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. **Diving into Midnight**: A team of scientists is diving into the weird and wonderful depths of the Indian Ocean—where even light does not reach!

☐ 2. **Getting Deep**: The deeper you go into the ocean, the more unusual the life there seems to be. Think of the ocean’s depths like layers. You’ll see what we mean.

☐ 3. **Mushrooms in the Basement**: Mushrooms like to grow in warm, dark spaces. That’s what makes this underground mushroom farm work so well.

☐ 4. **Life Cycle of a Mushroom**: It’s not a plant and it’s not an animal. It grows from a spore instead of a seed. A mushroom is a fungus. It has a part in the process that creates new soil from waste.

☐ 5. **Gathering Cones**: In Russia, a team of workers gathers cones to save seeds for a new generation of trees. (Online Explore It Interactive)

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READING QUIZ

1. Limiting Factor’s deepest dive was ___ feet.
   a) 1,000
   b) 121,000
   c) 36,000
   d) 54,000

2. In the Midnight Zone, you won’t find ___.
   a) vampire squid
   b) sea cucumbers
   c) sperm whales
   d) sea plants

3. Mushroom mycelium is like ___.
   a) roots
   b) branches
   c) leaves
   d) seeds

4. Mushrooms are ___.
   a) simple animals
   b) vegetables
   c) fungi
   d) minerals

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VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. lure
   a) stinger
   b) temptation
   c) anchor

2. scarce
   a) limited
   b) abundant
   c) tasty

3. beautify
   a) throw away
   b) make attractive
   c) clean up

4. decomposes
   a) rots
   b) grows
   c) cools

5. Read Psalm 139:7. Tell one experience in which you felt alone but God’s Spirit was a comfort.
TIME MACHINE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Titanic Telegraph**: Much has been salvaged from the wreckage of the famous Titanic. But one historic communication device remains on board. Historians wonder, “Can it be removed too?” They need to act fast.

☐ 2. **Morse, of Course!**: In the early 1800s, inventor Samuel Morse designed a “message box.” He could send communications over a wire instead of through the mail. But his device needed its own language, so next came Morse Code.

☐ 3. **The Tutu and You**: Ballet costumes have inspired clothing fashions off stage for a century. Consider some of the beautiful pieces on display at this museum. Look for related clothing worn by people you know.

☐ 4. **Costume Time**: Over time, dancers’ costumes have changed. Once, costumes were heavy and stiff. They became looser and more flowy. Today, some people perform in ordinary street clothes. Even costumes have a history!

☐ 5. **Down to the Titanic**: When you watch these underwater video clips, you’ll see why a salvage company wants to retrieve Titanic’s Marconi telegraph—“the voice of the Titanic,” before it is too late.

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READING QUIZ

1. The Titanic lies near ___.
   - a) Tel Aviv, Israel
   - b) Newfoundland, Canada
   - c) Sydney, Australia
   - d) Reykjavík, Iceland

2. The telegraph was developed in ___.
   - a) the early 1900s
   - b) the late 1700s
   - c) the late 1800s
   - d) the early 1800s

3. The Sugarplum Fairy is a character in ___.
   - a) Cinderella
   - b) Swan Lake
   - c) The Nutcracker
   - d) Sleeping Beauty

4. A choreographer designs ___.
   - a) dance movement
   - b) costumes
   - c) stage sets
   - d) musical arrangements

5. Name a mood and suggest what kind of dance movements would make you think of that.
CITIZEN SHIP STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Spreading Butterflies: Women in Kenya have found good jobs. They farm butterflies! People all over the world buy the butterflies in their pupal stage. The Kenyan women earn money to help support their families.

☐ 2. Think Small: How can a person with almost nothing to work with get started in business? It might begin with a very small loan. Then ideas and efforts can grow. One organization helps poor people take the first steps.

☐ 3. Tofu in Tokyo: Japan is getting ready to welcome guests from all over the world. They will come for the future Olympics. But not everyone likes the same foods as Japanese people. How will Japan show hospitality to its guests?

☐ 4. Konnichiwa! Welcome to Japan: Different cultures have different customs. In Japan, people bow to greet one another. Shaking hands is not their custom. What other differences would you find if you traveled to Japan?

☐ 5. Butterfly Farming in Kenya: First, read the story. Then see video scenes of butterfly farming in Kenya’s Arabuko-Sokoke forest at the WORLDkids website. (Online Explore It Interactive)

READING QUIZ

1. Butterfly farmers do not __ butterflies.
   a) sell
   b) catch
   c) freeze
   d) raise

2. Verse about responsibility
   a) Luke 12:48
   b) Proverbs 9:17
   c) Job 6:25
   d) Revelation 1:8

3. Hospitality is ___.
   a) being silent
   b) charging a fee
   c) leaving alone
   d) being welcoming

4. In Japan, most kids start school in ___.
   a) April
   b) August
   c) January
   d) June

5. Read Luke 16:10, and then tell it in your own words.

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. flit
   a) spin
   b) chew
   c) fly

2. profit
   a) gain
   b) loss
   c) product

3. hospitality
   a) being critical
   b) being humble
   c) being welcoming

4. inherit
   a) receive
   b) buy
   c) give
TAKE APART SMART STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Super Shoes: Long distance runners logged record-breaking race times. But what accounts for the improvements? Is it better fitness? Or could it be the help of some super secret new super shoes?

☐ 2. Sneakers for Breakfast: One shoe designer got an idea for grippy running shoe soles while he was making waffles for breakfast. That idea changed athletic shoe design—and his waffle iron went down in shoe history!

☐ 3. World Suits Up for Pandemic: The coronavirus pandemic created many needs. People and businesses changed gears. They started doing things differently. They started making different products to fill those needs. You can help too!

☐ 4. Supply Chain Game: Start with a raw material—a resource like iron ore or new cotton. End with a finished product, delivered to a store near you. What happens in between? And what could interrupt the system we call “the supply chain”?

☐ 5. Battle in the Body: Play our original interactive memory game to meet and learn about some of the soldiers in your body’s immune system. (Online Explore It Interactive)

READING QUIZ

1. What is Cosmic Crisp?
   a) a newly discovered star
   b) a new apple
   c) an orchard in Washington
   d) none of the above

2. Which apple is commonly known today?
   a) Maiden’s Blush
   b) Granny Smith
   c) Golden Delicious
   d) b and c

3. Stethoscope is from two Greek words meaning ___.
   a) chest and examiner
   b) heart and listener
   c) double and hearing
   d) sound and magnifier

4. Sound waves act like ___.
   a) gusts of wind
   b) ripples in a pond
   c) warm air rising
   d) a dripping faucet

5. How are a traditional stethoscope and an ultrasound device different?
CRITTER FILE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Introducing Jelly Bot: Scientists worked with God’s creation, the moon jellyfish. They added an electrical device. It made the jellyfish speed up. What will they do with the faster robot jellyfish?

☐ 2. Zing! Jelly Sting: They don’t have brains, bones, or eyes. But God gave the jellyfish many other remarkable traits. Invisible camouflage, flexible floaty tentacles—and wow! A zingy sting!

☐ 3. Tiny-O-Saurus: A tiny, ancient skull is encased in amber. Scientists are amazed. They’ve never seen anything like this before. Is it a dinosaur? Is it a bird?

☐ 4. Paleo-OOPS!: Paleontologists know a great deal about dinosaurs. But even the experts make mistakes. It’s wise for everyone to remain humble and to remember that God’s ways are not our ways.

☐ 5. Bird Beaks: One ancient skull found preserved in amber sports the beak of a hummingbird, but it has teeth like no flying creature we’ve ever seen. Still, the Creator gave it just the beak it needed. Play our online interactive memory game to see other bird beaks and learn about their wise design.

(REMEMBER TO PLAY THE ONLINE INTERACTIVE MEMORY GAME TO SEE OTHER BIRD BEAKS AND LEARN ABOUT THEIR WISE DESIGN)

READING QUIZ

1. A device can make the jellyfish __.
   a) speed up
   b) send sounds
   c) change direction
   d) a and c

2. A ___ jelly can be deadly.
   a) brown
   b) sailor
   c) box
   d) moon

3. Resin is hardened ___.
   a) mud
   b) lava
   c) oil
   d) tree sap

4. Oviraptor was mistaken for ___.
   a) a fish
   b) an egg thief
   c) an herbivore
   d) a bird

5. Describe a few kinds of mistakes dinosaur experts might make.

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. gizmo
   a) device
   b) heart
   c) tail

2. forbidding
   a) friendly
   b) frightening
   c) fascinating

3. secreted
   a) soaked up
   b) decayed
   c) oozed out

4. regulate
   a) control
   b) let go
   c) absorb
JET BALLOON STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Falcon Hospital**: Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates boasts the world’s largest falcon hospital in the world. Trained birds of prey are prized by the falconers who own them. Keeping the birds healthy, then, is very important!

☐ 2. **Bedouins and Their Birds**: Bedouins were once traveling people who depended on their trained falcons for survival. Today, Bedouins are much more settled. But they still treasure the raptors that have been a part of their culture for many generations.

☐ 3. **Cloudy with a Chance of Iron Rain**: You’ve never seen rain like this! Scientists say that this faraway planet is so hot, metal evaporates there. When that vaporized metal cools, it comes down as solid metal drops of iron rain!

☐ 4. **Far-Out Forecast**: If you thought Earth’s weather was sometimes unpredictable, just take a look at the forecast around the cosmos. Metal rain, diamond hail, glowing crystal storms . . . to name a few odd phenomena.

☐ 5. **Raptors of the World**: Falconry is an ancient hobby. Solve the crossword puzzle online to discover the names of several raptors. (Online Explore It Interactive)

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**READING QUIZ**

1. Falcons are raptors. So are ___.
   a) owls
   b) woodpeckers
   c) geese
   d) chickens

2. Home of Bedouin nomads
   a) forest
   b) desert
   c) mountains
   d) jungle

3. Planet WASP-76b is closest to the size of ___.
   a) Mercury
   b) Earth
   c) Mars
   d) Jupiter

4. This planet’s Giant Red Spot is actually a storm.
   a) Jupiter
   b) Saturn
   c) Mars
   d) Venus

5. Falcon training is now mostly a hobby. Explain its use for Bedouin nomads in past times.
ANSWER KEY:

Science Soup:
Reading Quiz: 1) c, 2) d, 3) a, 4) c, 5) Answers will vary. Here is an example: It was my first night at a summer camp. Other kids all seemed to know someone. I didn’t know anyone.

Vocabulary Quiz: 1) b, 2) a, 3) b, 4) a.

Time Machine:
Reading Quiz: 1) b, 2) d, 3) c, 4) a, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: Leaping, skipping, and spinning would make me think of joy.

Citizen Ship:
Reading Quiz: 1) c, 2) a, 3) d, 4) a, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: If you can trust a person with a small matter, you can trust that person with something important.

Vocabulary Quiz: 1) c, 2) a, 3) c, 4) a.

Take Apart Smart:
Reading Quiz: 1) b, 2) a, 3) b, 4) a, 5) Answers will vary, but should say something like: An epidemic is a disease in one area. A pandemic is spread over the globe.

Critter File:
Reading Quiz: 1) a, 2) c, 3) d, 4) b, 5) Answers will vary, but may include such things as the color, size, or weight of a dinosaur; its habitat—where it lived; what it ate; purpose for its body parts; its age.

Vocabulary Quiz: 1) a, 2) b, 3) c, 4) a.

Jet Balloon:
Reading Quiz: 1) a, 2) b, 3) d, 4) a, 5) Answers will vary, but may include: Bedouins trained falcons to hunt for game that was out of range in the vast desert landscape.
TOCIP 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?**
**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.