OVERVIEW

WORLDkids readers, usually between ages eight and ten, have begun piecing the world together in new and more complicated ways. They’re ready for an awareness of current events, but they need lots of background knowledge to build their understanding of what’s going on in the world. WORLDkids connects the news to things kids can already relate to, then uses those touchpoints to take their understanding deeper. Along the way, WORLDkids drops Christian worldview “bread crumbs,” adding wisdom to news and knowledge.

WORLDkids organizes current events into six topic areas, each with multiple stories that provide the context to help children understand the topic more fully.

EACH TOPIC SECTION INCLUDES:

• Four stories
• Online interactive activity
• Photo slideshows with each online story
• Knowledge-reinforcing activities and puzzles
• Quiz for comprehension and application

RECOMMENDED PACING:

Daily—
• Read the daily News Shorts online to grow an appreciation for what’s happening around the world.

Weekly—
• Work through one topic section during the week. Read all four stories with the online photo slideshows, do the interactive activity, and take the quiz. Each section should be done as a whole to better understand the topic and how to engage current events.
• Complete one of the printable worksheets included with the teaching guide to gauge reading comprehension and increase understanding.
SCIENCE SOUP STORIES

Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **The Never-Ending Storm**: What is that red spot on Jupiter’s surface? Scientists are learning more about the great storm.
   
   **Why?** Scientists are sometimes surprised by new discoveries, but God is never surprised. He created Jupiter and its storm, and He knows exactly how deep it really is!

☐ 2. **Space Showdown: Gas v. Rock v. Asteroid**: What are Rocky Planets and what are Gas Giants? Why did our God design the solar system just the way He did?

☐ 3. **Planting the Sahara**: Would a 5,000-mile band of trees help keep Africa’s desert from growing?
   
   **Why?** If an idea fails, perseverance and rethinking might help produce a new plan. Galatians 6:9 tells us, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

☐ 4. **What Is Desertification?**: More importantly—what stops desertification? Plant life is key!
   
   **Pray:** For those who lack fertile ground and water for survival, especially in the Sahel, and for those studying ways to improve those areas.

☐ 5. **Build It! Keyhole Garden**: Follow our instructions to build your own circular garden that makes the best use of compost nutrients and water resources.

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READING QUIZ

1. How many times has Juno flown over the Great Red Spot?
   a) 5
   b) 4
   c) 3
   d) 2

2. What is the name of the spacecraft that is orbiting Jupiter?
   a) Saturn
   b) Juno
   c) Jupiter
   d) Neptune

3. Why did the Great Green Wall project change?
   a) Planting trees is illegal in some of the countries.
   b) Many of the trees died from lack of water.
   c) There was a sudden increase in rainfall.
   d) People decided to expand the desert.

4. Which one is not a cause of desertification?
   a) deforestation
   b) overgrazing
   c) reforestation
   d) drought

5. Explain why plant life is good for preventing erosion.

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VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. churn
   a) create over time
   b) grow and adapt
   c) move or swirl rapidly

2. categories
   a) divisions of people or things that are alike
   b) names or titles
   c) objects in a physical set or collection

3. expansive
   a) narrow
   b) vast
   c) eroding

4. fertile
   a) able to grow crops
   b) rotting
   c) barren
TIME MACHINE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Who Built Yosemite?: California’s famous park was in part built by people who immigrated from China. Why? Diligent Chinese Americans used their God-given abilities to help create a beloved national park. It’s important to recognize their contributions to the United States. “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due.” (Proverbs 3:27)

☐ 2. E Pluribus Unum?: What does the phrase “Out of many, one” mean for a nation like the United States?

☐ 3. Moving School: A building near Colonial Williamsburg once housed a school for black children—both free and enslaved. Why? God shows no partiality. One of the first schools for black children in America, the Bray School challenges us to think about how Christians must treat all people with dignity and fairness.

☐ 4. Mrs. Wager’s Work: One woman taught all the students at the Bray School. Now another woman represents her for visitors to Colonial Williamsburg.

☐ 5. Welcome to Colonial America!: Click through our original interactive to learn about several of the jobs people did in Colonial times.

READING QUIZ

1. Which did Chinese Americans build?
   a) Tioga Road  
   b) the Great Wall  
   c) Mount Rushmore  
   d) the hanging gardens

2. “E pluribus unum” means __.
   a) one for all, all for one  
   b) out of one, many  
   c) out of many, one  
   d) one nation under God

3. Who studied at the Bray School?
   a) free and enslaved black children  
   b) William and Mary college students  
   c) parents  
   d) historical reenactors

4. What is a catechism?
   a) a history book  
   b) a type of acting  
   c) questions and answers about faith  
   d) a type of school

5. How does the term “E pluribus unum” apply to a country like the United States?
CITIZENSHIP STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Honorable Teen Returns Money**: A Liberian teen found a bundle of cash—and returned all of it to its rightful owner.
   **Why?** Honesty matters, even when it’s hard to be truthful. Often, righteousness requires making difficult choices and sacrificing personal gain.

☐ 2. **Character Counts**: Good personal *ethics* are essential to creating a community that works well together.

☐ 3. **Trouble for Food Banks**: Supply chain problems, inflation, and more people in need leave food banks searching for big solutions.
   **Why?** It’s important to know that people around us may have extra needs this year. Maybe God is calling us to help.

☐ 4. **Who Is Your Neighbor?**: You can’t solve all the world’s problems. But is there a small way you can help someone else individually?

☐ 5. **Rising Food Costs Hit Food Banks**: Watch our original WORLD Watch video about rising food costs to help you understand the challenges facing families and food banks.

READING QUIZ

1. What was Emmanuel doing when he found the $50,000?
   a) talking to the president
   b) grocery shopping for his grandma
   c) driving his motorcycle taxi
   d) going to school

2. How did Aristotle define ethics?
   a) practical wisdom
   b) life lessons
   c) daydreaming
   d) a book

3. Why are food banks in trouble?
   a) too much food to store
   b) reduced food prices
   c) donated food spoiling too fast
   d) food price hikes and more needs to fill

4. Why have food prices gone up?
   a) supply chain problems
   b) drought
   c) a rise in hospitality
   d) higher taxes

5. What are some ways you or your family could be helpful to others who are experiencing “food insecurity”?

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. **applaud**
   a) approve or praise
   b) disagree with
   c) run away from

2. **foe**
   a) relative
   b) friend
   c) enemy

3. **bountiful**
   a) miserly
   b) generous
   c) healthy

4. **compassionate**
   a) kind
   b) energetic
   c) unfriendly
TAKE APART SMART STORIES

Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Dream House Spins in Bosnia**: How did this creative builder show his wife he cared about her wants? He built her a house that turns all the way around!
   **Why?** God desires sacrificial love between husbands and wives. When Mr. Kusic heard his wife’s concerns, he set out to solve them. He used the skills God gave him to create a fun and useful gift for his beloved spouse.

☐ 2. **The Sky’s the Limit**: Some houses and buildings have moving parts like machines. Take a worldwide tour of some of the functional features in these architectural oddities!

☐ 3. **Battle for Beef**: Rancher Rusty Kemp thinks he should keep more of the moo-lah that his cattle bring in. He has a plan to cut out the middleman.
   **Why?** “The laborer deserves his wages.” (1 Timothy 5:18) It is important that people in the cattle business, like all honest industries, are paid fairly for their work.

☐ 4. **Mooove Over, Middleman**: What is a middleman? Compare the pros and cons of using a middleman in the beef business.

☐ 5. **The Whole Cow**: Click through our original Explore It! interactive to learn about the many cuts of beef a butcher can help you bring to your table. How many have you tried?

READING QUIZ

1. What makes the Kusic house rotate?
   a) a rope pulley system
   b) electric motors and wheels
   c) batteries
   d) a conveyor belt

2. Villa Girasole turns to follow the movement of what?
   a) the Moon
   b) storm clouds
   c) the Sun
   d) neighbors

3. Which group is starting Sustainable Beef?
   a) middlemen
   b) ranchers
   c) JBS
   d) National Beef Packing

4. A middleman ___.
   a) is a farmer
   b) buys from consumers and sells to producers
   c) buys from producers and sells to consumers
   d) is a producer

5. What does the Bible mean when it says “the laborer deserves his wages”? 
CRITTER FILE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Hard Year for Puffins**: After a few years of good puffin population growth, Maine’s funny-faced seabirds had a hard season. 
   **Why?** Bad news for puffins reminds us: Creatures go through cycles of growth and decline, but God is always caring for them.

☐ 2. **Birds in the Water**: Learn to identify several types of birds that make their homes on or around water.

☐ 3. **Ta-Ta to Tusks?**: In a war-torn African country, elephants without tusks begin to dominate the pachyderm herds. Learn why! 
   **Why?** African elephants aren’t evolving into a new species. But they are adapting to hard times—and this ability shows the care and providence of the Creator.

☐ 4. **Who Made the Change?**: God designed adaptation into His creation. Scientists sometimes see “evolution,” but believers see God’s providence.

☐ 5. **Weird and Wonderful Adaptations**: Learn about several animals in God’s creative kingdom that have adapted to their surroundings in amazing ways!

READING QUIZ

1. What threatens puffins?
   a) overpopulation
   b) fish shortage
   c) cooling water
   d) too many fish

2. Which birds are ciconiiformes?
   a) ducks
   b) geese
   c) herons
   d) swans

3. Mozambique’s elephants are becoming tuskless because of ___.
   a) overpopulation
   b) war and poaching
   c) elephant food shortage
   d) drought

4. It has taken ___ for elephants to go more tuskless.
   a) centuries
   b) thousands of years
   c) one year
   d) 15 years

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. scarcity
   a) lack
   b) abundance
   c) disease

2. fancy
   a) like
   b) dislike
   c) loathe

3. joust
   a) make friends
   b) fight
   c) greet

4. adapt
   a) destroy
   b) resist
   c) adjust
JET BALLOON STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

1. Gas Prices Hurt Italy’s Glassblowers: Methane gas burns very hot. That is needed for making glass art.
   Why? As we learn about economies, we also learn when soaring prices harm others and their work. Christians can pray and when possible, support those people with purchases as well.

2. The Art of Glassblowing: Murano, Italy, is home to some of the world’s most gifted glass artists.

3. No School in Uganda: With schools closed for 80+ weeks, students in Uganda go to work looking for gold.
   Why? “No school” may sound fun . . . but what if school was canceled forever? It’s important to recognize reliable education as a blessing.

4. Passport to . . . UGANDA: Learn about the country known as “The Jewel of Africa.”
   Pray: For Mathias and other children in Uganda. Ask God to send them everything they need to live and learn.

5. No School in Uganda Video: Watch our original WORLD Watch video segment on school closings in Uganda to learn more about to pray for the people struggling there.

READING QUIZ

1. What is a crucible?
   a) an expensive ceramic container inside a furnace
   b) a hollow metal wand
   c) a batch of liquid glass also called lava
   d) a unit of methane gas

2. Where do the world’s best glassblowers live and learn?
   a) Asheville, North Carolina
   b) Venice, Italy
   c) Murano, Italy
   d) Paris, France

3. Why are Ugandan schools closed?
   a) the coronavirus pandemic
   b) clothing shortage
   c) high graduation rates
   d) Students can afford their own tutors.

4. Matoke is ___.
   a) a type of school
   b) a cooking banana
   c) malaria
   d) a breed of butterfly

5. Explain why about half of Uganda’s population is poor.
ANSWER KEY:

Science Soup:
Reading Quiz: 1. d, 2. d, 3. b, 4. c, 5. Answers will vary but should include that the roots of plants hold soil in place, and when plants die or are removed, the soil can easily wash or blow away.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1. c, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a

Time Machine:
Reading Quiz: 1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. Answers will vary, but may include: America is one nation made of many states, and one national people made of citizens from many backgrounds and cultures.

Citizen Ship:
Reading Quiz: 1. c, 2. a, 3. d, 4. a, 5. Answers will vary but may include: donate to or volunteer at a food bank, make a meal for a neighbor, drop off groceries, invite someone over for dinner, plant extra to share in your backyard garden.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. a

Take Apart Smart:
Reading Quiz: 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. c, 5. Answers will vary but may include that all humans deserve dignity and respect, and to make someone work without giving fair pay for that work does not show that dignity and respect but instead exploits—or takes advantage and even cheats—the worker. Honest employers will pay their workers a fair wage.

Critter File:
Reading Quiz: 1. b, 2. a, 3. b, 4. d, 5. Answers will vary but may include that adaptation shows how living things change some common characteristics to survive when factors around them also change; evolution suggests that one species can change into another species. Another difference is that adaptation can be seen and measured as it happens; the theory of evolution is based on pieces of evidence suggesting connections with huge gaps between them, and the theorized process cannot be recreated.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1. a, 2. a, 3. b, 4. c

Jet Balloon:
Reading Quiz: 1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. Answers will vary but may include that limited healthcare allows illnesses to spread, which keeps people out of work, and that Ugandans need education and skills training to help them work well.
TOPIC EXPLORER

Is your student interested in volcanoes? Ancient Egyptian mummies? Or love reading about horses? Use the WORLDkids Topic Explorer to find relevant current-events stories quickly.

The WORLDkids Topic Explorer is a regularly updated index of popular topics you can easily browse or search for age-appropriate news stories. Get more from your WORLDkids membership by using the WORLDkids Topic Explorer—your gateway to an extensive article archive on WORLDkids.

To **SEARCH** individual articles on the WORLDkids website:

Use the SEARCH function on the WORLDkids website to retrieve articles based on your own keyword searches. Your search results may include sets of feature articles with their related stories and photo slideshows. Your search may also display standalone News Shorts articles—brief stories from the daily News Shorts section of the WORLDkids website. The website content and potential search results are always expanding as new articles are added day by day.

To **BROWSE** broader topic areas in this list:

The list of topics on the following page is arranged alphabetically and grouped within the six subject categories used in the WORLDkids magazine and website. When viewing the list electronically, click on any of the topics to jump to content on the WORLDkids website. The topic list will be regularly updated as content is published in the WORLDkids magazine.
Six Questions in a Story

Directions: Read a WORLDkids story and look for answers to the questions that journalists use to tell a story—Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Title of the story: 

The WORLDkids topic area the story is in (such as Science Soup or Critter File):

Who was involved?

What happened?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

Why did it happen?

How did it happen?

Name: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________
Vocabulary Builder

Directions: Read all four of the stories in a WORLDkids topic area and look for five words you don't know well. Look up each word in a dictionary and write its meaning below.

Topic area you chose (such as Science Soup or Critter File):

Word #1: __________________________
Definition: ________________________

Word #: __________________________
Definition: ________________________

Word #: __________________________
Definition: ________________________

Word #: __________________________
Definition: ________________________

Word #5: __________________________
Definition: ________________________
Directions: Choose a WORLDkids story and read it carefully. In the space below, draw a picture that illustrates some part of the story that impressed you.

Write a sentence explaining what part of the story you chose to draw.
Photo Interpreter

**Directions:** Select a photo from WORLDkids. In your own words, answer the following questions about the photo. Use complete sentences in your answer.

**What is happening in the photo?**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**What do you see in the photo that led you to your answer?**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**What else can you find in the photo?**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mapmaker

**Directions:** In the space below, draw the outline of a state, province, or country that is the subject of a WORLDkids story. Show where its capital is located, and write its name. Below your map, write something you learned about this area from the WORLDkids article.
Graph Reader

Directions: Select a graph or infographic from WORLDkids.

In your own words, explain what the image illustrates. What is its main point?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

What information does it present?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Why was it included in the article instead of using more text to explain the information?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Favorite Stories

Directions: Choose a story from WORLDkids that you especially liked. Use complete sentences to answer the following about the story.

Story Headline: ____________________________________________________________

The story’s topic area in WORLDkids (such as Critter File or Jet Balloon): ____________________________________________________________

Why did you choose this story?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Describe an interesting thing you learned from reading this story. ____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Name: _________________________

Date: _________________________
Imagine It!

Directions: Choose a story or photo from WORLDKids. Imagine you were there when the photo was taken or the event happened.

Title of the story:

The WORLDkids topic area the story is in (such as Science Soup or Critter File):

What would you see?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What would you hear?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What would you smell?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What would you feel?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What would you taste?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Pick one of the items you wrote down. On another piece of paper, write a new story. Be creative! It can be long or short. It doesn’t need to be a true story like the one in WORLDKids. You can use your imagination and make it up.