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. Sourdough Library: Karl de Smedt loves to bake. But he’s allergic to flour! He had to find another way to feed his passion, so he started a sourdough starter library.

☐ 2. Great-Grandma’s Bugs?: How does a sourdough starter start? Read to learn, and then give it a try! In a few days, you can have your own.

☐ 3. Friends in Flight: Bob and Doug were the first astronauts to take off from American soil in nine years. The two had a lot in common—including respect for each other.

☐ 4. Not Your Grandpa’s Space Capsule: Not only did the SpaceX Dragon crew capsule work perfectly on this flight. It looks good too. Fancy finishes and new technology bring space travel into the modern age.

☐ 5. Mission Patch Memory: Match the patch in our original online interactive Explore It game. Hurry, before SpaceX Dragon returns.

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READING QUIZ

1. What makes bread rise?
   a) eggs
   b) lime
   c) yeast
   d) bean paste

2. Cells and __ make up the human body.
   a) flour
   b) bacteria
   c) yeast
   d) mold

3. SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule launched from __.
   a) Russia
   b) China
   c) the United States
   d) India

4. SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket __.
   a) carried astronauts to the Moon
   b) is partly reusable
   c) was destroyed in the launch
   d) carried astronauts to Mars

5. What is one way SpaceX is trying to make space travel affordable?
TIME MACHINE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Radio Story Hour: The library in this Alaska town was closed. But that didn’t stop story hour! Kids tuned in to hear their librarian read.

☐ 2. Rewind to Radio: Back in the 1930s, families gathered around the radio to listen too. There were funny shows and evening talks given by the President.

☐ 3. Planting Victory: The victory garden made a comeback this year. Home garden plots like these were popular during the two World Wars.

☐ 4. Gardeners to the Rescue: Victory gardens in the past did more than just offer opportunity for togetherness, physical work, and fresh air. They provided food for communities when food was truly scarce.

☐ 5. How Does a Seed Grow?: Every Victory Garden starts small. See how seeds develop in our original online Explore It interactive.

READING QUIZ

1. Why do people want to grow their own food this year?
   a) Coronavirus interrupted food supply chains, prices went up, and people need to stay busy.
   b) There is no healthy food available.
   c) Everyone is opening vegetable sales stands.
   d) The government asked everyone to plant victory gardens.

2. What is a producer?
   a) someone who uses stuff
   b) someone who makes stuff
   c) someone fighting a war
   d) someone who remembers the past

3. A California library uses a 3-D printer to make___.
   a) diapers
   b) a vaccine
   c) radio transmitters
   d) face shields

4. Which U.S. president gave “fireside chats”?
   a) Harry S. Truman
   b) Woodrow Wilson
   c) Abraham Lincoln
   d) Franklin Roosevelt

5. Why were gardens planted during the World Wars called “victory” gardens?

VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. disrupted
   a) interfered with
   b) supported
   c) added to

2. repel
   a) drop down by rope
   b) drive away
   c) draw near

3. adapt
   a) give up
   b) practice more
   c) make changes

4. cliffhangers
   a) suspenseful ending
   b) tidy conclusion
   c) athletic feat
CITIZEN SHIP STORIES

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

☐ 1. New Ways To Fight Wildfires: Firefighters are used to working and living close together. But new rules to protect them from the virus are changing how they train and operate.

☐ 2. A Big Agency for a Big Job: The National Interagency Fire Center doesn’t fight fires. But it equips firefighters with what they need to do that very important job.

☐ 3. Blind Justice: The Supreme Court of the United States could not convene in its normal courtroom in Washington, D.C. But that didn’t stop cases from being heard. Heard—but not seen!

☐ 4. The First Court Still Sitting: The Supreme Court of the United States has moved from place to place in the nation’s history. But the traditions of the Supreme Court have changed very little since its beginning.

☐ 5. Wildfire: Solve the clues to learn some wildfire lingo in our original online Explore It interactive.

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READING QUIZ

1. Rules for fighting wildland fires could be changing because ____.
   a) the number of willing workers is down
   b) it’s hard to stay apart when fighting fires
   c) not enough firefighting equipment is available
   d) the food isn’t very good

2. The NIFC is based in ____.
   a) Cheyenne, Wyoming
   b) New York, New York
   c) Salt Lake City, Utah
   d) Boise, Idaho

3. “Blind justice” is ____.
   a) unwise
   b) impartial
   c) uninformed
   d) strict

4. The first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court was ____.
   a) John Silver
   b) John Roberts
   c) John F. Kennedy
   d) John Jay

5. Name two ways that fighting fires is changing because of the coronavirus.
TAKE APART SMART STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. **Spotlight on Pearl Girl:** A very famous painting got a very detailed examination. High-tech scans reveal a lot about a beloved painting by Johannes Vermeer. But at least one mystery remains.

☐ 2. **Mysterious Vermeer:** Very little is known about the artist. Somehow he mostly stayed in one place and used expensive materials even though he was deeply in debt. Yet he captured beauty like few others.

☐ 3. **He Sends the Rain!** After two decades of not enough rain, the biblically famous Sea of Galilee is brimming full! That’s a blessing for Israel!

☐ 4. **Watergen Donation Brings Water:** Palestinian Arabs and Israeli citizens are not usually friends. They fight over land and government. But an Israeli businessman still wanted to help sick and needy Palestinians in Gaza.

☐ 5. **Making Paint Stick:** How did Vermeer and other masters make and use their paints? Click through our Explore It interactive online to find out!

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REVIEW QUIZ

1. The backdrop behind the girl in Vermeer’s painting was originally ___.
   a) dark gray
   b) rust-colored
   c) dark green
   d) left blank

2. Johannes Vermeer used ___.
   a) acrylic paint
   b) oil paint
   c) watercolor paint
   d) paint made of gold

3. What’s the good news from the Sea of Galilee these days?
   a) the Sea is full with plenty of water
   b) pirates have left the area
   c) churches on its banks are open again
   d) new fish species were found

4. How does a Watergen machine work?
   a) it takes moisture from the air and condenses it into water
   b) it connects a pipe to an aquifer
   c) it spills dirty water into a tank
   d) it changes ice cubes into liquid

5. Name two things Jesus did at the Sea of Galilee.

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VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. alluring
   a) tricky
   b) repulsive
   c) attractive

2. luminosity
   a) heat
   b) radiance
   c) drabness

3. replenished
   a) refilled
   b) depleted
   c) polluted

4. disputed
   a) abandoned
   b) fought over
   c) agreed upon
CRITTER FILE STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Murder Hornets: A few frightening giant Asian hornets showed up in North America. They don’t belong here! People who study insects are trying to find them before they attack honeybees.

☐ 2. Know Your Stingers: Is that a bee or a wasp? Is it a friend or a foe? Learn about several types of stinging insects. Note their shapes and colors. They’re not as much alike as you might have thought!

☐ 3. No Bamboo at the Zoo: Er Shun and Da Mao could not longer stay in Canada. The pair of giant pandas were returned to China. Shipping complications kept them from getting enough of their favorite food!

☐ 4. Pandas for Peace, Pandas for Profit: China owns all the pandas in the world. The Asian nation rents the beloved bears to countries. Sometimes China uses pandas as a way of making friends with those countries.

☐ 5. Animal Years: How old is that critter?—In people years, that is. Play our memory game in Explore It to find out!

READING QUIZ

1. Murder hornets eat __.
   a) apples, blueberries, and cherries
   b) honeybees
   c) humans
   d) garbage

2. Hornets are __.
   a) honeybees
   b) paper wasps
   c) wasps
   d) carpenter bees

3. Pandas eat mostly __.
   a) Asian pears
   b) bamboo
   c) eucalyptus
   d) grass

4. Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing were gifts to __.
   a) Barack Obama
   b) George W. Bush
   c) Donald Trump
   d) Richard Nixon

5. Why can’t Canada’s pandas eat bamboo shipped in from the United States?
JET BALLOON STORIES
Check the box after reading each story, and then take the quiz.

☐ 1. Share the River!: Ethiopia has been building a huge dam on the Nile River in Africa. It will stop water to fill its reservoir. What will happen to the countries downstream when the dam stops their water?


☐ 3. Taco in Transit: Describe an American taco. What comes to mind? That might depend on where you live. The taco has adapted based on who is making it and what ingredients are available.

☐ 4. The World Is a... Taco?: People move and migrate all around the world. They bring their cultures and traditions with them. Some call America a “melting pot,” but maybe it’s more like a salad... or a taco!

☐ 5. Traveling Food: Pick your plane and an answer to hop to the next world food question in our original online Explore It interactive.

READING QUIZ

1. What does Ethiopia hope to gain from building its dam on the Nile River?
   a) a large fishing lake
   b) electrical power
   c) power over Egypt
   d) beaches to draw tourists

2. What do workers in Sudan make from the Nile’s resources?
   a) concrete
   b) dried rivergrass snacks
   c) clay bricks
   d) a and b

3. ___ is the birthplace of tacos.
   a) Korea
   b) India
   c) Mexico
   d) Israel

4. Which comes from India?
   a) olives
   b) yogurt
   c) rosemary
   d) soy sauce

5. Which countries could be harmed by the dam Ethiopia is building on the Nile?

VOCABULARY QUIZ:

1. prosper
   a) thrive
   b) wither
   c) plan

2. tranquil
   a) chaotic
   b) peaceful
   c) deep

3. authentic
   a) fake
   b) accurate
   c) mixed up

4. snub
   a) welcome
   b) accept
   c) ignore
ANSWER KEY:

Science Soup:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. c, 2. b, 3. c, 4. b
5. SpaceX is cutting costs by making rockets reusable.

Time Machine:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. a, 2. b, 3. d, 4. d
5. Answers will vary but should include something like people were
providing for themselves and others during war-time shortages, to help strengthen the nation to win
the war.

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

Citizen Ship:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. b, 2. d, 3. b, 4. d
5. Answers will vary but may include: online training, only two
people per vehicle, MREs instead of a chow tent, more masks.

Take Apart Smart:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. c, 2. b, 3. a, 4. a
5. Answers will vary but should include two of the following: called
disciples, calmed a storm, fed people, walked on water, taught.

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

Critter File:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. d
5. Answers may vary but should include that pandas are picky about
which bamboo they like, and bamboo may spoil in shipping before it gets to them.

Jet Balloon:
*Reading Quiz:* 1. b, 2. c, 3. c, 4. b
5. Answers may vary but include Egypt and Sudan.

*Vocabulary Quiz:* 1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c
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
in civil society, so come aboard!

ScienceSoup ties current events to the laws of nature, using simple illustrations with eye-popping photos and delightful videos, to make the stuff of earth and space fascinating, with topics to engage your children’s senses, helping them fall in love with the study and stewardship of the amazing world around them.

From an active volcano expedition, to the launch of a new spacecraft, to the discovery of the secrets of a disease that garnered international attention, to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of a cultural festival, ScienceSoup makes the stuff of earth and space fascinating, with the study of science.

Illustrated with eye-popping photos and delightful videos, with the study of science.

ScienceSoup makes the stuff of earth and space fascinating, with topics to engage your children’s senses, helping them fall in love with the study and stewardship of the amazing world around them.
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.