



Journeys 2014

Grade 4  
Weekly Student  
and Parent  
Newsletters

Unit 3  
Lessons 11-15

Includes weekly listing of vocabulary and spelling, reading skills/strategies, vocabulary strategies, grammar skills. Send these home with students weekly so students and parents know the reading, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary skills.



## 4th Grade - Student and Parent Newsletter

### Lesson 11 Hurricanes

Vocabulary:

whirling	spinning quickly
rapidly	quickly
source	the place where something comes from
condense	to form tiny droplets of water
rotating	turning or spinning
rage	to act in a violent way
experience	to see and feel the effects of something
ancient	very old
predict	to say that something is going to happen
registered	to have recorded information

Vocabulary Strategy: Suffixes -ful, -less, -ness, -ment

Target Skill and Strategy:

- Text and graphic features: headings, captions, maps, diagrams, charts that help you organize information so it is easier to understand
- Infer/predict: use information from graphic features and text evidence to figure out something the author doesn't state directly

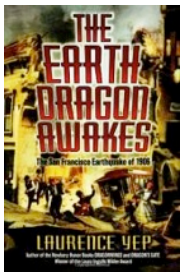
Grammar Skill:

- Frequently confused words: to, too, two, their, there, they're, its, it's

Spelling Pattern:

- Compound words (review and challenge words are final two rows, respectively)

somebody	fireplace	nearby	toothbrush	homesick
anything	make-believe	all right	goodbye	forehead
classmate	twenty-two	haircut	flashlight	driveway
baby-sit	alarm clock	airport	forever	mailbox
birthday	anyone	everything	without	sometimes
field trip	absent-minded	life jacket	skyscraper	nevertheless



## 4th Grade - Student and Parent Newsletter

### Lesson 12 The Earth Dragon Awakes

#### Vocabulary:

trembles	shakes
slab	a broad, flat piece
wreckage	leftover bits of something that is ruined
debris	pieces of broken things
rubble	broken stones or bricks
crushing	smashing
possession	things you own
tenement	an apartment building, often poorly maintained
timbers	large pieces of wood
construct	built

#### Vocabulary Strategy: Synonyms

#### Target Skill and Strategy:

- Sequence of events: the order in which events take place
- Visualize: use details of a text to form a clear mental picture of character, setting, and events

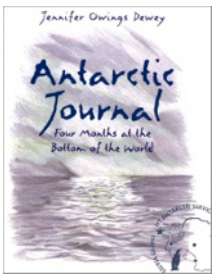
#### Grammar Skill:

- Possessive nouns: a noun that uses an apostrophe to show ownership

#### Spelling Pattern:

- Words with -ed or -ing (review and challenge words are final two rows, respectively)

rising	traced	stripped	dared	slammed
dancing	striped	raced	winning	snapping
bragging	handled	dripped	begged	hitting
skipped	spotted	dimmed	spinning	escaped
changing	joking	tapping	wrapped	swimming
urged	breathing	quizzed	whipped	striving



## 4th Grade - Student and Parent Newsletter

### Lesson 13 Antarctic Journal

#### Vocabulary:

vision	a mental image of what something could be like
standards	levels used to compare
huddle	crowd together
alert	aware of
weariness	tiredness
fractured	broken
graceful	elegant
stranded	left helpless
display	show
concluded	formed an opinion

Vocabulary Strategy: greek and Latin word parts (spect, struct, tele, vis)

#### Target Skill and Strategy:

- Sequence of events: the order in which events take place
- Summarize: briefly retell the main idea in an informational text

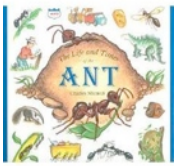
#### Grammar Skill:

- Modal auxiliaries: may, might, must, can, could, should, would

#### Spelling Pattern:

- More words with -ed or -ing  
(review and challenge words are final two rows, respectively)

wiped	covered	mapped	hiking	shipping
phoning	offered	putting	pleasing	smelling
slipped	mixed	becoming	traveled	fainted
landed	seeking	visiting	checking	wandering
fixing	saving	starred	dropped	grinning
amusing	entertained	admitted	stunning	starving



## 4th Grade - Student and Parent Newsletter

### Lesson 14 The Life and Times of the Ant

#### Vocabulary:

social	relating to the way people live together
transport	carry from one place to another
exchanges	giving one thing and getting another
scarce	hard to find
excess	extra
reinforce	make stronger
storage	a place to keep supplies
chamber	a room
obstacles	things in the way
transfers	moves from one place to another

Vocabulary Strategy: Suffixes -able, -ible

#### Target Skill and Strategy:

- Text and graphic features: headings, captions, maps, diagrams, charts that help you organize information so it is easier to understand
- Question: pause to ask yourself questions before, during, and after reading

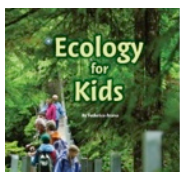
#### Grammar Skill: Identify and use present and past participles and participial phrases

- Participles: a verb form that can be used as an adjective
- Present participle: expresses present tense by adding -ing
- Past participle: expresses past tense by adding -ed
- Participial phrase: describes a noun; can use participial phrases to combine sentences

#### Spelling Pattern:

- Words with final long e (review and challenge words are final two rows, respectively)

turkey	lonely	colony	steady	hungry
fifty	valley	hockey	starry	melody
movie	daily	duty	drowsy	chimney
plenty	alley	empty	injury	prairie
cherry	jelly	sticky	worry	curly
envy	fiery	mercy	discovery	mystery



# 4th Grade - Student and Parent Newsletter

## Lesson 15 Ecology for Kids

### Vocabulary:

habitats	the environments that animals and plants live in
species	a group of plants or animals that are alike
organism	living things such as plants or animals
traces	marks left by people, animals, or things
vast	great in size
directly	in a clear and obvious way
affect	to have an influence on
variety	a number of slightly different things within the same groupings
radiation	energy in the form of rays or waves
banned	not allowed; forbidden

### Vocabulary Strategy: Using context

### Target Skill and Strategy:

- Main idea/details: the most important points and supporting facts
- Monitor/clarify: paying attention to the text; story to make clear something that doesn't make sense

### Grammar Skill:

- Irregular verbs: verbs that don't add -ed to show past tense
- Forms of the verb BE: am, is, are, was, were are all forms of the verb be
- Helping verbs: has, have, had, am, is, are, was, were can be used as helping verbs

### Spelling Pattern:

- Change final y to i (review and challenge words are final two rows, respectively)

funniest	noisier	tiniest	hobbies	copied
countries	pitied	easier	laziest	families
spied	happiest	ladies	friendlier	studied
busier	breezier	prettiest	healthier	butterflies
hurried	stories	carried	pennies	babies
heaviest	categories	qualities	communities	multiplied



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# Grade 4 Unit 3 Weekly Newsletters

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