps show that about 325 square miles of important koala forests have been destroyed. Two years ago, the koala, Australia's national icon, was listed as endangered.

The koala's homeland made up about 14 percent of all land cleared between 2013 and 2015. This is alarming, according to the conservationist groups the World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation.

Conservationist Groups Are Shocked

Deborah Tabart runs the Australian Koala Foundation. She said that the loss of that much land was "shocking given the recent statement that koalas are functionally extinct in various parts of Queensland."

Tabart asked how this could have been allowed when the koala was listed as endangered by the government in 2012. She thinks the federal government should have voted on the land clearing, instead of being passed quickly by the state government in Queensland.

World Wildlife Fund scientist Martin Taylor said they need to stop destroying the koala's home. Otherwise, there is no hope of saving Queensland's koalas.

Bill To Be Discussed By Parliament

A Queensland government bill will be discussed by parliament very soon. The bill would restore the controls on land clearing that were undone by the former Liberal National government. The Liberal National Party is the right-wing party in Queensland.

The government argues that land clearing reforms have been very important. They stopped pollution from running off into the Great Barrier Reef. The change convinced the international organization UNESCO to keep the natural wonder off its "in danger" list last year.

The proposed reforms have provoked strong opposition from the rural lobby AgForce. However, AgForce is not a political party, but a group in Queensland that attempts to persuade officials to make and vote for laws that benefit farmers. Other political parties oppose the bill as well. They include the Liberal National Party and two representatives from the smaller Katter Party. They are expected to vote against the bill.

Peter Wellington is an independent member of parliament, meaning he does not belong to any major Australian political party. His vote might decide whether the bill passes or not. Wellington was supposed to meet Greenpeace representatives before the parliamentary meeting began to accept a petition in favor of restoring controls against clearing. Almost 24,000 Queenslanders have signed the petition.

Earlier, about 200 people rallied outside parliament in favor of the laws.

Landowners Should Be Held Accountable

The Queensland law society has condemned part of the bill. The bill would not require landowners to provide proof that they did not unlawfully clear land. The current Queensland state government thinks this lets landowners off too lightly.

Last week, the government's environment department stopped clearing on a north Queensland property. They wanted to study how the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act has affected the Great Barrier Reef. The act was passed to protect the country's plants and animals.

One Queensland senator, Ian MacDonald, raised concerns about the federal government. He does not want it interfering in permits already granted by the state government.

Koala Homeland Being Cleared For Cattle Pasture

The mapping of the clearing of koala homeland is the result of joint work by the World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation. They compared state government surveys showing land use with the Australian Koala Foundation's koala population maps. The maps show that 91 percent of clearing was for cattle pasture.

About 180 square miles were cleared between 2014 and 2015, which is up from the 140 square miles cleared the year before.

The single largest amount of clearing took place in western Queensland. At 45 square miles, it was nearly double the amount cleared in the next-highest local government area.

There was also significant clearing of koala homeland in other rural areas. Almost all of the areas lie west of the Great Dividing Range, Australia's largest mountain range.

Clearing forests in Queensland has more than tripled since 2010. Between 2009 and 2010, 300 square miles were cleared. Between 2014 and 2015, 1,140 square miles of forests were cut down.

MAX

1200L

1030L

870L

600L



WRITE



QUIZ

Many forests where koalas live are being cut down

By Joshua Robertson, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff
08.23.16

Grade Level **3**
Word Count **299**



A koala feeds on eucalyptus leaves in its new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo, May 20, 2015, in Singapore. Photo: AP/Wong Maye-E

In Queensland, Australia, the government loosened some of its rules about cutting down trees. Many of the cleared forests were home to koalas. The koala has almost died out in Queensland.

Martin Taylor is a scientist. He said the koala's home forests need to be protected. If not, the nation's koalas cannot be saved.

Laws To Stop Cutting Down Trees

The Queensland parliament might pass a law to stop cutting down forests. Then it will not be so easy for people to chop down trees. In Australia, parliament makes the laws.

The government wants to stop too many people from cutting down trees. The forests help to protect the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is home to some of the world's most beautiful fish. Many people visit the reef. The government wants them to keep visiting.

Some people do not want the law to pass. They work for farmers who want the land for cattle. They will vote against it.

Many people in Queensland do want the new law. Almost 24,000 Queensland citizens signed a letter. The letter says the new law is needed. About 200 people stood outside parliament. They wanted to show support for the law.

Some people think the rules are not strong enough. Landowners will not have to show proof that they did not cut down forests. Some people think this lets them get away with it.

Lots Of Koala Homeland Is Gone

Many forests were cut down in the country. Almost all were west of the Great Dividing Range. The Great Dividing Range is Australia's largest mountain.

The World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation are working together to save the koala. They showed how much koala homeland has been lost. Much more land is being cleared now than just five years ago.

MAX

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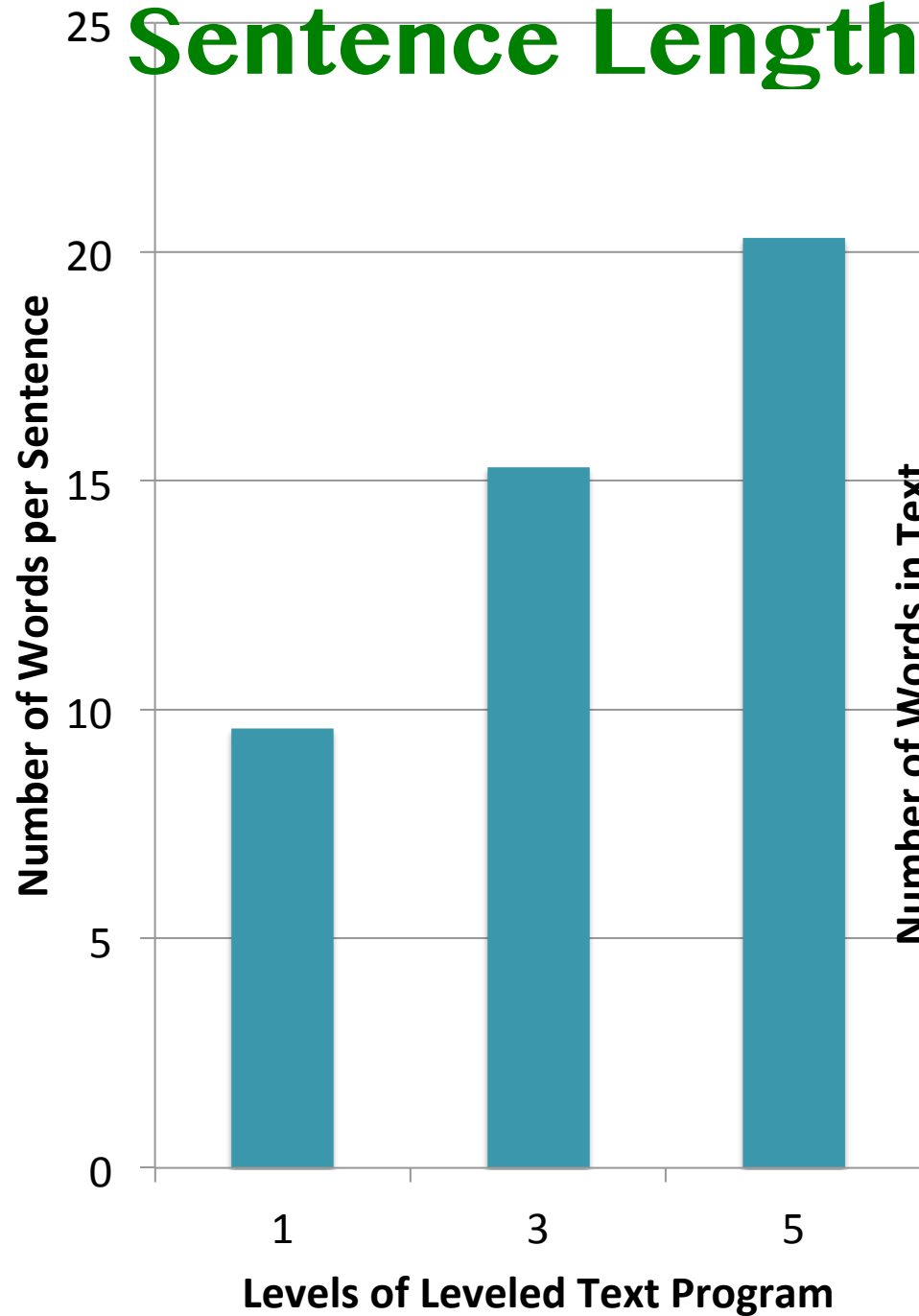


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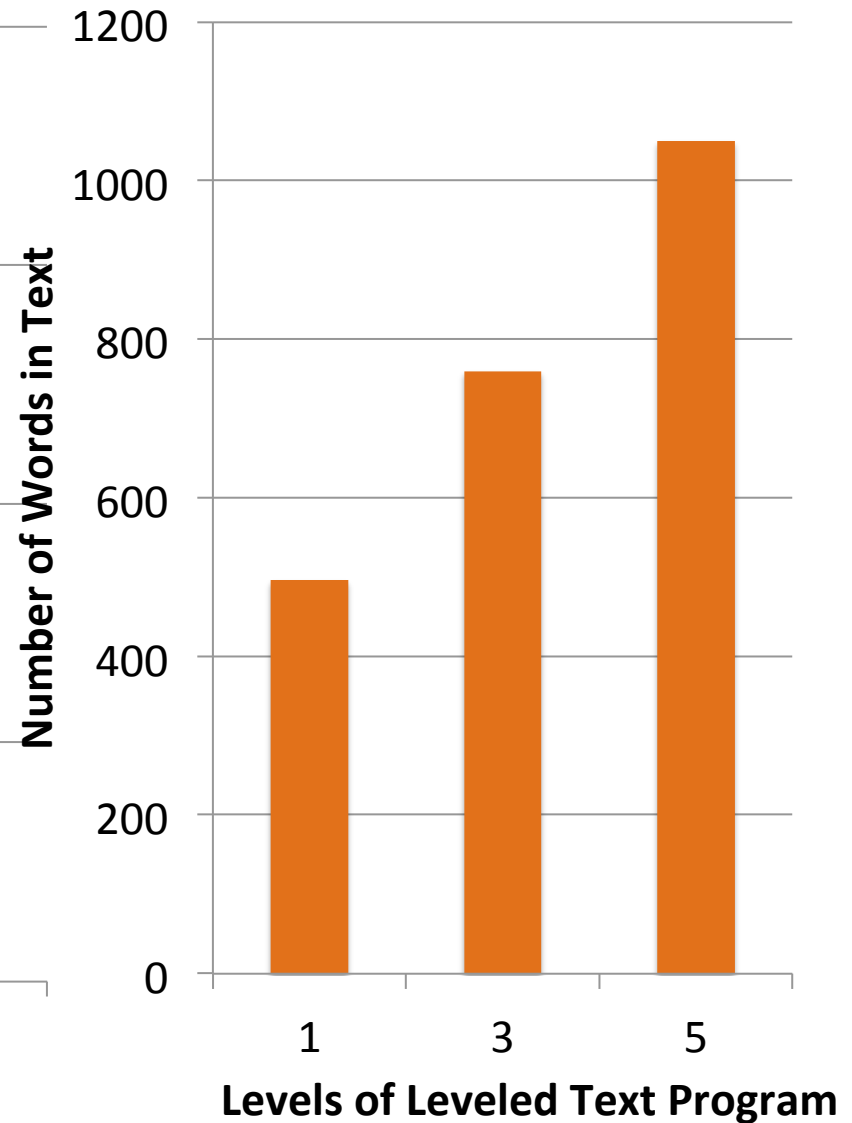


QUIZ

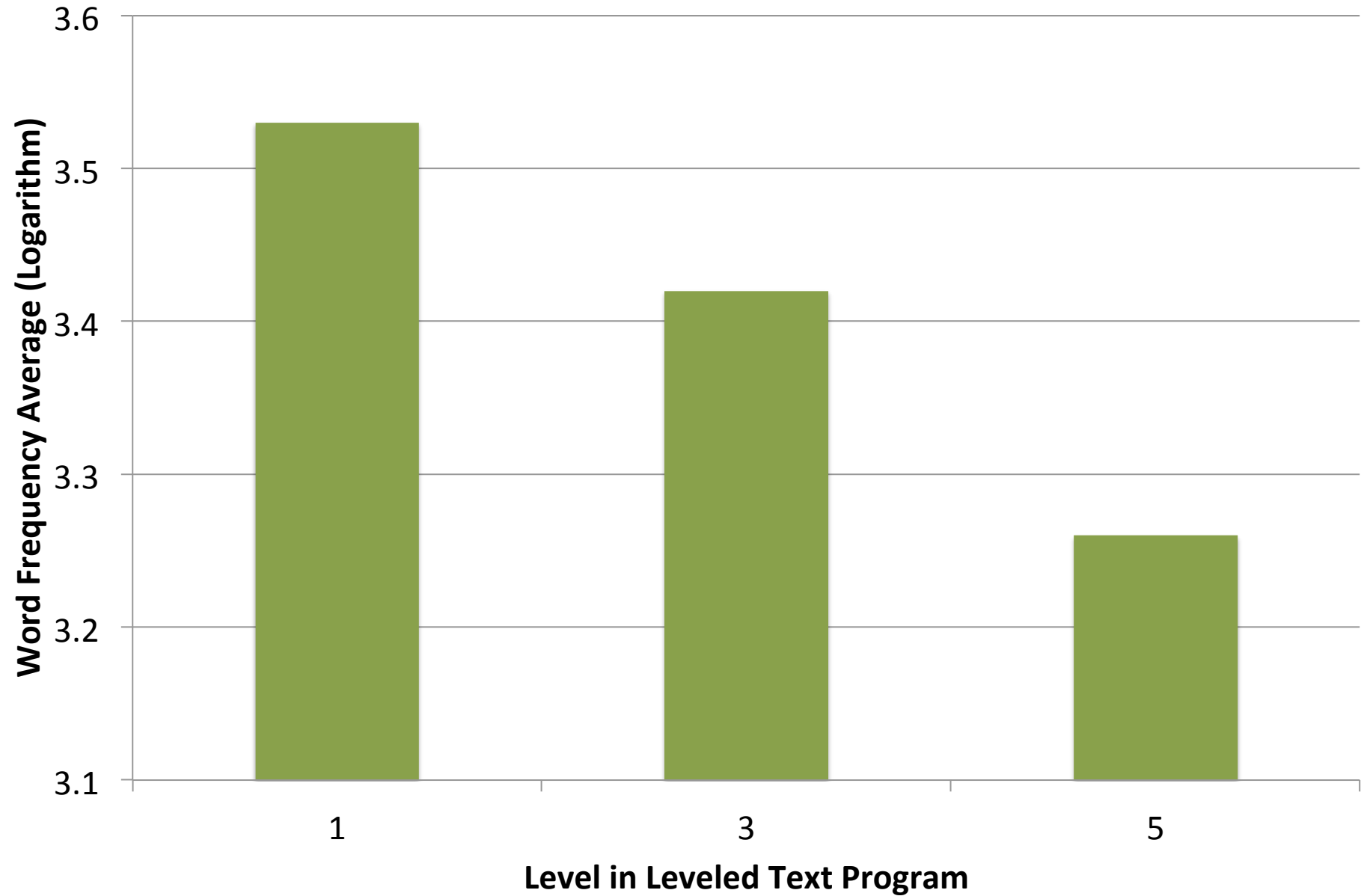
Sentence Length



#Words



Word Frequency



2 texts with Word Freq. Mean of 3.21

Mack had a hat.

Mack had a **sack**.

Mack sat in the **sack**.

Tack sat.

Tack had a hat.

Tack had a **sack**.

Tack sat on the hat.

Tack ran.

Mack ran.

Can **Mack nab Tack**?

Among the physical characteristics of these **nonlinear condensation polymerizations**, the occurrence of a sharp gel point is of foremost significance. At the gel point, which occurs at a well defined stage in the course of the **polymerization**,...

**Because the chain broke,
the machine stopped.**

**The chain broke. The
machine stopped.**

Textproject.org: FYI FOR KIDS, Talking Points for Kids, SummerReads

A Birthday Wish: Rachel Beckwith

volume 5
issue 1



In the summer of 2011, Rachel Beckwith had just finished third grade. She was looking forward to riding her bike and playing games like jump rope with her friends. Rachel also liked dancing.

Then she heard someone say that there were children in Africa who did not have clean water to drink. The person was from an organization called

charitywater.org, a charity that builds wells for towns in Africa. The wells provide people with clean water. Without wells, people often have to walk many miles to find water, then carry it home in buckets. Often, the water is not clean.

Instead of presents for her ninth birthday, Rachel asked her family and friends to donate \$9 for clean water in Africa to charitywater.org. If she could raise \$300, 15 people could get clean drinking water.

By the time her birthday came, Rachel had raised \$220. That meant that 11 people could get clean water.

She told her mom that she would try harder the next year to raise more money for the charity.

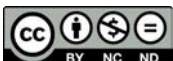
A month later, Rachel was critically injured in a car accident. On July 23, 2011, she was taken off life support. She died soon after.

When the news about Rachel's story and her birthday wish spread, people all around the world began to donate money in her name. Some gave \$9, some \$19, some more. A month later, 30,000 people had given more than \$1.2 million. Because of Rachel Beckwith, 60,000 people in more than 100 villages now have clean water to drink.

In her honor, one village put up a sign that reads, "Rachel's great dream, kindness, and vision of a better world will live with and among us forever." Clearly, one person, even a child, can make a difference.



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Where Did Tea Come From?

So Many Spices!



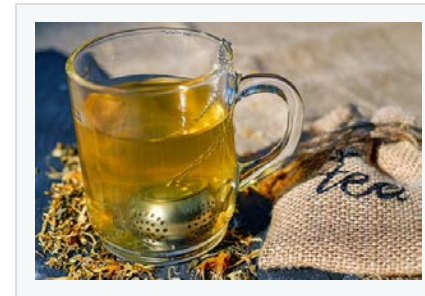
Lots of foods have their own flavor. But some of them have weak flavors. They don't taste like much. So what do people do when they want to add more flavor to a food? They can add spices!

A spice is something that's used to give flavor to foods. Spices come from different parts of different plants. Some spices are seeds. These include sesame, poppy, and cumin. Other spices come from tree bark. Cinnamon is a spice that comes from the bark of a tree. And some spices come from fruits. Pepper is a spice that comes from a fruit. To make pepper, people dry out a berry called a peppercorn. Then they grind it up!

Spices are popular all over the world. But many spices are only grown in warm, wet places. Lots of them are grown in south and east Asia. Long ago, this meant that people from Europe had to trade or travel to get the spices they wanted. Explorers sailed across oceans to get to the areas that grew spices.

Today, it's a lot easier to get spices from all over the world. That's something to be happy about the next time you add pepper to your meal!

Where Did Tea Come From?



Tea is a drink that is enjoyed around the world. People make tea by soaking the tea leaves in hot water. Then, people usually take the leaves out. When they sip the water, it tastes like the tea leaves!

But where do tea leaves come from? These leaves come from a tea plant! Tea plants are mostly grown in places with warm weather. They were first grown in China. People in China have been drinking tea for thousands of years! Later, tea spread to Japan. After that, people from Europe began to make their way to Asia to trade. When they reached, they were introduced to tea. They brought tea back to Europe. And they also brought tea plants to other places where they had colonies. For example, Britain brought tea seeds from China to India and Sri Lanka. They were able to grow tea there. In some of those places, tea became an important part of the culture.

Today, tea plants are grown in many places across the world. They are grown in Asia and parts of Africa and South America. But they are enjoyed by people in all sorts of places!

From Milk to Cheese



Parmesan cheese

Cheese is a popular food in lots of places across the world. Some people eat cheese on pizza. They put it in sandwiches. They add it to pasta. And, of course, they eat cheese just by itself.

Where does cheese come from? Cheese is a dairy product. That means it is a food that is made from milk. Different kinds of milk can be used to make cheese. For example, cows give milk that is turned into cheese. But goat's milk is used for cheese too. So is milk from water buffalo!

Cheese forms when milk goes bad. When milk goes bad, it curdles. It turns sour, and part of it turns solid. That part is the fresh cheese. People can let that part ripen for different amounts of time. The amount of time that the cheese is left to ripen can change its taste. It can also change what the cheese feels like. Other things can affect how the cheese turns out, too. The milk used can affect it. So can the temperature.

A small change in the process can lead to a big change in the cheese. This is why there is a whole world of cheeses to choose from!

Bread Around the World



Tortillas cooking

Bread has been an important food for people for a very long time. The first bread was made thousands of years ago. People back then made dough with crushed up grain and water. Then they baked the dough on hot stones. This made a flat kind of bread.

For a long time, flat breads were the only kind of bread. Then, people in Egypt learned how to make bread rise. They also made ovens for baking the bread. Ever since then, there have been many kinds of bread. Some are flat. Some are puffy. All of them are eaten and enjoyed in different cultures! Here are some different breads that are eaten by people around the world:

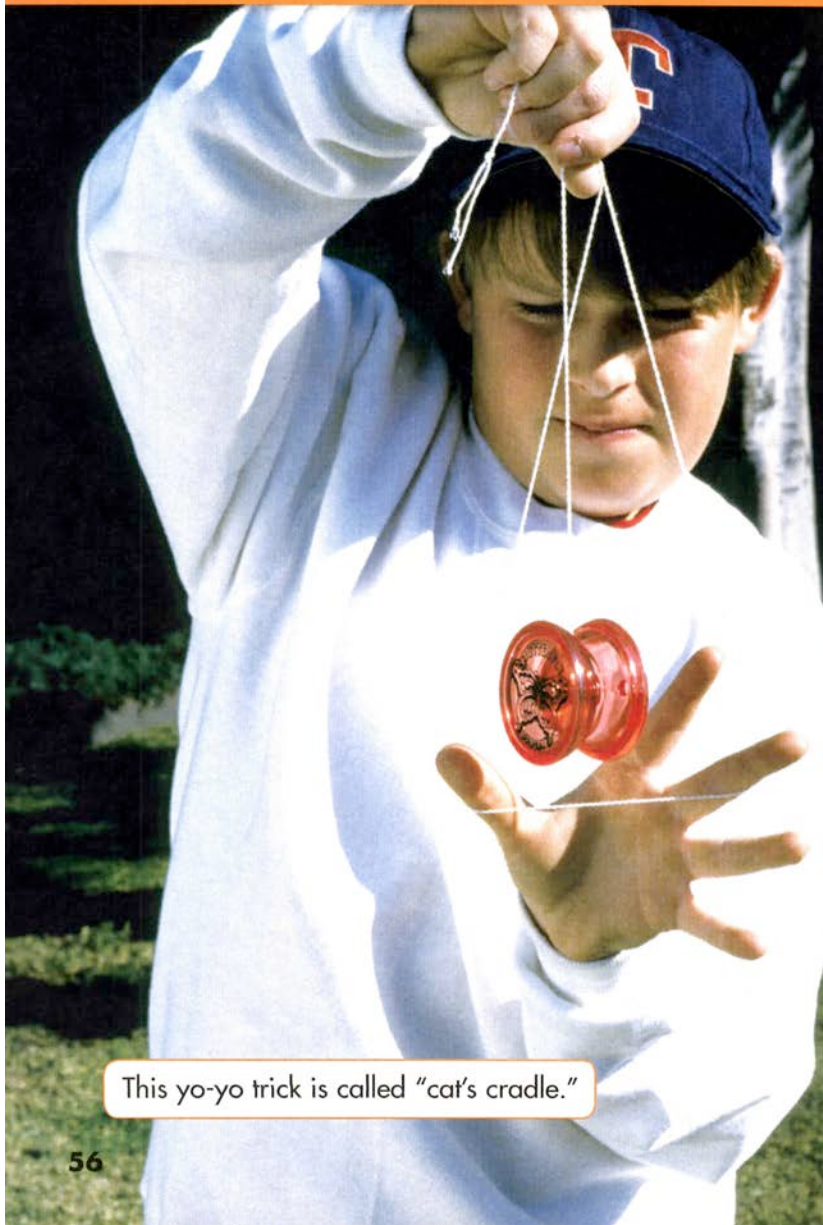
A tortilla is a popular kind of bread in Mexico. It is flat and round. This bread can be made from cornmeal or wheat flour.

Another kind of round, flat bread is a chapati. This bread is often eaten in India and other countries in South Asia. It is also made from wheat flour.

Challah bread was first made and eaten by Jewish people. It is very different from tortillas and chapatis. It is not flat. Instead, it's puffy. Also, the dough is braided before it is baked. So the bread has a very special shape!

What other kinds of breads do you know about?

Toys of Long Ago



This yo-yo trick is called "cat's cradle."

QuickReads, QReads, iLit

Yo-Yos

Even thousands of years ago, children played with yo-yos. Early yo-yos could only go up and down. Today's yo-yos, however, can spin, too.

It²⁵ takes skill to learn yo-yo tricks like "walking the dog" and "around the world." The trick called "walking the dog" is done when someone gets⁵⁰ the yo-yo to spin fast as it moves along the floor. The trick called "around the world" is done when someone spins a yo-yo around⁷⁵ in the air.

In 1985, a yo-yo was taken on a spaceship. Pictures of yo-yo tricks done in the spaceship showed people how things work in space.¹⁰²

Hurricanes



Hurricane Katrina caused a lot of harm in the United States.

Hurricane Names

Giving hurricanes names helps people to keep track of hurricanes. Each year, 21 names are picked for hurricanes. The first hurricane in a⁷⁵ year starts with the letter A.

If a girl's name is used for the first hurricane one year, the first hurricane of the next year⁵⁰ will get a boy's name. In the year 2010, the first hurricane was called Alex. In 2011, the first hurricane was named Arlene.

The names⁷⁵ of very big storms are used only once. Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, was a very big storm. It caused a great deal of harm. The¹⁰⁰ name Katrina will never be used for a hurricane again.¹¹⁰

Wind and Solar Energy



A wind farm like this one can produce a lot of electricity.

Wind Farms

A wind farm has many turbines that turn wind energy into electricity. Wind farms need strong, steady winds. Wind farms are built where⁷⁵ the usual wind speeds are at least 13 miles per hour. Without wind, turbines cannot produce electricity.

In California, a wind farm with 7,000 turbines⁵⁰ has been built in a mountain pass that has especially high winds during the summer. This California wind farm generates electricity that is needed in⁷⁵ the summer, when people use fans and other cooling systems.

Electricity from wind farms is cheaper today than it was 10 years ago. Wind energy¹⁰⁰ does not produce gases that pollute the air. However, some people don't like wind farms. Wind farms take up lots of space, make lots of¹²⁵ noise, and can spoil the beauty of the landscape.¹³⁴



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