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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

Reading Passages

SAMPLE

GRADE 4

Four reading levels for every passage

PREPARE + CLUSTERS 1 TO 8

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53. "When he challenged Americans to think about what they could do for their country," Grandpa said, "I felt something change in the crowd."

54. "What do you mean?"

55. "It was not loud at first," he explained. "It was more like recognition. People seemed to understand that he was speaking directly to them. He was reminding everyone that citizenship is active. It requires participation."

56. I wrote the word active beside citizenship.

57. "What did you think when you heard it?" I asked.

58. Grandpa's expression became serious, although he was still smiling.

59. "I thought those words could inspire people to act," he answered. "A speech can be powerful, but words become even more meaningful when people decide to live by the ideas behind them."

60. I liked that sentence so much that I underlined it twice.

61. "So a speech can start something?"

62. "Yes," Grandpa said. "A speech can encourage people to think, but action is what carries the idea forward."

63. I imagined the words traveling through the crowd, then following people home to their neighborhoods and families.

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64. "Did people really act because of the speech?"

65. "Many people were already thinking about ways to serve," Grandpa said, "but the speech gave those ideas energy. It reminded citizens that participation mattered."

66. A few months later, Grandpa watched that spirit of service become connected to another important program: the Peace Corps.

67. I had heard of the Peace Corps, but I did not know much about it.

68. "What was the Peace Corps supposed to do?" I asked.

69. "President Kennedy wanted Americans to volunteer in communities around the world," Grandpa explained. "People could use their education and abilities to work alongside others. Some became teachers. Others helped with agriculture, health, community development, or different kinds of training."

70. "Did they go to other countries?"

71. "Yes," Grandpa said. "And that was important. The idea was not that Americans knew everything or had all the answers. The goal was cooperation. Volunteers were supposed to learn from the communities they served while also sharing their own skills."

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and foods were also exchanged between Europe and the Americas. These changes affected farming, transportation, and trade.

17. The effects of Columbus's voyage continued for many years. Exploration increased, new settlements were established, and trade expanded. The movement of people, goods, and ideas connected different parts of the world in ways that had never happened before.

18. Today, Columbus's journey is remembered and retold in different ways. Columbus Day recognizes his voyage, but many people also think about how his arrival affected Native Americans. Historians study different perspectives to better understand the events that followed his journey.

19. Some people focus on Columbus's role in opening the door to exploration and increased trade. Others focus on the challenges and hardships that Native American groups experienced after Europeans arrived. Looking at different viewpoints helps people gain a fuller understanding of history.

20. People continue to discuss the impact of Columbus's voyage because it marked an important turning point in history. His journey connected Europe and the Americas and led to changes that affected millions of people. The events that followed shaped the development of countries, cultures, and communities throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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21. Columbus's actions had lasting effects on land, culture, and the people who lived in the Americas. His voyage remains one of the most significant events in world history because of the changes it set into motion. More than five hundred years later, people still study his journey to understand how it influenced the world we live in today.

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CLUSTER 4 · LEVEL 3

Four Regions, One Big Adventure

1. "Road trip!" Zavier shouted as his family packed the car. They were driving across Texas to learn about its different regions. Instead of only reading about them in books, Zavier would get to see each region with his own eyes. He packed a notebook so he could write down interesting facts and compare what made each place special. His parents told him that every region had its own landforms, climate, plants, and jobs.

2. Before they left, Zavier looked at a map of Texas. He noticed that the state was much larger than he had remembered. "Are we really going to see all four regions?" he asked.

3. "We are," his dad replied. "It will take some time, but by the end of the trip you'll understand why each region is unique."

4. Zavier smiled as they loaded the last bags into the car. He wondered which region would become his favorite.

5. Their first stop was the Mountains and Basins in far West Texas. Zavier noticed tall, rocky mountains and dry land. "It's really hot here," he said. There were only a few plants, like cacti. His mom explained that people in this region often work in mining and oil because of the natural resources found underground.

6. As they drove through the area, Zavier saw steep cliffs, rocky hills, and wide stretches of open land. The sky seemed larger than anywhere he had ever been. Every now and then, he spotted a cactus growing beside the road.

7. "There aren't many trees," Zavier noticed.

8. "That's because this region is very dry," his mom explained. "Plants must be able to survive with very little rainfall."

9. The family stopped at a lookout where they could see miles across the desert landscape. The mountains rose high above the valleys below. Zavier thought the scenery looked different from anywhere else in Texas.

10. "It almost feels like another state," he said.

11. His dad smiled. "That's one reason learning about regions is important. Even though this is all Texas, the land can look very different."

12. As they continued driving, they passed signs for oil wells and mining areas. Zavier remembered what his mom had said about natural resources. He wrote in his notebook that the Mountains and Basins region is known for its mountains, desert climate, cacti, mining, and oil production.

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9. A road is more than where we roam;
It links a distant place to home.
For when two different pathways meet,
Ideas can journey with our feet.

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