

# Lexia<sup>®</sup> English

## Passage Reference Guide

This resource includes the full text of Listening Passages in the Lexia<sup>®</sup> English Learning Development student program.

The Passage Reference Guide is designed to support a detailed review of program passage content. Additional program content, including word- and sentence-level content, images, and questions, can be viewed using the product's Educator Mode.



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## LEVEL 1 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

What do animals need? All animals need food.

What do plants need? All plants need sunlight.

What do all living things need? All living things need water.

### Encounter 2, Unit 4

My family lives in this building. Is this purple? This is purple.

The bear lives in this cave. Is this white? This is white.

Worms live in soil. Is this brown? This is brown.

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Plants need the sun. The sun helps plants grow. The sun is yellow.

Plants need water. Water helps plants grow. Water is blue.

Plants need soil. Soil helps plants grow. Soil is brown.

## LEVEL 1 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 1, Unit 5

My father, mi papá, is busy today. First, he is going to the library. Then he is going to the store.

First, he is taking me to practice. Then he is taking my sister for a walk.

First, he is helping our neighbors. Then he is helping my mother.

### Encounter 2, Unit 6

There are seven days in the week. Monday. Tuesday. Wednesday. Thursday. Friday. Saturday. Sunday.

I have activities planned during the week. First, I am starting school on Monday. And then I am going to swim class.

On Tuesday, I am cooking. And then I am painting on Wednesday.

On Thursday, I am going to the zoo. And then I am going to the fair on Friday.

### Encounter 3, Unit 4

We are talking about holidays at school. My group is talking about Juneteenth.

First we are talking about freedom. And then we are talking about rights.

First we are talking about strength. And then we are talking about joy.

First we are talking about celebrations. And then we are talking about family and friends.



## LEVEL 1 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

Ana sat at her desk. She looked inside. She found an egg!

The egg was a toy. Ana put it down. She pulled out an umbrella!

The umbrella was wet. Ana put it down. She pulled out a book. Yay! She started to read.

### Encounter 2, Unit 3

Ana took some paper. She got a pencil. She drew a square.

Ana drew a face. She gave the square a smile. Then, she drew a triangle.

Ana drew a circle. She added a face. The square had a friend.

### Encounter 3, Unit 5

Ana lives in the city. There are cars. There are buildings. There are food carts.

Ana's dog got out. It chased a cat. Ana ran after them.

Ana took her dog home. She took the cat, too. They sat on the bed and fell asleep.

## LEVEL 1 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 1, Unit 4

My dad and I go to the park. It has rides. I love to watch the rides move!

I love the swings. They spin in a circle. They are fun to watch.

Later, my dad and I eat. We eat sambusas. They are bites of dough filled with meat and vegetables. Then, we ride the carousel. Now, I get on this ride. It spins too.

### Encounter 2, Unit 2

My dad gave me a bike. We love to ride bikes!

I ride very fast. My dad goes slow.

We ride our bikes to the park. We also ride to school.

I keep my bike in the garage.

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Denise Schindler loves to ride bikes, like me. Her job is to ride bikes.

She rides in bike races. She wins many races.

Denise has only one foot. But that doesn't stop her! She has set world records. She has also won world championships. Denise says you can do anything!



## LEVEL 2 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

Madeline, what are you doing now? I am looking. I am looking for frogs. I study the sounds frogs make.

Madeline, what are you doing now? I am listening. I am listening to the frogs. I want to learn about the sounds they make.

Madeline, what are you doing now? I am writing. I am writing about the frogs. I want to remember what I hear.

### Encounter 2, Unit 4

Scientists ask questions about the world. Asking questions is important in science. What are the scientists doing? They are asking questions.

Scientists share ideas with each other. Sharing ideas is important in science. What are the scientists doing? They are sharing ideas.

Scientists look for answers to their questions. Looking for answers is important in science. What are the scientists doing? They are looking for answers.

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

We are planting seeds. Seeds grow into plants. What are we doing? We are planting seeds.

We are asking questions. Questions are important. What are we doing? We are asking questions.

We are writing. Writing about what we see is important. What are we doing? We are writing about what we see.

## LEVEL 2 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 1, Unit 5

We talked before about family. Your family helps make you YOU. Your friends also help make you YOU.

I love music. Lynne loves music, too. We both love dancing. Lynne's family is Irish. She likes Irish music. My family is Chinese. I like Chinese opera music. We both love dancing.

Pop music is great, too. I like Chinese Pop. It's called C-Pop. Lynne loves it, too. We both do! We make up our own dances. Mom says we bop to C-Pop!

Lynne and I live in Marin City. We like Marin City. We like to cross the bridge to San Francisco. We like Muir Woods too!

### Encounter 2, Unit 2

San Francisco is a big city. Oakland is a big city, too. They are close to Marin City. They are on the bay. We drive across big bridges to get to them.

I like to go to Oakland. We go to little book stores there! We also go to the dragon boat festival there. The boat races are fun! I like to watch them. I also like to get snacks. The festival has little food stands.

My dad works in San Francisco. Sometimes I go with him. I love the big buildings. I love the lake, too. It is near the place where he works. People paddle small boats around the lake. We like to watch them. It's so much fun!



### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Your culture makes you YOU. I am Chinese-American. That means I have two cultures. One is Chinese. The other is American.

Language is part of your culture. There are many languages, like Japanese and Spanish. I speak two languages. I speak Chinese and English. They are very different.

Holidays are part of your culture, too--like Chinese New Year! I love Chinese New Year. We dance. We drum. We see a parade. I get a gift. The gift is little. It is an envelope--a red envelope. Red is good luck!

Music is part of your culture, too. What do I like? I like pop music. I like American pop music. And I like Chinese pop music. Both are good for dancing!

## LEVEL 2 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 1, Unit 4

Look and listen to the poem "Hey Diddle Diddle". Pay attention to the number of animals and things that you see in it.

Hey, diddle, diddle. The cat and the fiddle...

The cow jumped over the moon!

The little dog laughed to see such sport...

And the dish ran away with the spoon!

### Encounter 2, Unit 3

I'm off in the meadow. And what can I see?

One yellow flower. It's waving at me.

I'm off in the meadow. And what can I see?

Two little spiders. They're staring at me.

I'm off in the meadow. And what can I see?

Three furry rabbits. They're wiggling at me.

I'm off in the meadow. And what can I see?

Four quiet snails. They're smiling at me.

I'm off in the meadow. And what can I see?

Five fast, tiny ants. They're crawling on me.

### Encounter 3, Unit 4

Goldilocks took a walk in the woods. She came upon a house. The door was open. Three chairs were inside. Goldilocks sat in each one. The first one was too big. The second one was too hard. But the last one was just right!

Three bowls of soup were on the table. Goldilocks tasted each one. The first one was too hot. The second one was too cold. But the last one was just right! Goldilocks ate it all up.





Goldilocks grew tired. She went upstairs to rest. There were three beds. The first one was too high. The second one was too soft. But the third one was just right! Goldilocks fell fast asleep.

The three bears came home. Someone had sat on the three chairs. Someone had tasted the soup. And Baby Bear's soup was all gone! Now there was one unhappy baby bear.

Papa Bear walked upstairs. Mama Bear walked upstairs. Baby Bear walked upstairs. Baby Bear let out a cry. Someone had been sleeping in his bed, and she was still there! Goldilocks woke up. "Thank you!" she cried, as she ran off.

## LEVEL 2 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

I am Wong Yi. This is my family. We live in China.

This is my mom. My mom teaches yoga. She teaches me too!

This is my dad. My dad works on a farm. The farm grows peanuts and soybeans.

This is me. I love math. I also love music.

### Encounter 2, Unit 5

As a kid, Will Allen grew up on a farm. He liked to play basketball. He got a job playing basketball on a team.

Will got older. He stopped playing basketball. He wanted to farm. He wanted to farm in the city. He wanted to help people eat more fruits and vegetables.

Will started a farm in the city. He grew fruits. He grew vegetables. Now, people can buy their food near their homes.

Some places do not have fruits and vegetables. Then people eat junk food. They spend more money on food. Sometimes, they get sick. Or they go to bed hungry. That's why Will Allen wanted to help. I'm glad he found a way.

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Remember Will Allen? Let me tell you more about him.

Will likes to teach people. He likes to teach people about farming. It is a good thing to know. Food is important.

People come to his farm. They plant seeds. They give the seeds water. They learn how to grow their own food.

Now, people can grow food at home. They can eat better. They can eat fruits and vegetables. Will did a good job helping them.



## LEVEL 3 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

I am standing near the ramp. It is my turn to go. I put the toy car at the top. I give it a push. The car rolls down the ramp. It rolls onto the floor and keeps going. There is nothing to stop it!

I put a sponge at the bottom of the ramp. I give the car a push. It rolls down the ramp. It bounces into the sponge. The sponge slides on the floor. It moves out of the way. The car keeps going!

I put a block at the bottom of the ramp. I give the car a push. It goes down the ramp fast. Bang! It bounces into the block. The block doesn't move. The car stops!

## LEVEL 3 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

In India, there is a dance called Bhangra. It is fast and fun. Jamie and I take bhangra lessons together, here in England. We put on shows at the park. People come to watch!

Yesterday, we watched the Holla Mohalla parade. The parade started near the library. It went past my house. It ended at the park. People laughed and sang. Some even did martial arts!

The library is near my house. I get good books at the library. Today, I read one about India. That's where I'm from. There are elephants in India...and colorful clothing...and lots of good food!

## LEVEL 3 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

The teacher gives Obi 20 yellow blocks. He gives Gloria 20 blue blocks. What can they do with these blocks? Obi makes 2 stacks of 10 blocks. Gloria makes 4 stacks of 5 blocks. "Excellent work!" says the teacher.

The teacher gives Ana 20 green blocks. He gives Leo 20 red blocks. What can they do with these blocks? Ana stacks all her blocks on top of each other. Leo lines them up on his desk. "Be careful!" says the teacher.

## LEVEL 3 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Chabuca Granda was a famous singer in Peru, where I live. She wrote many songs. People heard them on the radio. They loved Chabuca's songs. I love them too. Songs are like poems with music.

Chabuca mixed many kinds of music together. Some of it sounded Peruvian. Some sounded African. Some sounded Spanish. Her music was like the city where she lived. It was a mix of many people and cultures!

Chabuca wrote a song called La Flor de la Canela. She sang about flowers... and rivers... and dreams. People loved the song. They built a statue of Chabuca. They put it in her city. We will never forget her!



## LEVEL 4 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 1, Unit 4

Have you noticed how the moon seems to change shape? Sometimes it looks big. Sometimes it looks small. We made a model of this in school.

To make the model we used plates and cookies. We put four cookies on each plate. Each cookie showed one phase of the moon.

To make the shapes of the moon, we scooped out some cookie filling using spoons. We had to scoop out just the right amount. We scooped out more to make a small moon and less to make a big moon. And we got to eat the leftovers!

### Encounter 2, Unit 3

Seawater goes up and down every day. These changes are called tides. The water is high at high tide. It is low at low tide.

Gravity is a force. It pulls on things. The moon pulls on Earth. The sun also pulls on Earth. This causes seawater to swell at different times.

If you live near the coast, you will see four tides each day. Two high tides and two low tides. It takes a little more than 6 hours for the tides to change.

### Encounter 3, Unit 4

Earth revolves, or moves, around the sun. This is why we have seasons. It takes Earth one year to move around the sun.

Earth spins, or rotates, as it moves around the sun. It does not spin straight up and down. It leans a little on its side.

Sometimes, the top half of Earth gets more sunlight. Sometimes, the bottom half gets more. The north is warm when the south is cool. Then, the south is warm when the north is cool.

In January, it is winter in Canada. But it is summer in Brazil. Their seasons are different.

## LEVEL 4 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

Jayda and her friends are going to celebrate their community garden. They are going to have a garden party!

First, they are going to make posters. Next, they are going to choose the food. Then, they are going to decorate the garden.

First, they are going to play games. Next, they are going to eat. Then, they are going to dance to music.

At the end of the party, Jayda is going to thank everyone for coming. Then, she and her friends are going to clean up. Finally, they will go home.



### **Encounter 2, Unit 3**

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### **Encounter 2, Unit 3**

My abuelita, my grandma, learned how to make fresh tortillas when she was a little girl living in Mexico. Now that she lives in the United States, she still makes them for the family every weekend. Next weekend, she will teach me how to make them, too!

First, we will pour the masa harina, or corn flour, into a bowl. Next, we will add some water and a little salt. Then, we will stir it together until it makes a dough.

Then comes my favorite part! First, we will cut up the dough. Next, we will roll it into balls. Then, we will use Abuelita's tortilla press to mash them flat.

Next, Abuelita will cook the pressed tortillas on the stove. Then, my sister and I will set the table. Finally, the whole family will sit down and eat together.

### **Encounter 3, Unit 3**

My grandmother was born in Oaxaca, Mexico. We are going to visit. It will probably be different than Colorado. I am excited about the trip.

First, we will see the gardens. Next, we will see some special buildings. Then, we will have dinner at the market.

The next day, we will travel outside of the city. First, we will visit the pyramids. Next, we will eat lunch at my aunt's house. Then, we will go to a baseball game.

We will also visit other family members. First, we will visit my uncle. He lives near the pyramids. Then, we will visit my abuelita's sister. Finally, we will have a big party. The whole family will come!

## **LEVEL 4 | ACTIVITY 3**

### **Encounter 1, Unit 5**

Obi went to the park. There were not many children there. One child was sitting on the tire swing. She was excited to see Obi. Her name was Gloria. Gloria asked Obi to swing with her.

Obi got dizzy on the tire swing. He jumped off and fell on his face. When he sat up, he smiled. One of his teeth was missing. His loose tooth had fallen out!

Gloria jumped off the tire swing and landed on her feet. She helped Obi look for his missing tooth. It was not hidden in the grass. It was under his foot!

Obi held up his tooth and smiled. Gloria began to clap for him. Two women started clapping with her. They were very excited for Obi.



### Encounter 2, Unit 5

Gloria's pet mouse snuck out of its cage. It scrambled up the bookshelf. At the top, it stopped. "Good mouse!" Gloria said. It ran off.

The mouse ran into the kitchen. It smelled cheese on the table. It jumped up and bumped a set of knives. One knife fell out. It almost hit the mouse's tail.

"Be careful!" Gloria cried. "You could cut your tail in half!" She liked tails in one piece. Two halves were not as good.

The mouse raced out the door. It ran into the yard. Gloria scooped it up on a leaf. It nibbled her fingers. "Come on," she said. "Let's go home."

### Encounter 3, Unit 5

Gloria's mouse was hard to hold. It liked to run away. But Gloria's teacher wanted to hold it. She handed the mouse to her teacher. The mouse jumped out of his hands. It ran across a stack of papers and sniffed the air.

The teacher was wearing a nice pair of shoes. The mouse jumped onto his foot. Gloria gasped. The teacher yelped and jiggled his shoe. The mouse ran off.

The mouse ran into the corner. It hid behind a stack of books. Gloria could not find it. "Does anyone have any cheese?" she asked the class.

Obi handed her some cheese. She put the cheese near a set of crayons. The mouse crept closer. Gloria scooped it up and smiled. The students laughed. The mouse ate the cheese. And everyone was happy again!

## LEVEL 4 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 1, Unit 1

Cynthia Verna is a chef. She was born in Haiti. She first learned to cook with her grandmother. Her mother had a restaurant. Cynthia was a chef there when she was 17. Then, she opened her own restaurant.

Later, Cynthia moved to the United States to study cooking. Then, she started her own Haitian food catering business. She wrote a book about it. She cooks fish, and she cooks plantains.

Cynthia was invited to be on a TV show. She shared her love of cooking on the show. Then, she won an award for her cooking.

### Encounter 2, Unit 2

Let's listen to a recipe to learn how to make rice and beans!

First, add oil, onion, garlic, and rice to the pan. Next, add water, tomato paste, and the beans. Heat it up until it boils.

Then, turn down the heat and cover it with a tight lid. Let it cook for 20 minutes. Do not stir the rice until it is done. Then, you can eat it!

Sometimes we eat the rice with a special soup. It's called bouillon. It has potatoes and tomatoes. It also has meat, like goat or beef.



### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Let's learn about one of my favorite festivals: Carnival! Carnival is a festival in Haiti. It lasts many days.

People celebrate Carnival with colorful costumes and masks. There is also music and dancing in the street. First, make or buy a costume. Next, put the costume on. Then, you're ready to go to Carnival!

There are also parades at Carnival. The parades have floats. First, you pick a theme for your float. Next, you find a base to use for the float. You could use a car or a truck. Then, you get materials to decorate the float.

Next, you work on the float. It can take a whole year! Then, you take the float to the parade. Last, you ride on or walk next to your float at Carnival!

## LEVEL 5 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 1, Unit 4

When I was a baby, I got very sick. I got so sick that I lost my right leg. The doctors gave me an artificial leg. The leg helps me to walk.

At first it was really hard for me to walk on my own. I fell down and cried a lot. My parents and grandparents helped me every day. My family gave me the support that I needed.

My mother once told me about a kangaroo that had also lost its leg. Doctors gave the kangaroo an artificial leg. The leg helped it hop around. Learning about the kangaroo gave me hope.

### Encounter 2, Unit 4

I saw a baby owl in a nest yesterday. The baby was too young to catch its own food, so the parents brought it meals. The father gave it a frog to eat. The mother gave it a snake to eat. They fed it all day long.

I saw a sea otter in the bay. She had a baby on her belly. That's how she kept it safe and warm. The mother licked the baby's fur and gave it a bath. Then she gave it milk. And the whole time, they kept right on swimming!

I watched a show about elephants. The families lived in a group. Everyone gave the baby help. One elephant brought the baby to the river. Then, a big elephant gave it a push so it could climb out!

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

The mother bird gave her babies a flying lesson. She flew close to the nest. Then, she waited there with food. She gave the babies time to climb on a branch. The babies flapped their wings as they climbed. They were learning to fly!

The mother seals gave their pups a swimming lesson. Sometimes the pups got tired, so their mothers gave them a rest. They let the pups ride on their backs! A hungry shark swam by. The mothers gave the pups a push. Back to shore, pups!

The Orca whales gave their babies a hunting lesson. They showed the babies how to make a large wave. The wave tipped a seal off a chunk of ice. The whales caught the seal. They gave the babies a piece of meat for dinner.



## LEVEL 5 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

I made a podcast about my family for a school project. Listen to this interview I did with Nanay, my mom.

Isko: Nanay, why did you and Tatay decide to move to Canada?

Nanay: We relocated because we needed work. The opportunities were better in Canada. We could earn more money. We could make a better life. Many immigrants move for that reason.

Isko: Was it hard to leave the place where you were born?

Nanay: Yes. Leaving family is hard! But now we can help your grandparents. We send them money to help them buy food. And so they can pay their bills. Lots of immigrants help family this way.

Isko: Why don't immigrants bring their whole family with them?

Nanay: Because they don't have the money. But they can earn it in their new country. Then they can save some of it. Why do they try to save money? Because they want to bring their families to live with them. Someday, they will send for them. We plan to do that for your grandparents. Then we can live together again.

### Encounter 2, Unit 4

We talked about firefighters in school. They provide a public service. They put out fires. They save lives. Sometimes, they even deliver babies! Firefighting is an important public service.

My school provides two public services. First, it provides students with an education. And second, it provides lunch! We get to pick a meal from a buffet. I like to get pizza and salad. But sometimes I eat chicken wings.

Trash collection is my favorite public service! Trash is smelly. I wouldn't want it piling up in my house! Or on the streets. Or in my school. Every week, a truck comes to pick up the trash. It picks up recycling too. I'm so glad! Public services like trash collection are really important.

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

There's a small grocery store near my home. My friends and I buy snacks there. One day, we noticed a dog chained up out back. The dog couldn't move more than a few feet. It was dirty and looked sad. We wanted to help it.

We talked to the owner. He refused to treat the dog better. So we refused to buy snacks from him. And we asked our neighbors not to buy from him. That's called a boycott. We refused to buy from him unless he stopped mistreating the dog.

Boycotts are one way people can help change things. Boycotts are powerful. Businesses don't want to lose money. And they don't want people saying bad things about them. So they make an effort to change.

## LEVEL 5 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 1, Unit 5

Do you like making music? I like making music! I play a Chinese instrument called the "erhu." My friend Bo and I are taking lessons. We like learning the same songs. We don't like making mistakes. That's why we practice together!



Do you like studying math? I like studying math! It makes me think. That's why I like playing chess, too. I like planning how to trap my opponent's king. I don't like getting trapped, though. But it's part of learning the game!

Do you like playing tennis? I like playing tennis. I like doing yoga, too. My mom is a yoga teacher and she can stand on her head. Not me. I fall over and land splat on my back. I don't like landing on my back! Mom laughs out loud when I say that.

### **Encounter 2, Unit 3**

My math class created three other surveys. This one is about pets. We asked kids which pet they liked. The choices were cats, rats, or rabbits. Look at the results. 16 students liked cats. 2 students liked rats. And 7 students liked rabbits.

This survey is about fruit. We wanted to see which fruit the class liked. The choices were guava, mango, and lychee. First we got to taste them in class, then we took the survey. Here are the results. 8 students liked guava. 10 students liked mango. And 7 students liked lychee.

The last survey is about instruments. We asked students which instrument they like learning to play. The choices were violin, piano, and guitar. Here are the results. 5 students picked violin. 8 students picked piano. 12 students picked guitar.

### **Encounter 3, Unit 2**

Isabella brings her sketch pad with her when she sits in her backyard. She likes drawing nature. It's hard drawing things that move, though. She doesn't like drawing fast. Still, she tries. Once, she even drew a flying squirrel!

Horacio likes baking for his family. He bakes cookies and cakes. But he likes baking bread the most. Sometimes his dog Kobe sneaks into the kitchen. Then Kobe eats the bread before anyone gets a bite! Horacio hates that. He doesn't like baking for the dog!

Lisette brings her sketch pad with her when she sits in her backyard. She likes drawing nature. It's hard drawing things that move, though. She doesn't like drawing fast. Still, she tries. Once, she even drew a flying squirrel!

## **LEVEL 5 | ACTIVITY 4**

### **Encounter 1, Unit 4**

Let's learn about Olympia. Olympia is a Greek ruin. A ruin is an old place. Years ago, people played sports there. These sports games were famous. They were called the Olympics.

The Olympia ruins are big. One part has a large sports stadium. It is like a park. The ground is dirt. Athletes played sports on the dirt area. The games were exciting.

Other people came to watch the games. They sat on the sides of the stadium. The players played sports in front of the people. The players wanted to win!

This is also a part of Olympia. It is made of stone. You can see trees behind it. The players practiced sports here. They lived here, too. After the games, they went home.





### Encounter 2, Unit 4

Do you remember that climbing is a sport? Do you like to climb up high? People climb up high walls and mountains. It's hard work! You must have strong arms to climb high.

Ashima Shiraishi is a sport climber. She is from New York. Her father took her to play in Central Park. One day, she saw people climbing on Rat Rock. It looked like they were dancing on rocks! She wanted to try it. So she climbed behind another boy. It was great!

Now, Ashima is one of the best climbers in the world. She practices climbing in a gym. Some days she practices five hours. It makes her very strong! Her father helps her practice. He was a dancer.

Ashima wins a lot of contests. But there's one more contest she would like to win. She wants to climb in the Olympics. That is her new dream. But she likes to have fun, too. And she loves to eat chocolate!

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

¿Que paso? What's up? I saw my friend, Jorge, at school today. He's a fast runner. When he's in a race, he's always in front of all the other runners. Yesterday, the school had a track meet. I had to help my mom. But Jorge told me all about it.

In Jorge's first race, he got a slow start. He was behind the other runners. He thought, "You can do it! Keep trying!" Then, he caught up with the other runners. He ran between two boys. "Faster, faster," he told himself. Finally, he saw the finish line and ran in front of all the runners to win the race!

Jorge said he ran in a relay race next. A relay race is a race with teamwork! There are four runners on each team. Each person on the team gets to run. The person who is running holds a stick. The stick is called a "baton." The runner passes the stick to the next runner after going around the track.

## LEVEL 6 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Do you love fruit like I do? Do you ever wonder where it grows? Plants sometimes have fruit. Trees are tall plants. Trees sometimes have fruit too. My favorite fruit is lúcuma, but I love mango too.

I love making jugo de mango. That's mango juice! First, you buy fresh mangoes. Next, you peel them. Then, you cut them into chunks. Put the chunks into the blender, and it's almost ready.

Next, you add water to the blender. Sometimes people add sugar too. This makes the juice even sweeter. Then, you blend everything together. Finally, the juice is ready to drink!

## LEVEL 6 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Two students had an idea. They could train monkeys to help people. They started Helping Hands. The monkeys were good at opening jars and turning on lights. And they were excited to earn treats. Peanut butter was great!

The monkeys were small, but they had strong arms. That's why they could open drawers or carry books. The first person to receive a monkey was very happy. He had a wheelchair and a new friend.



The monkey became a part of the family. She had snacks with the man in the wheelchair. She had baths in the sink. She even helped the man brush his teeth. They were good friends for life.

## LEVEL 6 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

One of my favorite games is called Durak. It's a card game we play here in Russia. I play Durak with my grandmother. But the deck of cards I use to play is missing some cards.

I ask my grandmother, "Can we go to the store to buy cards?" She says "yes"! The cards cost ninety-nine cents. We have four quarters.

Four quarters is one hundred cents. That's more than the cost of the cards. Can we buy the cards? Yes, we can buy the cards! Now we can play Durak again!

## LEVEL 6 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

My brother and I have never been to Korea. Someday, we will take ourselves on a special trip there. Then we can see the place where my parents grew up. We can also visit a special park. It honors a famous brother and sister.

The brother and sister were poets in Korea. Heo Nanseolheon was the sister. She called herself "Nan." Long ago, girls were not allowed to study. But Nan taught herself. She was so good at writing, her parents got her a teacher.

Heo Gyun was Nan's brother. He wrote a famous Korean book. And he loved his sister's poems. He wanted other people to read them, too. So he got the poems made into books. Maybe someday Jin-Loo and I will make ourselves famous, too.

## LEVEL 7 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 1

I'm going to make popsicles for my family. I pour the juice into three different containers. I want to find out which one will freeze the fastest. I use a small mug, a glass, and a big bowl. Then I put the containers into the freezer.

Now I have to wait for them to freeze. I think that the juice in the mug will freeze the fastest. The mug is the smallest. It has less liquid in it, so it should freeze the fastest.

### Encounter 3, Unit 4

I go back to check on the popsicles after a few hours. The juice in the small mug is frozen, but the others are not. I was right! The smallest one freezes the fastest.

The next day, I take the frozen popsicles out of the freezer. I want to share them with my family, but my family doesn't have time to eat them. The containers are sitting in the kitchen. I watch them melt. Guess what happens to the smallest one? The smallest one melts the fastest!



## LEVEL 7 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Sally Ride was born in 1951. Her parents did not know she would become an astronaut. The space program in the United States was just beginning. No one had been to outer space yet. That would not happen for ten more years.

In 1961, a Russian pilot went up in a rocket. Space travel had begun! Sally was ten years old. And she was excited. After high school, she went to college to study physics. She saw an ad, asking women to become astronauts. She applied and was accepted!

In 1983, Sally went up in space. She went with other astronauts. They spent a week there. Sally's job was to control the robotic arm. She became the first American woman in space. Just like Galileo and Tesla, she loved exploring the universe!

## LEVEL 7 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

My grandparents took me to visit this building. It's called Catedral Metropolitana de Brasília. My grandfather knew the man who designed the building. We went inside the building to look. My grandfather told us all about how the building was designed.

I learned how a building gets built. First, architects think about what the new building needs to have. Next, they visit the land where the building will be. Then, they take measurements of the land. Why do they have to measure? They have to measure to find out how much space they have. After that, they draw a design for the building.

Later, they add notes to the drawings. The plans are ready! The workers begin building. Finally, the building is completed. That is how Catedral Metropolitana de Brasília was made too.

## LEVEL 7 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, or FDR, was the 32nd president of the United States. He served from 1933 to 1945. These were difficult times. Families did not have enough money or food. And World War II happened. FDR helped make things better.

FDR used a wheelchair because his legs could not move. It happened when he was 39 years old. One day, he decided to go sailing in the Bay of Fundy. He fell overboard. But it wasn't the cold water that made him sick. It was polio.

It was important for FDR to get exercise. It made him happy and healthy. When he became President, he had a swimming pool built inside the White House. He practiced swimming every day. It made him feel strong and confident. That helped him become a good president!



## LEVEL 8 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Kids get bigger and heavier as they grow. But did you know that some rocks can grow too? To find out how rocks can get bigger, let's talk about what rocks are made of. Rocks are made up of minerals. Minerals are made naturally by the earth.

One place where rocks can grow bigger is in caves; open spaces under the surface of the earth. In this cave water is always dripping from the ceiling. There are minerals in this dripping water that get left behind. Over time, these minerals harden and create rocks that hang down from the ceiling.

Some drops of water also fall on the floor of the cave. This creates large rock formations, or shapes, on the floor of the cave too. These look like big pillars.

Which rock formation is bigger? The one on the left is bigger than the one on the right. The rocks coming up from the floor and the ones coming down from the ceiling grew together! This created one, big rock formation! This process took millions of years.

## LEVEL 8 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Egypt is not the only place with pyramids. You can also find them in Mexico. My grandparents visited one when they were living there. It's called the Pyramid of Kukulcan. Scientists believe it was built in 1000 C.E. People were already visiting it a thousand years ago!

The Mayans built the Pyramid of Kukulcan. They were clever people. They added surprises into the pyramid when they were building it. There are 365 stairs to match the days in the calendar. And on the longest and shortest days of the year, something special happens. The shadows fall across the stones like a snake!

The city of Teotihuacán is also in Mexico. Dad got postcards there when he was traveling. I felt like I was visiting, too! The Pyramid of the Moon is at the end of a long, straight road. It looks like the Great Pyramids of Egypt, except its stairs are on the outside. And it's not in the desert!

## LEVEL 8 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

My family has a double kayak like the one in this picture. Two people can sit inside of it. It's the perfect kayak for our family. My brother or I can kayak with one of our parents. Kayaking is easier when there are two people rowing! It even has a special storage box to keep our things dry!

This picture shows another type of kayak. It's called a single kayak because it's only for one person. That means it's perfect for people who like to go on adventures by themselves. It is also lighter and can move faster than a double kayak. It has a dry storage box too.

Let's compare the two types of kayaks! The kayak on the left has seats for two people. The kayak on the right only has one seat. Which number is greater? Two is greater than one!



The double kayak on the left has one storage box. So does the one on the right. It is the same for both kayaks because one is equal to one. Trying to choose the perfect kayak? Just think about which things are most important when you're kayaking!

## LEVEL 8 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 1

Let's hear from a kid named Anton who started a "strawless" project in his community.

I had an idea when I was nine years old. I noticed people were using a lot of plastic straws. In fact, Americans were throwing away 500 million straws every day! That created a lot of trash. Could I do something about it? Maybe I could!

I went around to different restaurants. I asked, "Could I speak with you about straws?" I told the restaurant owners that plastic straws were littering the ocean. Some owners said they couldn't stop giving straws to people. But other owners said they would!

I went to stores in my community. I asked if I could put flyers in the windows. The flyers gave facts about the problem with plastic straws. My neighbors couldn't believe how many straws were in the ocean! I was glad I could help people understand.

## LEVEL 9 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Dr. B: The biggest animal group in the world is called arthropods. Insects and spiders belong in this animal group. There are arthropods almost everywhere on Earth.

Katherine Kat: Dr. B, how do you know if an animal is an arthropod?

Dr. B: First, an arthropod has a hard covering on its body that supports and protects it. It's like wearing bones on the outside of your body! Plus, an arthropod's body has more than one part. And its legs have many sections, too.

Katherine Kat: There are so many arthropods! Which arthropod is your favorite Dr. B?

Dr. B: Hmm. I'd have to say peppered moths!

Katherine Kat: Why are the peppered moths your favorite?

Dr. B: They have so many amazing ways to stay safe!

Katherine Kat: What are some of the ways a peppered moth stays safe?

Dr. B: They can blend in with the things around them! This helps them stay safe from other animals. Peppered moths can also fly to get away. Soon I will know more! I am studying peppered moths in England next month.

Katherine Kat: Thanks for sharing this information with us today!



## LEVEL 9 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 5

Bessie Blount Griffin was born in 1914 and grew up to become a nurse and an inventor. As a child, she went to school but had to stop going after completing the sixth grade. She continued learning at home and later passed a test to earn a high school diploma. This was important because Bessie wanted to go to college to become a nurse. And soon after, she did!

In nursing school, Bessie heard about a new way to help people. It was called physical therapy, and Bessie loved it! After she finished nursing school, Bessie went on to study physical therapy. In her first job, she helped people walk again after an accident. Sometimes, she even used dance to make them strong!

During World War II, many soldiers got hurt. Some could not use their hands anymore. The soldiers were sent to the hospital. While in the hospital, Bessie taught them new ways to do things, like writing with their feet. Later, she created an invention that delivered food through a tube. With it, soldiers could feed themselves. Bessie had found a great way to help!

## LEVEL 9 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Do you remember talking about the rhombus? A rhombus is a shape that has 4 equal sides. A square has 4 equal sides too. It's a special kind of rhombus--one that has 4 right angles. This means the corners are shaped like an "L". If a shape has 4 equal sides and 4 right angles, it's a square.

There is a special name for quadrilaterals that do NOT have equal sides. These are called scalene quadrilaterals. Like other quadrilaterals, they have 4 sides. But the sides are all different lengths.

Just as there are different kinds of quadrilaterals, there are also different kinds of triangles. Triangles are polygons with 3 sides. One special kind of triangle is called an equilateral triangle. You can hear the word "equal" inside of the name. That's because an equilateral triangle has 3 equal sides!

## LEVEL 9 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Would you rather visit a forest or a beach? In Florida, you can do both. But watch out for alligators, because they might be visiting, too! I would rather see a pink flamingo than an alligator. Can you guess why? I would like to paint a colorful picture for my mom!

The Everglades in Florida is a place with many rivers and swamps. It also has mangrove trees and forests. Native people used to cut down trees, and then carve canoes out of the wood. I would rather carve an animal. Can you guess which one? An alligator!

For now, I use my imagination to visit the Everglades. You can travel anywhere in your imagination! Would you like to cross the ocean and visit a new land? Or soar through the skies like a flamingo? Maybe you would rather meet a friendly alligator with me. You'll be safe! I promise!



## LEVEL 10 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

This is Katherine Kat with a special report on pollinators. About 200,000 different animals act as pollinators...that's a lot! Some animals, like bats and moths, only come out at night to fly and look for food. They love to drink nectar from flowers. They pick up pollen on their bodies as they feed.

Ladybugs also drink nectar. But they eat other parts of the plant as well. Mainly, they like white flowers. Butterflies, on the other hand, prefer brightly colored flowers with flat surfaces to land on. These insects carry pollen on their bodies, too.

Hummingbirds are also pollinators. You can spot hummingbirds drinking nectar from tube-shaped flowers. They use their long beaks to get to the flowers' nectar. Pollen sticks to the hummingbirds' faces and beaks as they feed. Those are our pollinators for today. Have a BEE-utiful day!

### Encounter 2, Unit 4

All living things need energy to survive. Producers, like plants, make their own food. Sunflowers and Venus flytraps use sunlight and nutrients from the soil and air to make their own food. In addition to making their own food, they both produce seeds.

Venus flytraps live in poor soil and get the rest of the nutrients they need from eating insects. Because of this, they are considered secondary consumers. Venus flytraps and humans are similar because they both feed on other living things. They are also composed of cells. The building blocks of life.

There are so many living things with interesting diets. Decomposers, for example, only feed on dead matter. Earthworms are decomposers. They eat things like dead leaves. Their waste then turns into soil. Soil is important for producers, like sunflowers, to grow. Isn't it interesting how everything is connected?

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

A food web is another way to show feeding relationships. It is complex. A food chain shows only one way energy moves between living things. A food web shows how they move throughout an ecosystem.

The sun is not a living thing. Still, a food web cannot exist without it. Producers depend on the sun's energy to grow. They also depend on the nutrients decomposers leave in the soil as they break down dead matter. This is how producers are able to make their own food. Then, they become food for animals.

Ecosystems need variety to stay healthy. For example, if mice become scarce, rabbits may grow in numbers. The rabbits make up for the missing mice. They eat more plants and provide more food for the meat-eaters. This way, the ecosystem can remain balanced.

## LEVEL 10 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

I live in a city in Mexico called Puebla. That's where I was born. There are many different immigrant groups in Puebla: German, Irish, and even Lebanese!

My great great grandfather, Farez, came to Mexico from a country called Lebanon. Like other immigrants at that time, he traveled on a ship. He came to make a better life for his family. This was one reason why many people



immigrated to Mexico.

As new people came, Mexico's culture grew and changed. Food is one way immigrants have influenced and changed Mexico. One example is "shawarma". "Shawarma" is thin slices of lamb put into a flat bread. Mexicans began to shred pork and put it into a tortilla. They called it "tacos al pastor". ¡Qué rico! How delicious!

### **Encounter 2, Unit 3**

Katherine Kat here to talk about Nikola Tesla. He was an immigrant who became famous. His inventions, like the radio, changed the way we live. Nikola was born in Croatia in 1856. He migrated from Croatia to France in 1882. To migrate means to move from one country, or place, to another.

In France, Nikola worked for Thomas Edison, another great inventor. He did so well that, two years later, he moved to the United States and continued working. Nikola and his inventions influenced--or changed--America in many ways. One way was through the creation of a special type of electricity. Today, this type of electricity is used all around the world!

Nikola did not always get the credit--or attention--for his inventions. One time, his lab caught on fire, destroying his work. The government said someone else invented the radio. This was not true and Nikola was very disappointed. Finally, 40 years later, he was given credit for inventing the radio, but he had already died. Still, his great achievements are recognized today.

### **Encounter 3, Unit 3**

Most people knew Hedy Lamarr as a movie star. But, she was also an inventor. After a day of acting, she would go to her dressing room, then draw ideas into a notebook. She loved science and engineering. In fact, she even set up a drafting table in her living room!

During World War II, Hedy wanted to use radio signals to steer torpedoes. But the channel had to be kept secret. Otherwise, the enemy might take over the controls. She came up with an idea to fix the problem. Radio signals could hop, or change, quickly from channel to channel. That way, the code would be very hard to break.

Hedy asked a friend to help with the design. He was a musician. Together, they devised a way to make the secret communication system work. The design used ribbons like the ones in old, self-playing pianos. Today, the ribbons are gone. But Hedy's idea to hop channels is still being used in our phones to keep calls private!

## **LEVEL 10 | ACTIVITY 3**

### **Encounter 1, Unit 3**

My family and I have always lived in the Henan Province of China, but not always in the same house. Until a few years ago, we lived on a farm. My grandparents lived there too, and we grew peanuts, beans, and corn. Then we moved and everything changed.[740L]

It was hard to earn a good living on the farm. So, a few years ago, we moved to a city called Zhumadian. At first, my grandparents didn't want to come, but my parents convinced them. Zhumadian is not just a beautiful city. It also has large areas of land for farming! [610L]

My father manages a peanut farm in Zhumadian and my grandparents work there, too. My mother is a yoga teacher in the city. Sometimes she teaches outdoor classes in the park near my school. My friend Bo wants to go to one. If I can figure out Mom's schedule, we're going to surprise her!





### Encounter 2, Unit 3

If the perimeter of a shape is its outside measurement, what do you call the inside? The space on the inside is called the area. Sometimes, in math, we're asked to calculate the perimeter or area of a shape. This means we use math to figure it out.

To calculate the area of a rectangle, you multiply its length by its width. This rectangle is 2 inches wide by 4 inches long. That means its area equals 8 square inches. Whenever you calculate area, always put the word "square" in your answer, like square feet or square miles. It's important!

My parents know a farmer named Li Hua. Her name means "beautiful pear blossom." Li Hua sold her pigs, then covered her yard with grass for her cows to eat. She used math to find out how much grass to buy. Now the grass is planted and the cows are happy!

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Li Ziqi grew up on a farm and was raised by her grandparents, not her parents. They taught her many traditional ways of living. For example, she learned how to grow vegetables, and forage for food in the forest. She also learned how to make baskets and tables out of bamboo!

Li Ziqi's family was poor, so when she was a teenager, she moved to the city to earn money. Life was hard and finding a place to live was difficult. She tried being a waitress, an electrician, and a DJ. Then, in 2012, her grandmother got ill and everything changed.

Li Ziqi wanted to spend time with her grandmother. She moved back to the farm and made her living as a farmer and cook. It was hard work, but it was also very peaceful. Li Ziqi wanted to share the beauty around her. She decided to make farming videos, then she posted them online.

Li Ziqi's videos became popular all over the world. Peaceful and artistic, they teach people the old ways of farming. Li Ziqi digs up potatoes and cooks traditional meals. She even turns soybeans into sauce! Companies pay Li Ziqi to put their ads in her videos. Now, she earns more money than she could ever have imagined!

## LEVEL 10 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 1, Unit 3

Listen to one of my favorite stories Hooyo (that's mother in Somali) tells me and my sister after dinner. It's called "A Lesson of Tit for Tat". Hooyo always tells stories that have a lesson at the end! Listen carefully to find out the lesson of this story.

Camel and Fox were good friends. One night, they decided to steal their next meal from a farm across the river. Fox could not swim, so Camel said, "Climb onto my back my friend, and I will swim across the river."

After crossing, they both found something to eat. When Fox finished eating, she stated, "When I'm done eating, I always sing." "No, no, please don't sing yet! I'm still eating," pleaded Camel.

But Fox sang anyway, and the farmer heard the singing and came running towards the animals. The fast Fox ran away. But Camel was slow and had a hard time getting back to the river. When Camel reached the river, he was frustrated that Fox had gotten him in trouble.

Camel began to swim back. On the way, he said, "When I'm finished eating, I always take a bath." "Oh no! "Don't do that. I cannot swim!" pleaded Fox. But Camel lowered his back until Fox started to drown. "Help me!" yelled Fox.



Camel asked, "Are you sorry that you were so selfish and caused me trouble?" "Yes, yes, I am truly sorry!" cried Fox. Camel did not want his friend to drown, so he pulled Fox out of the water and put her on his back and swam to the other side.

### **Encounter 2, Unit 3**

In Minnesota, where I live, there are lots of forests and trees. When I'm taking a walk, I like to imagine who else might have walked on the same path. A lot of people, I bet. But not as many as you'd see in the Copenhagen forest! Let me tell you why.

Thomas Dambo is an artist in Denmark. He uses his imagination to create amazing art in the Copenhagen forest near his home. First, he gathers wood from old sheds and fences. Then, he uses it to build fun and friendly giants.

One of the sculptures is called Teddy Friendly. He sits next to a pond with his arm out, forming a bridge across the water. Another sculpture is called Little Tilde. She provides a home for many birds because she has 28 bird houses built into her body.

Thomas has built four other giants, as well. People can climb on them. They can sit in them. Or, they can simply stare at them, and smile. It's always nice to see a friendly face, even when it's made out of wood.

### **Encounter 3, Unit 3**

Caroline Brooks was the first American sculptor to work with butter. She created her first butter sculpture in 1867 after her farm's cotton crop failed. The family needed money. Selling the sculptures helped. In time, she became known as "the Butter Woman."

Her most famous piece was a portrait of a young woman. It was displayed at a large, international fair in 1876. People came from all over the world to see the beautiful sculpture. Called "Dreaming Iolanthe," this piece of art made butter sculpting popular.

She became famous for selling clay sculptures across America.

Caroline Brooks eventually opened her own art studio. She began to use other materials, like marble, for her sculptures. But she always made a model out of butter first!

## **LEVEL 11 | ACTIVITY 1**

### **Encounter 3, Unit 3**

Wearing safety clothing is only one of the challenges you may face as a First Responder. Let's learn more about the job from Elizabeth. Listen carefully to the interview. Then, we will practice drawing conclusions.

Annie: Elizabeth, you just returned from a work trip. Can you tell us about your experience? Elizabeth: I spent two weeks in Great Abaco, an island in the Bahamas. A hurricane caused a lot of damage, leaving residents without food, shelter, or electricity.

Annie: What must first responders do to help after such a disaster?

Elizabeth: They must bring in help and supplies. Most of the time, we bring in supplies by truck.

But sometimes the roads are blocked by trees that have fallen during the strong winds of a hurricane. That's what happened in Great Abaco.

Annie: It must be very difficult when the roads are blocked. What may happen if you can't get the trucks through?



Elizabeth: First, more workers may be brought in to clear the road. But until the roads are cleared, we have to make plans to deliver supplies in different ways. We think about other ways to get to a damaged area in order to bring the people food and water. For example, we may use helicopters to drop in supplies. And in certain areas, like the island of Great Abaco, we may even travel across bodies of water to get there.

Annie: What must you wear when you respond to disasters?

Elizabeth: We must wear safety goggles and steel toe boots. Wearing the right clothing will help keep us safe as we work.

Annie: What kind of work do you do once you get to the damaged area?

Elizabeth: We need to clear a lot of debris, like fallen trees, parts of buildings, or electrical wires. This can take hours or even days.

## LEVEL 11 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Chen studied the Constitution when he visited the National Archive Museum in Washington, D.C. The original document is on display in a special glass case to keep it from fading. Its opening words are still easy to read. "We the people..." Those words are important because, in a democracy, everyone gets a vote. As President Lincoln once said, democracy is a government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Lincoln was president when slavery ended and African Americans claimed their freedom. Chen's class visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture to learn more. Some stories talked about bravery and courage. Other stories talked about inventions and imagination. Chen felt inspired. Many people overcame the challenges they faced and made places for themselves all across the United States.

Chen's favorite exhibit was made out of glass. He saw it at the National Museum of the American Indian. It was called Raven and the Box of Daylight. The artist is named Preston Singletary. He's famous for combining his Native American culture with modern techniques. Using glass and music, Preston tells the story of Raven, the giver of the stars, moon, and sun. It seems many people have a story to tell!

## LEVEL 11 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Jean found a mysterious wooden box in her grandmother's attic and tried to look inside, but it wouldn't open. The box's lid was decorated with six colorful tiles. The top row of tiles showed a pattern: white star, blue moon, yellow sun. The bottom tiles were in a different order, but they were moveable. Could this be the secret to unlocking the box?

Jean leaned over the box and slid the bottom tiles around until they matched the order of the top row. Satisfied that the pattern matched, she was ready to try opening the box. Holding her breath, she gave the lid a gentle tug. It popped open!

Jean peered inside the mysterious box and found only one thing--a key. The swirls on the key looked familiar, so she hurried over to a wooden trunk to examine its carvings. The pattern matched! Quickly, she unlocked the trunk and threw open its lid. There, inside an old leather sack, she found a treasure map. Now she had a new mystery to solve!



## LEVEL 11 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Hola, amigo. Hello, friend! Remember when we were talking about horses and rodeos? I just finished reading a report for class about a woman in the state of Oregon named Toni Minthorn. She's a member of the "Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation." Does she ride horses? Actually, she does ride horses. In fact, Toni has ridden horses all her life!

Toni was born in Pendleton, Oregon. There is a famous event there called the Pendleton Round-Up. There are many exciting things to see. For example, there are relay races on horses. And there is a nightly show called the Happy Canyon Pageant. In 1978, Toni became a Happy Canyon Princess and rode her horse in the grand parade for the first time.

Let me tell you more about the special event called the Pendleton Round-Up. It's not just a rodeo! Every night, people act out local history during the Happy Canyon Pageant. They tell stories about the Native Americans in Oregon and the settlers who moved there. Native Americans set up a Tipi Village and sell crafts. They dance in competitions and have a beauty pageant. Toni began participating in these events as a young girl.

Toni didn't have many toys, but her family had horses. She played on them with her brother and sisters, and became an excellent rider. Now, she helps others learn to ride horses and participate in the events. She's won awards for her community work. If you have a chance, go to the Pendleton Round-Up, and maybe you'll see Toni! Can you learn to ride horses, too? Of course, you can learn to ride horses!

## LEVEL 12 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Listen to this story from the book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer.

In a small village in Malawi, where people had no money for lights, nightfall came quickly and hurried poor farmers to bed. But for William, the darkness was best for dreaming.

At dawn in the fields, William scanned the maize rows for magical beings, then wondered as a truck rumbled past, How does its engine make it go? "Pay attention where you throw that hoe!" his father shouted. "You'll cut off your foot."

Keep listening to find out what happened after William's family could no longer afford to send him to school and he had to rely on the books in the library to educate himself.

He found science books with brilliant pictures. With his English dictionary close by, William put together how engines moved those big trucks, and how radios pulled their music from the sky. But the greatest picture of all was a machine taller than the tallest tree with blades like a fan. A giant pinwheel? Something to catch magic? Slowly, he built the sentence: "Windmills can produce electricity and pump water."

Listen to find out how William built the windmill.

In the junkyard, pieces appeared like rusted treasures in the tall grass. A tractor fan. Some pipe. And bearings and bolts that required every muscle to remove. "Tonga!" he'd shout to the birds and spiders, holding up his prize. But as William dragged his metals home, people called out, "This boy is misala. Only crazy people play with trash!"



Standing atop, William shouted, "Bring it up!" while the boys tugged and heaved. A crowd gathered below and gazed at this strange machine that now leaned and wobbled like a clumsy giraffe. Some giggled, others teased, but William waited for the wind.

Like always, it came, first a breeze, then a gusting gale. The tower swayed and the blade spun round.

With sore hands once slowed by hunger and darkness William connected wires to a small bulb, which flickered at first, then surged as bright as the sun. "Tonga!" he shouted. "I have made an electric wind!"

## LEVEL 12 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

The Colosseum was built almost two thousand years ago, when the Roman Empire was strong. Larger than any other amphitheater at that time, it is taller than a 12-story building. Today, we could build a large stadium in 2 or 3 years, because we have trucks and power tools. But the Colosseum was built by hand. How long did it take? It took almost 10 years to build this gigantic stadium!

People would travel from far away to Rome where the Colosseum was located. The events at the Colosseum were free. The emperor did this because he wanted people to support him. If they were happier than before, they would accept him as their leader. In Canada, where I live, we get to vote for our leaders. During most of the Roman Empire, people could vote for local government, but not for the emperor.

The Colosseum held many different events--animal hunts, dramas, and chariot races, to name a few. But the most famous events were the gladiator games. Gladiators were fighters who used swords and armor. When a gladiator returned to the dangerous games, he might be more scared than last time. His opponents could be stronger than ever. Today, people play video games that involve fighting and weapons. But at least those are not real!

## LEVEL 12 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

I live in Russia. This is the country's flag. There are exactly three rectangles on the Russian flag: one white, one blue, and one red. Each rectangle has exactly four right angles. Remember that a right angle is exactly 90 degrees.

One day I would love to explore Italy. Just like the Russian flag, the Italian flag also has three rectangles. All of these rectangles create many straight angles. Remember that a straight angle is exactly 180 degrees. Anywhere there's a straight line, that's a 180 degree angle! How many straight angles can you count?

Most buildings create 90 degree angles where they meet the ground. But that's not the case for this famous building in Italy! The leaning Tower of Pisa was designed to stand up perfectly but due to the soft ground, it started to sink. Now, the angle on this side of the building is almost 90 degrees, but not exactly.



## LEVEL 12 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

In 1922, when she was 16, Aloha began an expedition. She and Walter traveled all around the world. First, they made their way across Europe. Then they drove the car onto a ship, so they could reach faraway places like Japan. While they were traveling, they met many new people and learned many new things. Crowds gathered around them, and Aloha quickly became famous for her tales of adventure.

Aloha and Walter drove a car called the Model T Ford. It was the first car made inexpensively. This meant more people could buy it. Partway through the trip, they got married. Together, they took the Model T Ford to more than 40 countries, including parts of Asia, Europe, North America, and South America! While they were on their expedition, they traveled more than 380,000 miles. That's like traveling around the world 15 times!

Aloha made movies while she was traveling, then shared them with people all over the world. Even after her first expedition ended, she kept exploring. She visited over 80 countries during her lifetime. Now, one hundred years after she first left home, Aloha Wanderwell is still talked about. Her stories inspire people to go out and see the world!

## LEVEL 13 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Have you ever thought about how powerful water can be? It may not look powerful, but it's actually the main cause of erosion on Earth! One example is rain. A heavy rainfall can break up the soil and create areas where water flows. This flowing water will pick up broken pieces of earth and carry them to new locations.

What has caused the rock to erode in this area? Scientists believe that several different processes contributed to the creation of the Grand Canyon. But, the biggest force was likely water. The flowing water of the river cut through the rock to carve out the canyon and valley. Also, this area has experienced a lot of wind; therefore, the rock has eroded. Over a long period of time wind can wear down rocks.

My friend was worried about erosion happening in his yard. He asked, "What can be done to prevent erosion caused by wind and water?" I told him, "You could plant trees; otherwise, erosion may occur in your yard." Tree roots will help to hold the soil together, so that it cannot wash away so easily. The trees will also provide a barrier from wind, so that the soil doesn't blow away.

## LEVEL 13 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

By the end of 1849, more than one hundred thousand people had rushed to California. They were called the "49ers", and they had come in search of gold. Most of them came from the eastern United States. But some came from far away places, such as Peru and Chile. Many people also came from China, where my family is from. The Gold Rush attracted people from all over the world!

Traveling in the 1800s, during the Gold Rush, was difficult. The fastest way was by boat. People would sail into San Francisco, then set off in search of gold. As more and more people came, San Francisco quickly grew from a small town into a large city. In fact, the people who gave up on finding gold found jobs instead. They moved to San Francisco and made it their home.



Samuel Brannan moved to California in the 1840s. He opened a store outside of San Francisco in 1847. When gold miners began arriving, Brannan got an idea. His store, where miners shopped, could sell tools. People who came to find gold would need shovels, picks, and pans. It didn't take long for Brannan to make money. He became one of the richest men in San Francisco, and he never even looked for gold!

## LEVEL 13 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Symmetry provides balance and beauty in works of art. Something is symmetrical when one half of it matches the other half. Can you see why the Taj Mahal is symmetrical? Since the line of symmetry splits the Taj Mahal so that the sides are congruent, it's symmetrical.

How about the square tile? Can you imagine drawing a line of symmetry to split the tile into congruent parts? Let me explain where there are lines of symmetry on this square tile. One line of symmetry, where the design is split into congruent parts, is running up and down. There's another one running from left to right. There are two additional ones running from corner to corner. In total, that's four lines of symmetry!

Symmetry is all around us. You can spot all sorts of interesting patterns of symmetry in nature. For example, this flower looks like a triangle, which is a three-sided polygon, and it has three lines of symmetry. The cell of a honeycomb looks like a regular hexagon. A hexagon has six sides and it has six lines of symmetry. Are you noticing a pattern here?

## LEVEL 13 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

You've heard about what an entrepreneur is. Now, it's time to meet one.

Welcome to A-MAY-Zing Kids! I'm your host Maybelle Zhang here today with highschooler Chen An. Chen An loves sports, especially basketball and tennis. What got you into sports?

While my family was living in China, my father owned a sports training center. He trained the soccer players for the national soccer team. My childhood is full of memories of watching the soccer players practice. It was a treat to do drills along with them.

For those of you listening, Chen An is not only in high school and not only into sports, she's also a sports-technology entrepreneur! We'll talk more about what that means after this break.

We're back! We left off saying that Chen An is a sports-technology entrepreneur. What does that mean?

I create ways to use technology in sports training. Think about it: we use technology for everything else in our lives, so why not for sports?

Can you tell us about one of your ideas?

Sure! I can tell you about a light that I made. It's a light that speed skaters chase around the ice rink. As they chase this dot of light in front of them, they push themselves to go faster. This may sound like a simple thing to make. Actually, creating this light involved many steps.

I had to design and redesign my light. I had to talk to coaches over and over again to figure out what they wanted; I had to test it multiple times on different athletes. Sometimes, the feedback I got from the coaches and



athletes was encouraging; but sometimes it was not. I had to deal with the negative feedback. I had to come up with ways to make my light better and better.

Thanks for sharing your experience. I have one final question: If there is one thing you'd like the listeners to take away from this interview, what would that be?

I think it would be that ideas come from real life. Observe the things and people around you, when you see a need or when you see that something could be better, think about how you could make it better.

## LEVEL 14 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 4

Mariana thought the beach would be empty, but it wasn't. A whale had gotten stranded on the sand, pushed ashore by rough waves from the storm. The whale was lying on its side in the sand, exhausted, and its tail was scratched up. Approaching the whale quietly, Mariana noticed paw prints near the tail. Had someone's dog been here? Peering down the beach and along the shoreline, she noticed a coyote racing away.

Mariana covered the whale with towels and waited for the medical team to arrive. The team rolled the whale onto a canvas cloth that had two holes cut out. The whale's fins fit through the holes to keep them from getting crushed. Twenty people lifted the whale onto a rolling cart, then rolled the whale across the beach and into a large truck. There, they began to treat the whale's wounds.

The medical team cleaned the whale's cuts, wrapped its tail in a bandage, and gave it medicine through a needle. They were hoping to release the whale where they found it, but the waves were too dangerous. For this reason, they drove to a different beach, where the waves were smaller. Together with volunteers, the team rolled the cart into the water, then let out a cheer as the whale swam off.

## LEVEL 14 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

There are hundreds of waterfalls in Mexico, where mamá and I live. Every Father's Day, we pick one of these waterfalls and go hiking there. We like to do this as a way of remembering Dad. He died when I was just a baby, but he used to love hiking near waterfalls and swimming in their rivers. Next week is Father's Day, día del padre, so Mom and I need to get busy making plans!

Cascada de Tamul was Dad's favorite waterfall. It's a full day's drive north of Mexico City, where I live. Beautiful turquoise water falls 345 feet down into a deep, narrow canyon. One of the tallest waterfalls in Mexico, it's located where two rivers come together. This means it's also one of the widest waterfalls in Mexico. People can paddle a traditional wooden panga boat or canoe upstream to take in the spectacular view. While they're there, they could even go for a swim!

It's finally Father's Day, and Mom and I are in the car, ready to go. We have our bathing suits on under our clothes and our special boots on for climbing rocks. The tortas de pollo, or chicken sandwiches, are in the backpack with lots of water bottles. We're looking forward to spending this special day remembering Dad. I think he would have loved the waterfall we picked out!





## LEVEL 14 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Ha-eun and her mother are baking cookies. It took them 30 minutes to make the dough. The cookies needed to bake for 15 minutes. After they cooled down, it was time to decorate them with frosting and sprinkles. Ha-eun and her mother have been decorating the cookies for 60 minutes and they are just about done!

Track practice at Hillsdale High started after school. The coach spent 5 minutes giving the team information about an upcoming meet. Then they warmed up for 15 minutes before separating into groups to practice for their events. One group practiced running relay races while another group practiced running the mile. The groups have been practicing for 75 minutes.

Karla and Juliana have been working on a robotics project. They spent about 1 week brainstorming ideas for their robot. Then, they experimented for 6 weeks by building different models of their robot. They've been testing out their best robot design for 2 weeks, and the competition is in 2 days!

## LEVEL 14 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Do you recognize this lady? She is Lady Liberty, but we often call her the Statue of Liberty! I'm studying this important American symbol so I can give a presentation at school. Let me tell you some things I've learned about her! The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France, celebrating the friendship between the people of France and the United States, as well as 100 years of America's independence.

The Statue of Liberty was first constructed in France. Crews of workers worked every day for nine years to build the statue. The statue was then taken apart and shipped to the United States in 350 pieces on a large ship. Once the pieces arrived in the United States, it took four months to put the statue together again!

The Statue of Liberty is located on a small island in New York Harbor. Many immigrants used to arrive by ship there. The Statue was the first thing they saw--a symbol of freedom and democracy, welcoming them to America. Why do I think the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom? She's holding a torch, a symbol of hope and light, so she must be lighting the way to freedom!

What do you think the tourists are doing? They're traveling on a boat, so they might be going to visit the Statue of Liberty! That's right, millions of tourists take a boat to visit the statue each year. Recognized worldwide as a symbol of freedom, Lady Liberty continues to stand tall today.

## LEVEL 15 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

We've learned so much about how sound waves change and travel in the air. But did you know that sound can travel in water too? Waves, rain, and even animals create sound underwater! If an animal makes a sound underwater, the sound waves will move five times faster than in the air! Animals such as whales and dolphins have developed the ability to "see" not only with their eyes, but also using sound waves. This is called echolocation.



Dolphins make a clicking noise which sends sound waves through the water. If there are objects nearby, the sound waves will bounce off objects. The sound waves will return to the dolphin as an echo.

Echolocation helps dolphins and whales find out where objects are located in the water. If a dolphin is hungry, it can use echolocation to find food. In the dark, cloudy water of the ocean, echolocation can work better than eyesight. It's an important ability that helps dolphins and whales survive.

## LEVEL 15 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

As Islamic scientists explored mapmaking, Chinese scientists made other discoveries. In fact, they were first to use a compass to guide their ships, for example. While the compass had been invented earlier, it had never been used in this way. In the 1400s, the explorer Cheng Ho used the compass to make many voyages. His success brought the Chinese culture to many countries in Southeast Asia.

By the early 1400s, Europeans had learned of China's riches and were excited to trade goods. An age of exploration began, but travel was difficult. Even though useful maps existed, they were hard to copy. The invention of the printing press in the mid-1400s made mapmaking easier. Maps and charts became available to many people, and the study of geography spread.

Map-making continues to change as technology improves. At first, printed maps could only use one color of ink. Additional colors were hand-painted on the map afterwards. Creating colorful maps was difficult back then, while today it isn't. Also, map-makers can use satellite photos to understand an area's landscape. Now, exploring the world via satellite is possible. Even though this may seem less exciting than traveling, it's still a good way to learn about new places!

## LEVEL 15 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Today, my family and I went on another fantastic hike. After we had hiked half of the trail, we stopped to have a picnic of sandwiches and fruit. I ate a banana first, and so did my brother, but afterwards, we were still hungry. I wondered how much fruit we had left, so I peeked in the backpack. There were not many bananas, but we had a lot of other fruit!

I asked my mom if I could eat more fruit. "Sure," she said, "I brought a lot of grapes and oranges." By the time we pulled out the sandwiches, we had eaten a lot of fruit--about two-thirds of the fruit we had packed! After all of that fruit, I wasn't too hungry, so I only ate three-fourths of my sandwich.

My brother, who's a big eater, was still hungry after he finished his sandwich. "How much of YOUR sandwich is left?" he asked me. "Only one-quarter of my sandwich is left, which is not much," I answered, "but you can have it if you'd like." He ate the last quarter of my sandwich in two bites. Then, with a lot of food in our bellies, we grabbed our packs and started hiking again.



## LEVEL 15 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Chuck Yeager was born in 1923 in West Virginia. His father worked in gas drilling and showed him how to fix machines. Before Chuck was out of high school, he had learned how to take apart engines and put them back together. When he joined the United States Air Force after high school, he had planned to be a mechanic. But, one day, he decided to try something new—flying!

Chuck finished his training in 1943, then served as a pilot in World War II. He had completed seven missions when his plane got shot down. Even though he had been wounded, he still managed to escape the enemy. Two years later, after the war had ended, Yeager was sent to Ohio. His outstanding skills as a pilot had earned him a new job. He became a test pilot for new, advanced aircraft.

In 1947, Chuck transferred to California to test a new aircraft. The Air Force hoped their new jet, the X-1, would be able to travel faster than the speed of sound. But on the day of the famous flight, Chuck came to work with his ribs taped up. He had broken his ribs in a horseback riding accident the day before! Thankfully, his broken ribs didn't stop him. The flight was a success! He had flown faster than sound!

## LEVEL 16 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Water is a valuable resource that isn't available to everyone. Over 97% of the water on our planet is salt water. While humans use salt every day in their food, there's too much in ocean water to drink it safely. In Miami, we get fresh water from an underground source, called the Biscayne Aquifer. This important water source provides drinking water. It is also used to prepare and grow food, and to bathe and clean our bodies. Without it, life in Miami would be difficult.

All living things need water to survive. In 2010, a terrible earthquake occurred in Haiti. It caused serious damage to well and water systems, creating great hardship for those who lived there. When people use dirty or contaminated water, they can get sick or even die. That's why it's important for everyone to have access to fresh, clean water.

Since fresh water is so important, humans ought to help keep the environment clean. Even pollution on land can blow into sources of water. My friend and I noticed a lot of pollution in our neighborhood, but fortunately, we're cleaning it up. We collect litter and other trash. We also work with the community to help people recycle. Human activities, like picking up garbage and recycling, can go a long way to keep the planet clean and safe.

## LEVEL 16 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Did you know my state, Colorado, was important during Westward Expansion in the 1800s? Gold was discovered here, just like in California! Traveling across the country was difficult at that time. Let's hear about it from a girl named Frances Peabody, who wrote a journal about the experience. She moved to Denver with her family when she was only five years old!



The journey took six weeks and two wagons. We put furniture in one wagon and rode in the other. Although we used blankets and carpets to make it comfortable, the ride was still rough. The wagon bounced around a lot because the road was terrible. As we traveled along, we worried that the wooden wheels would break. My mother liked to sit in her rocking chair when we stopped at night. I guess it helped her relax after bouncing in the wagon all day.

Although we packed food for the long journey, I can tell you that it wasn't great. Most of the time, we ate hard bread with meat that had been preserved before the trip began. As we crossed rivers, we collected water to drink. Sometimes the adults drank tea or coffee, but there was no milk to go with it. After each meal, there were dried apples for dessert. They tasted fine, but I missed my mother's cakes and pies.

Although we didn't have many ways to entertain ourselves, I wasn't bored. My brother and I picked flowers in the evenings, or played a game of tag. During the day, I sat beside my mother in the wagon and listened to stories about her childhood. As the landscape changed, I was amazed. I had never seen such tall mountains and wide rivers! The whole experience was like a grand adventure. Before I knew it, we were at our new home in Denver.

## LEVEL 16 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

yi: Let's listen as Dr. Bailey explains optical illusions. Dr. B: An optical illusion is an image that tricks our eyes into seeing something different, depending on how you look at it. Some people may see one thing, while others see something entirely different. The same thing may look different to different people. Yi: Dr. Bailey, can you show us one of your favorite optical illusions?

Dr. B: Certainly! This is known as the Hermann Grid; it's a grid made of black squares and white lines. But do you see something more, like the tiny gray circles at the intersections of the lines? Now try staring right at a corner where you see a gray dot. Then you'll stop seeing the dot!

yi: Could you explain how our brains see optical illusions?

Dr. B: Our brains are constantly processing huge amounts of information, coming in from our senses. The eyes provide the most input; they send a huge amount of information to the brain. Sometimes our eyes and brain can't work together well enough to figure out what we're actually seeing. This creates an illusion that does not match the true image.

## LEVEL 16 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Let's talk more about Ruby Hirose. I admire and respect Ruby because she never gave up on life. Despite facing many challenges, she graduated from college and became a successful scientist. She was resilient. Resilient means she was strong enough to recover from her hardships and make a good life for herself.

Ruby's parents were Japanese immigrants who moved to America after their business in Japan failed. Rather than looking for jobs, they purchased land. They hoped to make a living by farming, but the land they bought was not good for growing plants. Despite their best efforts, the family became quite poor. In addition, Ruby faced another challenge. There were not many Japanese-American children like her at school. Sometimes she felt all alone.



Rather than giving up, Ruby went on to college, and in 1932, earned a Doctorate degree. During this time, her sister and mother became ill and died. Other family members were sent to internment camps. These were places the U.S. government put Japanese people to keep them separate during World War II. Ruby remained free and worked as a doctor, studying biology. Her discoveries helped create vaccines that prevent illness. Despite her hardships, Ruby never gave up her dreams.

## LEVEL 17 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Electricity is an important part of our everyday lives. But despite its popularity, it can also be extremely dangerous. If not used safely, it can cause shocks, burns, or even death. I have been testing electrical conductors at school, but only with my teacher's supervision. At home it's best never to play with electricity. I'm going to share some important electrical safety tips I've learned!

I've learned that saltwater is definitely a conductor because electricity can flow through it. Many people do not realize that even tap water can conduct electricity! Tap water contains different types of dissolved minerals. These minerals make it an excellent conductor of electricity. Therefore, it is important to keep electronics and cords away from sources of water. Also, you definitely shouldn't use an electrical appliance if you are wet.

My friend Julia practices swimming in an outdoor pool every day. But when it's about to storm, her coach tells her to get out of the pool and stops swim practice early. Can you guess why? During a thunderstorm there could be lightning, which is static electricity. If lightning strikes the water, electricity would flow through the water and even through a human body! Because the body contains a large amount of water, humans are conductors too!

## LEVEL 17 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Inventions often change the way we live and think. Imagine what life would be like if we didn't have books or computers! Studying became commonplace only after technologies were invented that made books available and affordable. The invention of the printing press in 1440 was key, and began a great shift in society. Before that, all books had to be hand-written, so very few were made. The average person could not afford them.

The first car Henry Ford designed did not change the world. It was only after he invented a way to mass produce the Model T that society again began to change. Ford had found a way to make cars available and affordable. Driving became commonplace soon after the Model T was mass-produced. Now the average person could travel for work or pleasure. Some people, like Aloha Wanderall, drove for the adventure of it all!

Computers were another invention that created great change, in all areas of society--how we work and play and live and think. Writing on a typewriter became popular in the 1880s. Writing on a computer became commonplace in the 1980s, one hundred years later. That's when personal computers were invented by Steve Jobs and Apple Computer. Soon after, computers became available and affordable. Now people all over the world can talk and share and learn from each other.



## LEVEL 17 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

My friend Julia practices swimming for two hours every day at a pool in our neighborhood. Her swim coach asked her how many minutes she practices every day. She quickly remembered that there are 60 minutes in every hour. So in her head she multiplied two hours by 60 minutes. She told him, "I practice 120 minutes every day".

Julia wants to know if her practice is helping her improve. When she first started swimming, it took her three minutes to swim a 100m lap. Now she swims the lap in 120 seconds. Is this more, less, or the same as three minutes? In order to convert seconds into minutes, she needs to divide. 120 divided by 60 equals 2. That's two minutes, which means that now Julia can swim the 100m lap in less time than when she first started swimming!

The pool in our neighborhood where Julia has been practicing swimming will be closing soon. The neighborhood decided to turn the old pool into a community garden. In order to convert the pool into a garden, workers will first break up the walls and floor of the pool. Then they will fill the hole with gravel and dirt. The dirt will be compacted, or pressed down, until it is firm. Finally, the garden will be ready for planting.

## LEVEL 17 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Anton named his parrot Snowflake, because she likes to dance just like Snowball, a cockatoo that's famous online. Anton showed me a video of Snowball dancing and asked, "How do you like it?"

"It's the funniest video I've ever seen!" I answered. But it's not just funny. Scientists are beginning to study birds like Snowball and Snowflake to learn more about their abilities and intelligence.

Snowflake is the smartest parrot I've ever met, but she's not the only smart one! Anton and I listened to a podcast about a scientist who spent many years working with a parrot named Alex. Dr. Pepperberg gave nuts to Alex to reward him whenever he got an answer right. We tried that with Snowflake. "That's the best snack I've ever eaten!" she exclaimed. I told you she was smart.

According to Dr. Pepperberg, Alex learned to identify 50 objects, 7 colors, and 5 shapes. He could tell if something was made of plastic or wood. Not only that, but he knew math, and could count objects, or decide which one was bigger than the other.

## LEVEL 18 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Kat: This is Katherine Kat, with a report on water conservation. I have Dr. Bailey here to tell us how we can all do our part to save water!

Dr. B: Hi Kat, there are many ways to conserve water, especially at home. One way is to only run the dishwasher when it's full.

Kat: But Dr. B, I usually run the dishwasher after every meal! Is this a bad idea?



Dr. B: Next time, why not wait every two to three meals to run the dishwasher? I know it may feel like a big change, but try it out!

Kat: Using the dishwasher less will be a change, but I think it's important to do all I can to help out. Doctor, what else can we do to conserve water?

Dr. B: Another meaningful way to conserve water is to collect rainwater in a rain barrel.

Kat: How does this help?

Dr. B: Many people have lawns and gardens that require a lot of water. Using water from a hose drains our freshwater ecosystems. Using rainwater instead of a garden hose saves water.

Kat: That's a great idea!

Dr. B: In addition to collecting rainwater, you can also save water by taking short showers instead of baths.

Kat: Is that because it takes so much water to fill the tub?

Dr. B: Precisely! You can get just as clean by using less water.

Kat: Are there any products people can buy to help them conserve water?

Dr. B: Yes, you can buy an eco-friendly shower head.

Kat: Dr. Bailey, that's all we have time for today but thank you for all those great recommendations.

## LEVEL 18 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

A large and diverse state, Texas is known for more than its grasslands. Mountains, deserts, forests, lakes and shorelines are all a part of its landscape. Beautiful beaches can be found along its southeastern side, for example. There, the Gulf of Mexico forms its coastline and temperatures can be extremely hot. Along the western side of Texas, mountains and deserts can be found. And on the northern plains, winter snowfall is common!

The weather in Texas is also quite diverse. Along the coastline, warm ocean air can create severe weather, like thunderstorms or tornadoes. In addition, spinning storms can develop in the Gulf of Mexico. They sometimes turn into hurricanes, tropical storms with very high-speed winds. Hurricanes can bring flooding and damage to the southeastern coast. At the same time, North Texas can be hit by tornadoes coming in off the plains!

Texas cities can be as interesting as its geography. My favorite is the state capitol, Austin. One of the fastest growing cities in the U.S., Austin is famous for its music. It's also famous for its bats, insect-eating mammals that live under one of the bridges. Every night, at sunset, millions of bats fly out from under the bridge. They dart through the air catching bugs as hundreds of tourists watch them!



## LEVEL 18 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

I've been thinking about which career I might enjoy when I grow up. I like helping people in my community, so maybe I'll become the librarian or the mayor! Although each job has different responsibilities, they both play an important role in keeping people informed. I'm going to visit the library and the city hall to learn more. Since the library is not as far as the city hall, I'll go there first.

Did you know that mayors do more than run the city's departments? Did you know that librarians do more than research books? For example, mayors and librarians are both expected to speak with the public. They are both expected to encourage community events. If someone lives closer to the library than the city hall, they may go there to get information. In both places, people can find out about community events and upcoming elections.

Sometimes communities hear surprising news, like in THIS town, when the zoo said a kangaroo had escaped! Two teenagers found the kangaroo first. They were closer to its hiding spot in the park than anyone else. They posted a video online and the public loved it, so the librarian created a workshop called Kangaroo Kids. The zoo gave a kangaroo talk, and the kids showed their kangaroo video, and the librarian read a kangaroo book. Even the mayor came!

## LEVEL 18 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 2

Sometimes life can take unexpected twists and turns. That's what happened to "social-action rocker," Merv Pinny in New Zealand. Whenever I think of him, I feel inspired. As a young man, Merv dropped out of high school to focus on farming and music, but a serious motorcycle accident changed everything. Merv spent the next two years learning how to walk again. Eventually, he returned to farming, but his music had to wait.

Over time, Merv built a successful dairy farming business, and in 2016, he decided to sell it. That's when life took another unexpected turn. He heard an interview on the news about people left homeless by war. Wherever they went in their war-torn country, they felt unsafe. Merv wanted to help, and he believed music was the best way for him to do it.

People suffer whenever countries are at war. Merv was upset by this and wrote a song about the hardships they face. After he posted it on social media, the song quickly reached 12 million views. Many people liked his song so much that they bought a copy of it online. Merv decided to donate the money from the song to help children affected by war. That was HIS way of making a positive difference in the world!

## LEVEL 19 | ACTIVITY 1

### Encounter 3, Unit 5

Despite grandma's concerns about outdoor education, I still believe that it's the right choice for me. But I promised her I would research her concerns. She feels that learning will suffer due to the lack of instructional resources available outdoors. Based on my research, I think the resources nature has to offer are actually more valuable than any classroom materials. They allow for hands-on learning, which eliminates the need for traditional classroom materials.





Grandma was also concerned about the increased risk of injuries outdoors. According to my research, there's less chance of injuries when schools provide proper supervision. Another way to reduce injuries is by providing specific expectations for students. If students are aware of potential dangers outside and how to prevent them, they're more likely to be safe.

I thought it might be helpful if I listed the similarities between outdoor education and traditional, indoor education. Then Grandma could consider them side-by-side. Despite the difference between the options, both programs offer benefits to students. In both programs, students will get exposure to the same grade-level classes, and will have similar learning goals. In addition, there are ways to make the classes fun and engaging for students, whether you are inside or outside.

I know that the only reason grandma is so concerned is because she cares about me and my education. It's nice to know that there are people in my life to help me make important decisions about my future. In the end, we both want what's best for me. That makes us confident that, whatever choice we make, it will be the right one!

## LEVEL 19 | ACTIVITY 2

### Encounter 3, Unit 3

Ever since the career fair, my friends and I have been excited to explore different careers. Maya said that she would help me experiment with making pastries. We spent all afternoon on Saturday, baking up a storm! Even though our first batch did not taste right, the second batch was delicious, thanks to Maya. She's more of a natural baker than I am, and she likes it more than I do, too!

Now that I know I don't want to be a pastry chef, I can focus on learning about archeology. My grandparents promised to take me to Teotihuacán, an Aztec pyramid near Mexico City. Maybe I can talk to an archeologist while I'm there. Or maybe I can find a book about it in the site's museum. Then I can find out what archeologists do when they're not digging!

Today, my friend Carlos and I are going to the library to explore careers. Carlos is planning to look for books about music careers so he can learn about his options. He enjoys writing songs, but he also likes using technology. Maybe he'll decide to become a sound engineer! Or, he might want to become an entrepreneur and open his own music studio. He plans to read about different careers to see what seems interesting.

While we're at the library, I'll pick up some books about architecture. I need to educate myself because I'm going to be hanging around with a real, live architect! Mom does laundry for her, and the woman said I could go to her office to see what the job was like. That's a great way to learn about a career. I want to be ready to ask questions, so I'm reading books to help me think about it.

## LEVEL 19 | ACTIVITY 3

### Encounter 3, Unit 6

Listen to a conversation I had with my neighbor, Mr. Ito, about my lemonade stand when he came over to our house for breakfast.

Mr. Ito: Rami, how has your lemonade stand been going?

Rami: Business has been great, very successful, and I can't wait to continue selling. Being an entrepreneur is fun!



Mr. Ito: I certainly can tell that you enjoy being an entrepreneur. Let me guess, you're going to set up your lemonade stand today too aren't you?

Rami: Yes, I am! How could you tell?

Mr. Ito: Well, it looks like you have ants in your pants this morning! You've been tapping your feet and shoving your food into your mouth so quickly.

Rami: You're right, Mr. Ito. I'm eager to get my lemonade stand set up again! Sorry if I was being rude.

Mr. Ito: No, it's alright! You and I are in the same boat, we're both entrepreneurs. I own my own restaurant so I know how much work running a business is and how exciting it can be.

Rami: Do you think that you would be able to give me advice about running a business someday?

Mr. Ito: Sure! I have some time before I need to leave.

Rami: I've been really wanting to buy this professional lemon press that I saw in the store a few days ago. It's expensive, but making lemonade would be much more efficient.

Mr. Ito: I would recommend not buying anything too expensive until your business has earned enough money to make up for the expenses you've had so far.

Rami: Okay, that makes sense. Well, I'd better get going, it's almost time to open the lemonade stand.

Mr. Ito: Break a leg! I hope the business goes well today!

Rami: Thanks, you too!

## LEVEL 19 | ACTIVITY 4

### Encounter 3, Unit 5

Liam and I signed up for field trips so we could learn about the colleges near us. Last week, we visited a large university in the center of the city. Even though it's an urban college, it still has a campus. Some students were playing frisbee on the grass near the cafeteria building, while others were studying in the library or walking to class. It seemed like an exciting place to be!

Today, Liam and I went on a field trip to a Community College. Its campus was smaller than the one at the university, but there were still gathering places where students could get together. We visited a nursing classroom that had a human skeleton hanging up front. Liam shouted "Ick," then asked, "Shall we visit the theater next?" Our teacher, Mr. Freeman, laughed. "If you promise to sing when we get there, you've got a deal!"

After the field trip, our teacher, Mr. Freeman, talked to the group about getting into college. He said as long as we keep studying in school, we'll be ready. At the high school, guidance counselors will help us fill out applications and scholarship forms. Then the English teachers will teach us how to write essays about ourselves. "Don't worry," he said. "The high school will help you every step of the way."