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. Clouds of Locusts: Tiny but deadly, locusts confront Africa with the worst plague in 25 years.

☐ 2. Locusts, Grasshoppers with Attitude: Grasshoppers turn into locusts in a big group—and then the trouble begins.

☐ 3. Leaving Volcano Island: A volcano is no place to build a house! People living on the Taal volcano in the Philippines are learning that the hard way.

☐ 4. Trouble from Above: Volcanoes cause all kinds of airborne problems for people living nearby.

☐ 5. What a Locust Plague Looks Like: Watch video of the locust plague now attacking Kenya. (Online Explore It Interactive)

READING QUIZ

1. Locusts are as long as ___.
   a) a car
   b) a finger
   c) a camel
   d) a flea

2. Which is true?
   a) All locusts are grasshoppers.
   b) All grasshoppers are locusts.
   c) Satellites cannot detect locust clouds.
   d) Adult insects are called nymphs.

3. Why do people want to live on the Taal volcano island?
   a) They can make money from tourists.
   b) The island is peaceful.
   c) The island lets them escape Manila.
   d) all of the above

4. What can clog an airplane's engine?
   a) volcano smoke
   b) liquid lava
   c) purple clouds
   d) plants near a volcano

5. Why did God send a plague of locusts to Egypt in Exodus 10?
TIME MACHINE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.


☐ 2. Fighting the White Plague: Before they could make antibiotics, people had to figure out what caused bacterial diseases like tuberculosis.

☐ 3. Six-Kid Schoolhouse: This school in Michigan has only six students!

☐ 4. A Timeline of Education in the Young United States: Schools, printing presses, and teachers changed the way people were taught in America.

☐ 5. Sick with TB: Tuberculosis is explained in an animated video. (Online Explore It Interactive)

READING QUIZ

1. A sanatorium is __.
   a) someone with tuberculosis
   b) a bacterium
   c) a tuberculosis doctor
   d) a place for sick people

2. Penicillin couldn’t kill __.
   a) any bacteria
   b) the white plague
   c) tuberculosis
   d) b and c

3. Who is moving away from rural Michigan?
   a) old people
   b) lunch ladies
   c) young people
   d) school administrators

4. James Pillans get credit for inventing the __.
   a) elementary school
   b) printing press
   c) blackboard
   d) public library

5. Noah Webster said, “The heart should be instructed with more care than the head.” Can you find a Bible verse about learning true wisdom?

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. bustling
   a) disease-filled
   b) mountainous
   c) busy

2. infected
   a) sick
   b) healed
   c) consumed

3. encompasses
   a) covers
   b) excludes
   c) removes

4. righteousness
   a) understanding
   b) blamelessness
   c) wickedness
CITIZEN SHIP STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Tough to Tally**: The U.S. Census tallies every person in the country. But some are hard to count.

☐ 2. **Caring to Count**: The U.S. Constitution says people must be counted. The census can be a way to take care of people well.

☐ 3. **Not your Cheese**: Cheesemakers in Cyprus protect their national treasure: halloumi cheese.

☐ 4. **Cheese by Country**: Cheese making is an old art. People from different countries take their cheese making styles seriously.

☐ 5. **Making Cheese**: Wanna know how it’s done? Ask a mouse. (Online Explore It Interactive)

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READING QUIZ

1. For the first time, the U.S. census will use ___.  
   a) door-knocking  
   b) paper ballots  
   c) questionnaires  
   d) the internet

2. How do people take the U.S. census today?  
   a) fill out a form and mail it in  
   b) fill out a form online  
   c) travel by donkey to the city where they were born  
   d) a and b

3. What quality makes halloumi unique?  
   a) It’s salty.  
   b) It’s white.  
   c) It’s made of gold.  
   d) It doesn’t melt easily.

4. What is rennet?  
   a) sheep milk  
   b) camel milk  
   c) a cheese making enzyme  
   d) a kind of salt

5. People-counts in the Bible show God’s care for His people. When did God tell His people to be counted?
TAKE APART SMART STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. *What Makes a Foot a Foot?*: One standard of measurement gets the boot.

☐ 2. *Size It Up!:* Units of measurement come and go. Do you recognize any of these unusual ones?

☐ 3. *Goodnight, Spitzer*: People say goodbye to the Spitzer Space Telescope, which has worked well for much longer than expected.

☐ 4. *Eye Can See Clearly Now*: Learn about two types of telescopes and how they work.

☐ 5. *Looking into Telescopes*: Learn how two types work. (Online Explore It Interactive)

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READING QUIZ

1. The international foot is __ than the U.S. survey foot.
   a) longer
   b) shorter
   c) more invisible
   d) none of the above

2. A fortnight has __ days.
   a) 27
   b) 4
   c) 14
   d) 365

3. Spitzer did NOT discover __.
   a) star nurseries
   b) failed stars
   c) a ring around Saturn
   d) the optical telescope

4. Galileo developed the __.
   a) reflecting telescope
   b) refracting telescope
   c) Spitzer space telescope
   d) mirror

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. havoc
   a) chaos
   b) orderliness
   c) construction

2. seasoned
   a) old-fashioned
   b) experienced
   c) innocent

3. untold
   a) silent
   b) indescribable
   c) far away

4. orbits
   a) circles
   c) rises
   d) races

5. Name a biblical unit of measurement that became history. Find an example of the measurement in the Bible.
CRITTER FILE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. A Whale-Sized Diet: Spunky researchers find out why some whales grow bigger than others.
☐ 2. Animals Fill Up: God fills up animals with food . . . and we mean FILLS.
☐ 3. The Mussel Mystery: What's going wrong with mussels in the Clinch River? Researchers try to find out.
☐ 4. Anatomy of a Bivalve: These headless creatures are made to clean water.
☐ 5. Heartbeat of a Whale: Watch researchers catch up with a whale. (Online Explore It Interactive)

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READING QUIZ

1. The __ is the biggest animal on Earth.
   a) sperm whale
   b) blue whale
   c) elephant
   d) rhinoceros

2. What eats half its weight in sugar each day?
   a) panda
   b) hummingbird
   c) dinosaur
   d) leech

3. Fluted kidney shells are a type of __.
   a) scallop
   b) bivalve
   c) mussel
   d) b and c

4. A siphon can __.
   a) suck in water
   b) push out water
   c) hold 10 gallons of water
   d) a and b

5. Why don’t sperm whales get as big as blue whales? Who designed them this way?

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VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. distinct
   a) individual
   b) similar
   c) unsatisfied

2. average
   a) unusual
   b) typical
   c) grownup

3. slogging
   a) trudging
   b) running
   c) flying

4. symmetrical
   a) same on both sides
   b) triangular
   c) round

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FROM AARDVARKS TO ZEBRAS—ALL YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR CRITTER FILE GROWING!
JET BALLOON STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Crossing the Drake: Six adventurers become the first to cross the Drake Passage in a rowboat.
☐ 2. Sea Routes: Explorers from history discovered new places and new ways to get to old ones.
☐ 3. Medicine for the Needy: People in Rwanda didn’t have needed morphine—until they started making their own.
☐ 4. Relief for Rwanda: Many Rwandans have troubled pasts. But morphine brought by caring health workers helps ease suffering.
☐ 5. The Northwest Passage: Could the famous shortcut open up in the near future? (Online Explore It Interactive)

READING QUIZ

1. The Ohana’s rowers were the first to go through the Drake Passage with only ___.
   a) a motorboat  
   b) a whale monitor  
   c) manpower  
   d) a bucket

2. Ponce de León discovered ___.
   a) the Fountain of Youth  
   b) the Northwest Passage  
   c) the Suez Canal  
   d) the Dry Tortugas Islands

3. Morphine is medicine for ___.
   a) spinal disease  
   b) the flu  
   c) pain  
   d) tuberculosis

4. Where is Rwanda?
   a) on the southern tip of Africa  
   b) in North America  
   c) in Uganda  
   d) in central Africa

5. How should God’s people think about suffering?

VOCABULARY QUIZ:

1. harrowing
   a) heroic  
   b) disturbing  
   c) delirious

2. navigator
   a) ship fixer  
   b) way finder  
   c) canal digger

3. unrelenting
   a) irregular  
   b) scattered  
   c) continuous

4. tragedy
   a) disaster  
   b) triumph  
   c) battle
ANSWER KEY:

Science Soup:
Reading Quiz: 1) b, 2) a, 3) d, 4) b, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: God sent locusts and other plagues to Egypt to show His great power.

Time Machine:
Reading Quiz: 1) d, 2) d, 3) c, 4) c, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: James 1:5, Proverbs 19:20, Psalm 111:10. Vocabulary Quiz: 1) c, 2) a, 3) a, 4) b.

Citizen Ship:
Reading Quiz: 1) d, 2) d, 3) d, 4) c, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: God counted His people as the Israelites wandered, when they prepared for battle, when they returned from exile, and when Jesus was born.

Take Apart Smart:
Reading Quiz: 1) b, 2) c, 3) d, 4) b, 5) Answers will vary but may include: The cubit is a biblical measurement in 1 Kings 6:2.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1) a, 2) b, 3) b, 4) a.

Critter File:
Reading Quiz: 1) b, 2) b, 3) d, 4) d, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: Different feeding methods determine each whale's size. God designed the animals to feed and grow in different ways.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1) a, 2) b, 3) a, 4) a.

Jet Balloon:
Reading Quiz: 1) c, 2) d, 3) c, 4) d, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: God’s people do not have to hide their suffering. God comforts His people so they can comfort each other.
Vocabulary Quiz: 1) b, 2) b, 3) c, 4) a.
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.
WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOU MAKE
civil society, so come aboard!

The Citizen Ship's hold will be filled with current events stories, the ideas and actions of ordinary people—people just like them. Because so much of civics is centered on the rights and stories they can relate to that are both sensible and memorable. Citizen Ship makes civics fun for your children, with personal

to spark a deeper understanding of the natural world, helping
yet in the file, she can let us know, and we'll do our best to add
tiger or the recovery of an endangered owl.

by exploring their species, habitats, anatomies and diets.

FILE GROWING!
YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR CRITTER
FROM AARDVARKS TO ZEBRAS—ALL

123 U Cool Gray 6 U

Topic Explorer
RGB

10

MARCH/APRIL
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?**
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 #2:
Definition:

Word #3:
Definition:

Word #4:
Definition:

Word #5:
Definition:
PICTURE IT!

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.