

Teacher Information

Bicycles! Bicycles! Bicycles!

Objectives

- To develop reading skills using a familiar and interesting topic.
- To reinforce the skill of gaining information from graphs.
- To underline the value of bicycles as a means of transportation in densely populated countries.
- To familiarize students with the layout of a letter.

Teaching Points

- Discuss the importance of the bicycle to both children and adults, esp. in China and India.
- Debate: "It would be better if we all used bicycles rather than cars." (less pollution, fewer road deaths, etc.)
- Use atlases to locate the countries and cities mentioned.
- Class to bring different types of bikes to school to give talks and discuss: good safety maintenance, road sense etc.
- Students on vacation – send a similar letter to class.
- The popularity of bicycles in a flat country like Holland.

Evaluation

- Were students able to glean information from the graph?
- Did students realize the importance of the bicycle to ordinary families in countries like China and India (e.g. wedding gift)?
- Are students aware of the dangers of riding to school on busy roads?
- Were there positive results from the student bicycle talks (active discussion, sensible points raised, etc.)?

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. vacation | 2. three | 3. America |
| 4. Japan | 5. popular | 6. gifts |
| 7. school | 8. accidents | 9. crowded |
| 10. roads | 11. barriers | 12. cars |
| 13. factories | 14. year | 15. copied |

Use the following words to complete the letter. You will need to read the graph to fill some of the spaces.

**accidents Japan school copied gifts America roads year
crowded vacation cars popular factories barriers three**

Bicycles! Bicycles! Bicycles!

Guilin Cottages,

March 5

Dear Roslyn,

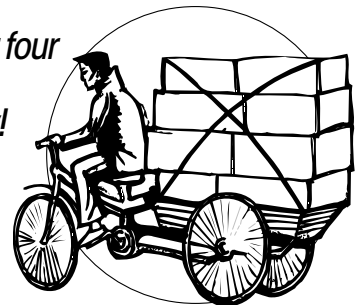
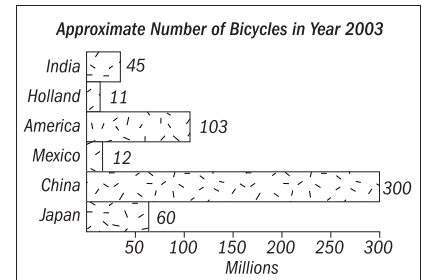
I'm enjoying our ¹ traveling around China but I've never seen so many bicycles! This country has ² hundred million, about three times the number in ³ and five times as many as ⁴. I bet when bikes were invented over 150 years ago they didn't realize they would be so ⁵. In China, a bicycle has usually been one of the wedding ⁶ a groom gives his bride!

Bicycles are used for local travel such as going to ⁷ or to work. Millions jam the streets of cities and many cyclists die in road ⁸ because they swerve in and out of traffic. To encourage people to use old, ⁹ public buses, Beijing, China's capital, has banned bikes from busy ¹⁰ between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. They're also removing protective ¹¹ or trees which separate car lanes from bicycles. Guangzhou has banned ¹² over 15 years old and motorcycles from its city center. That means more bikes!

Next week we go to Shanghai where ¹³ produce over four million bicycles every ¹⁴. Let's hope there's a subway!

Your friend, Jane.

P.S. I ¹⁵ the graph from a magazine.



Teacher Information

Graffiti

Objectives

- To illustrate that graffiti tags deface public/private property and are considered to be irresponsible by the general community.
- To show that responsible, approved graffiti is an admired art form.
- To show that graffiti is a form of communication for street gangs/individuals.
- To introduce the students to rhyming couplets in a poem format.

Teaching Points

- Discuss the efforts to combat graffiti – local councils employing graffiti-removal teams, anti-graffiti paint, increased fines, etc.
- Discuss the dilemma students might have reporting their “tagger” friends to the police.
- Challenge students to find what language the word graffiti comes from and what the singular noun is (graffito).
- Elicit suggestions from the class to combat the problem. (Some of the world’s most beautiful cities have this problem.)
- Discuss terms from the passage – “chemical blasts,” “visual pollution,” “marks their territory,” “bubble letter,” etc.

Evaluation

- Did the topic engender more enthusiasm than usual?
- Were there sensible, informed suggestions from the students who opposed/supporting steps to combat the problem?
- Did the rhyming words in couplets make it easier to fill the gaps?
- Did students realize graffiti is a form of communication from groups/individuals to others in the community?

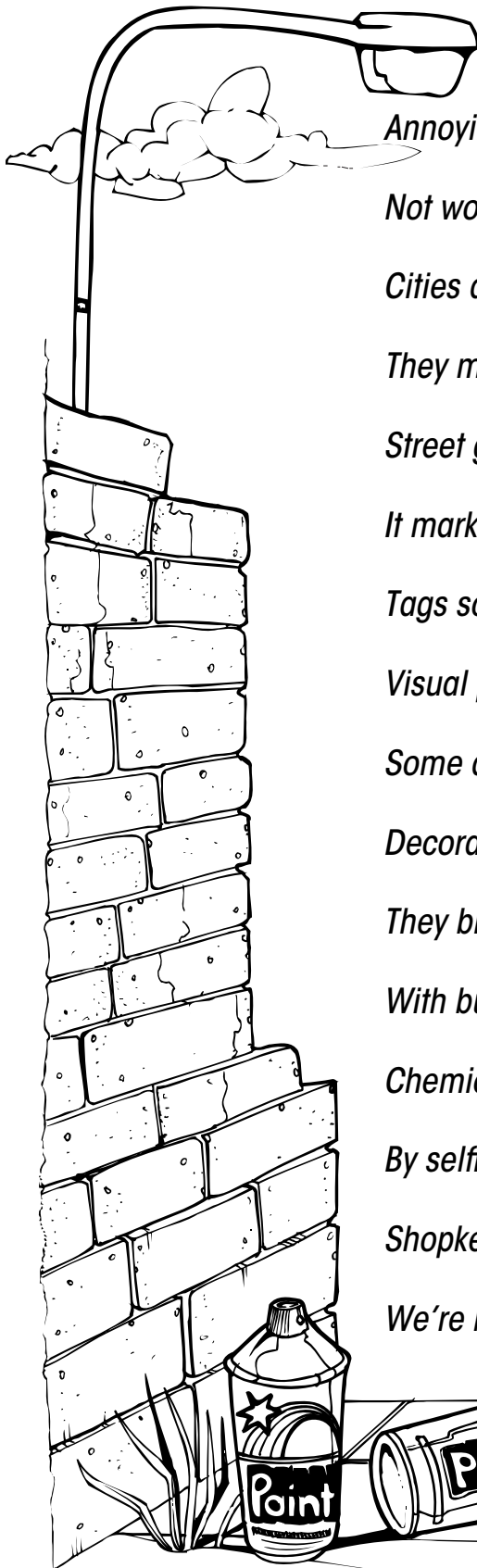
Answers

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. walls | 2. scrawls | 3. right | 4. site |
| 5. mine | 6. sign | 7. trains | 8. brain |
| 9. know | 10. show | 11. town | 12. down |
| 13. display | 14. way | 15. adults | 16. results |

Use the following words to complete the poem. Use the rhyming words to help you fill in the spaces.

**site know results display sign walls brains town
mine adults right trains show way down scrawls**

Graffiti



Annoying tags the world sees on ¹,

Not works of art, but just plain ².

Cities dislike them, they feel they're not ³,

They make efforts to clear them from every ⁴.

Street gangs use them: "This area's ⁵,"

It marks their territory, a warning ⁶.

Tags scratched on windows in buses and ⁷,

Visual pollution by an irresponsible ⁸.

Some are fine artists as you and I ⁹,

Decorated bus shelters – their creations on ¹⁰.

They brighten drab walls in poor parts of ¹¹,

With bubble letter messages written ¹².

Chemical blasts wipe off a ¹³,

By selfish taggers who go their own ¹⁴.

Shopkeepers' spray cans sold only to ¹⁵,

We're battling graffiti and getting ¹⁶.

Teacher Information

Games Around the World

Objectives

- To develop reading skills through a cloze exercise on a topic students should enjoy.
- To give students information on games played by their counterparts from different cultures around the world.
- To give students the experience of providing their own words to fill the gaps.

Teaching Points

- Following the completion of the sheet, have a follow-up lesson where small groups of children rotate around some of the games described in the exercise.
- Explain that there could be a choice of several words when the students select their own.
- Half a box from a supermarket could be used for the “Haba Gaba” game.
- Discuss some of the toys used in ancient Roman/Egyptian times – hoops, dolls, toy chariots, etc.
- Locate on a class map – Nigeria, Holland, Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and Inuit regions (N. Canada).

Evaluation

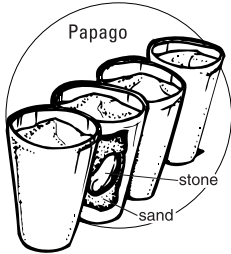
- Were the students aware that many children in poorer countries don’t have sophisticated mechanical toys in their games but use simple objects – twigs, stones, coconut shells, etc?
- Did students see any resemblance to the games they play?
- Which game was the most popular? Why?

Answers

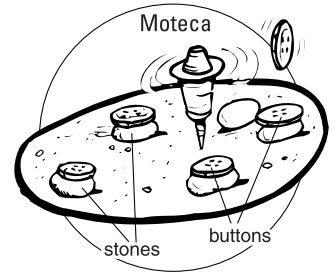
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. games | 2. Moteca | 3. buttons |
| 4. circle | 5. round | 6. canoe |
| 7. pole | 8. guide | 9. Africa |
| 10. four | 11. stone | 12. attempt/try |
| 13. wins | 14. eggs | 15. last |

Games Around the World

For thousands of years many of the world's children have played ¹ which help to improve their physical and mental skills.

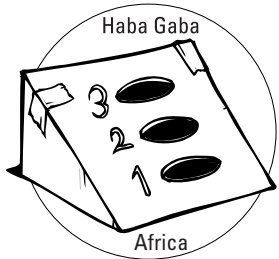


Children in the Dominican Republic play "²" and use a spinning top to try to knock ³ off small stones. The stones are placed in a ⁴ drawn



on the ground. Inuit children spin a top inside their home and try to run ⁵ the house before it stops spinning!

Nigerian youngsters play a war ⁶ game. Team



members sit on a ⁷ and move backwards across a "river" drawn on the ground. A ⁸ steers them around obstacles representing rocks, crocodiles, etc.

"Haba Gaba" is a game played in Sierra Leone in ⁹, with each player given three throws and the highest score winning.

"Papago" is a native American Indian game using ¹⁰ paper cups. They are filled with sand. One has a ¹¹ hidden in it. If player 1 finds it at his/her first ¹², he/



she earns four points. His/Her second try earns three points and so on. The first player to reach 10 points ¹³ the game.

At Easter, Dutch children gently bump hard-boiled ¹⁴ together. The person whose egg is the ¹⁵ to crack is the winner!

Teacher Information

Space Travel

Objectives

- To develop reading skills using a cloze exercise on a topic both current and interesting.
- To reinforce the understanding of the work of adjectives in sentences.
- To introduce students to the remarkable scientific advances which make space travel possible.

Teaching Points

- Discuss the work of adjectives in sentences.
- Explain that adjectives usually come immediately before the noun they describe but can appear anywhere in the sentence.
- Discuss any unfamiliar terms used – “orbiting,” “fascinated,” “decade,” “shuttle,” “mission.”
- Conduct a class discussion on why explorers want to explore unknown territory (e.g. Amundsen at the South Pole, Marco Polo in China, Livingstone in the jungles of Africa, etc.).
- Discuss briefly the development of aircraft from the Wright Brothers to jet planes to rocket ships.

Evaluation

- Was interest in the topic sufficient to lead to mini-group/individual projects on famous explorers?
- Were girls as interested in the topic as boys?
- Do students fully understand the work of adjectives as descriptive words which add to the quality of sentences?

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. brilliant | 2. important | 3. red |
| 4. special | 5. far-off | 6. outer |
| 7. valuable | 8. regular | 9. thrilling |
| 10. different | 11. harmful | 12. several |
| 13. enormous | 14. new | 15. reusable |

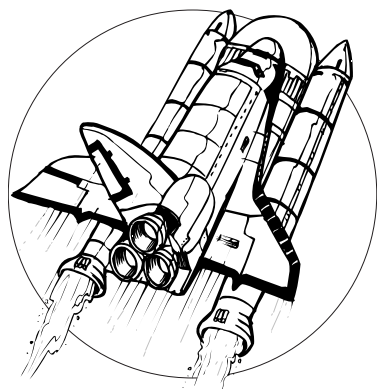
Use the following ADJECTIVES to complete the passage.

**harmful valuable special enormous reusable several red brilliant
thrilling outer new important far-off regular different**

Space Travel

Space travel has fascinated the world's ¹ scientists for years. Since the moon landings, the ² targets have been Venus and the "³ planet," Mars—which are both closer to Earth than the other planets.

A ⁴ camera on the "Odyssey" spacecraft has been photographing



the surface of Mars and the "Cassini" probe will orbit

⁵ Saturn in the near future. The

"Stardust" spacecraft is at present collecting dust from a comet's tail in ⁶ space and will return

⁷ information to Earth several years from now.

Rocket planes can fly over 4,000 m/h and ⁸ space flights are expected during the 21st century. The price of one ticket on "Xerus," a rocket plane planned to take tourists on a ⁹ one-hour trial flight in the next decade, is \$130,000!

Astronauts from ¹⁰ countries have spent months orbiting in space to test possible ¹¹ effects. These experiments will lead to space stations where people will live and work for ¹² years.

If space travel for ordinary people is to become a reality, the scientists need to cut the ¹³ costs. At present, a shuttle's main fuel tank drops away in flight and must be replaced for each ¹⁴ mission. One way to reduce this huge expense is to develop ¹⁵ launch vehicles, and various designs are being tested.

Teacher Information

The Harry Potter Phenomenon

Objectives

- To develop reading skills using a cloze exercise on a topic popular with school students.
- To reinforce the students' knowledge of the nouns used in the exercise (common, proper).
- To give the students some background information on J.K. Rowling.

Teaching Points

- Discuss the class's favorite characters from the Harry Potter books.
- Elicit from the class examples of common and proper nouns.
- Have children to draw/color a character of their own. Write a sentence about the character and give him/her a name using alliteration (e.g. Silly Susan, Boring Billy etc.) as in the Potter books.
- Conduct a brief teaching board exercise where students sort out common/proper nouns from a list.
- Discuss the term "fantasy world."

Evaluation

- Can the students recognize common and proper nouns?
- Did the students' familiarity with the topic lead to the exercise being well done?
- Was it an enjoyable experience for the class, including those students who hadn't seen the films?

Answers

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. author | 2. wizard | 3. child |
| 4. Horse | 5. Paris | 6. Africa |
| 7. books | 8. awards | 9. languages |
| 10. films | 11. names | 12. Myrtle |
| 13. schools | 14. booksellers | 15. truancy |

Use the following NOUNS to complete the passage.

awards Horse author Africa wizard films books booksellers
Myrtle names languages child truancy schools Paris

The Harry Potter Phenomenon

Joanne Kathleen Rowling is the ¹ of the popular books about 10-year-old orphan Harry Potter, who is a young ². The author was born in England and says as a ³ she "lived in a fantasy world." Her favorite book, "The Little White ⁴," influenced the Harry Potter series of seven planned books. Rowling taught English in ⁵, France, for a year and also worked for Amnesty International in ⁶. Her ⁷ have been praised by reviewers throughout Europe and have won many European book ⁸. They have been translated into more than 28 ⁹, sold in more than 130 countries and made into ¹⁰ which are exciting and very, very popular.

Children love the interesting character ¹¹ like Helga Hufflepuff, Moaning ¹² and Nearly Headless Nick. Book sales have been huge but some ¹³ have banned them because of their emphasis on witchcraft. When ¹⁴ released the third book in Britain, they were asked to sell them after school hours so that ¹⁵ wouldn't be a problem!