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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

Reading Passages

SAMPLE

GRADE 3

Four reading levels for every passage

PREPARE + CLUSTERS 1 TO 8

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CLUSTER 1 · LEVEL 4

Life Along the Nile River

1. Ancient Egypt was mostly covered by hot, dry desert. In many places, the land was too dry to grow crops or raise animals. Because water was difficult to find in the desert, most people settled near the Nile River.

2. The Nile River was one of the longest rivers in the world. It flowed through the desert from south to north before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.

3. The Nile was very important to ancient Egypt because it provided water in a dry environment. Each year, the river would rise and flood nearby land.

4. When the floodwaters moved back down, they left behind dark, rich soil along the riverbanks. This soil was fertile and helped farmers grow crops.

5. The yearly floods followed a regular pattern. Ancient Egyptians learned when the river would rise and when the floods would end. Farmers planned their planting seasons around the flood cycle.

6. Without the Nile River, farming would have been very difficult in ancient Egypt. Most of the desert l[illegible]nd w[illegible]s too [illegible]ry fo[illegible]rops [illegible] su[illegible]vive.

7. Farmers plante[illegible] c[illegible]ps such as wh[illegible]t a[illegible]d barley in the r[illegible]ch soil near the Nile. They also grew vegeta[illegible]s, fru[illegible]ts, and flax. F[illegible]ax was used to m[illegible]ke clo[illegible]h and clothing.

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8. The Nile also supplied water for drinking, cooking, and farming. Families depended on the river every day.

9. Fishing became another important activity along the Nile. Fishermen used nets and boats to catch fish from the river. Fish provided food for many families.

10. Farmers and fishermen worked hard throughout the year. During planting season, farmers prepared fields and planted seeds. During harvest season, workers gathered crops before they spoiled.

11. The Nile River also helped transportation and trade grow in ancient Egypt. Boats traveled up and down the river carrying people and goods.

12. Some boats carried food while others carried wood, tools, stone, or building supplies. Merchants traded goods between villages and cities.

13. Traveling by river was much easier than crossing the hot desert. The Nile connected communities throughout ancient Egypt.

14. Villages, towns, and cities were built near the riverbanks because families depended on water and farmland. Large populations gathered along the Nile.

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43. NARRATOR: Alex takes another drink of milk.

44. ALEX: Think about this carton of milk. Most people probably never stop to think about why it is safe to drink.

45. JORDAN: They just expect it to be safe.

46. ALEX: Exactly. But people like Louis Pasteur helped make that possible.

47. MAYA: It shows how one person's work can help lots of other people.

48. NARRATOR: The students nod in agreement.

49. JORDAN: Do scientists still study germs today?

50. MAYA: Of course. There is still a lot to learn.

51. ALEX: Scientists continue asking questions and looking for answers.

52. JORDAN: Just like Louis Pasteur did.

53. NARRATOR: The cafeteria becomes louder as students finish their lunches.

54. MAYA: I think that's my favorite part about science. There is always something new to discover.

55. ALEX: And every discovery has the chance to help people.

56. JORDAN: Even years later

57. NARRATOR: The lunch bell rings.

58. [The students stand and gather their trays.]

59. MAYA: I learned more about Louis Pasteur today than I remembered from class.

60. ALEX: Me too.

61. JORDAN: Now every time I see milk, I'll probably think about him.

62. NARRATOR: The students leave the cafeteria thinking about how a discovery made long ago continues to improve lives today.

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a future in which families could travel more easily, reach destinations more quickly, and enjoy greater freedom to move from place to place.

8. Many business owners at the time focused on building expensive automobiles for wealthy customers. Henry believed there was a better approach. Instead of producing only a small number of expensive vehicles, he wanted to build reliable automobiles that many people could afford. This idea became one of the most important goals of his career.

9. In 1903, Henry Ford started the Ford Motor Company. Starting a business required determination and hard work. Henry and his team had to design vehicles, hire workers, purchase materials, and convince customers to trust their products. Building a successful company was not easy, but Henry remained committed to his vision.

10. The Ford Motor Company continued developing automobiles, searching for ways to improve both quality and affordability. Henry wanted his vehicles to be dependable and practical. He believed people would buy automobiles if they were easy to operate and reasonably priced.

11. A few years later, Henry Ford introduced the Model T. This automobile became one of the most important vehicles in American history. The Model T was strong, simple, and much more affordable than many other automobiles. It was designed for ordinary families rather than just wealthy buyers.

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12. The Model T quickly became popular. Families who had never owned a car before were finally able to purchase one. People who once depended entirely on horses and wagons now had another option for transportation. For many families, owning a car changed daily life.

13. Automobiles gave people more freedom to travel. Families could visit relatives who lived farther away. Trips that once required many hours could often be completed much more quickly. Traveling to stores, schools, churches, and community events became easier. Farmers could transport supplies and products more efficiently. Workers could travel greater distances to reach their jobs.

14. As more people purchased automobiles, communities began to change. Roads became increasingly important because people needed reliable routes for travel. Communities worked to improve roads so automobiles could move more easily between towns. Better transportation helped connect communities and encouraged economic growth.

15. Businesses also benefited from improved transportation. Stores could receive products more quickly. Customers could travel farther to shop. Communities that were

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81. What mattered was taking responsibility.

82. Before leaving, Maya walked through the shelter one more time. She checked every food bowl and every water bowl. She made sure the kennels were clean and the supplies were organized.

83. This time she moved slowly and carefully.

84. She wanted to be certain everything was complete.

85. When she finished, she returned to Rusty's kennel.

86. The puppy looked happy and content.

87. "Next time I'll do better," Maya promised.

88. Rusty wagged his tail.

89. As Maya rode home, she reflected on the day's events.

90. She realized that good citizenship was about more than completing tasks. It was about being dependable. It was about understanding that other people—and sometimes animals—count on you to do your part.

91. She also learned that responsibility does not mean never making mistakes. Responsibility means admitting mistakes, correcting them, and learning from them.

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92. The following Saturday, Maya arrived at the shelter carrying a small checklist she had created at home. As she completed each task, she marked it off before moving to the next one.

93. By the end of her shift, every box was checked.

94. Every dog had food and water.

95. Every kennel was clean.

96. Every responsibility had been completed.

97. When Maya stopped by Rusty's kennel before leaving, she smiled.

98. Rusty could count on her.

99. And Maya knew she had become a better volunteer—and a better citizen—because of the lesson she had learned.

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