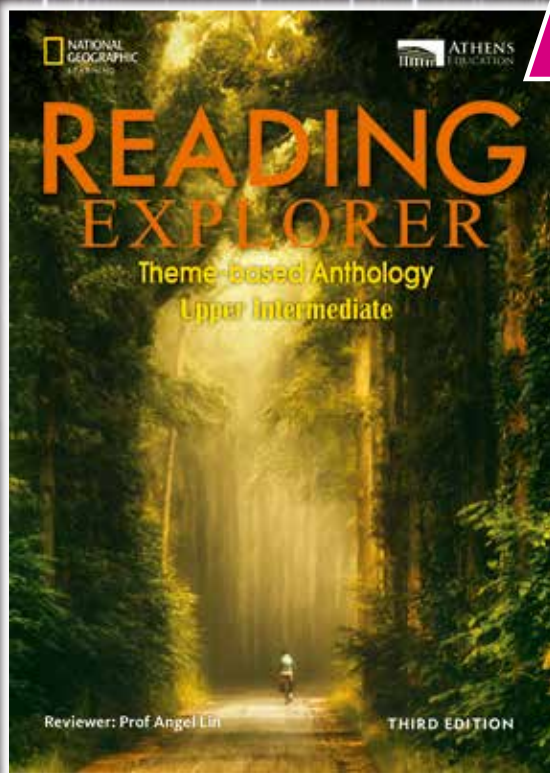


# READING EXPLORER

Theme-based Anthology

NEW  
for 2021



A **4-month** Gale Databases trial account for schools that include *Reading Explorer (3rd edition)* in their school textbook list!

- **25 new and updated readings**
- Tailor-made for the **local curriculum** and **public exam (HKDSE)**
- Essential **reading skills** and **expanded Vocabulary Practice sections**
- Eye-opening content with **new audio recordings and video clips**



# What's NEW in the Third Edition

## 1. 25 new and updated readings, including newsworthy topics

Unit 6



### SEEING THE LIGHT

In recent years, the artistic achievements of two 20th-century pioneers have been brought to a global audience.

In 1995, Tarsila do Amaral was sold at auction for \$1.4 million, making it the most valuable painting ever by a Brazilian artist.

### THE PICASSO OF BRAZIL

In 2018, a major new exhibition opened at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). The show brought together more than a hundred works by a single Brazilian artist: Tarsila do Amaral. Although widely celebrated in her native country, the artist was relatively unknown outside Brazil. So who was Tarsila?

Born in 1886 in a small town near São Paulo, Tarsila do Amaral is considered the mother of modern art in Brazil. She first developed a love for art after her parents sent her to study in Spain. She returned to Europe a few years later, and settled in Paris. Several artists there, including Picasso, were beginning to experiment with new forms—less realistic and more abstract. The new approaches continued to influence Tarsila after she returned to Brazil.

Approaches to art in Brazil at that time were relatively conservative. Traditional European styles dominated, with works mainly featuring natural, religious, or historical scenes in soft colors. Tarsila decided to take a different direction: "I want to be the painter of my country," she wrote. Her images began to reflect Brazil's diverse identity—a mix of native, African, and European peoples. She used strong, vivid colors to paint real-life scenes of the nation's farmers, countryside, and wildlife. This had never been done before in Brazilian art.

100 Unit 6 Visual Pioneers



A Casa (1924). "I want to be the painter of my country." Tarsila wrote.

One of Tarsila's most famous works is *Abaporu* (1926). The title combines two words from Tupi-Guarani languages, meaning "Man Who Eats People." The painting has a playful, surreal quality—but its look and feel are distinctly Brazilian. The work—and its title—later inspired a Brazilian art movement called *antropofagia*, or cannibalism. Brazilian artists began to take in—eagerly "digest"—styles from other cultures and mix them with local influences. The result was something uniquely Brazilian.

## Wonderful Things

Unit 12

### THE RISE OF VIRTUAL MONEY

It doesn't exist in any physical form, yet is increasingly used by people worldwide. Is virtual currency the money of the future?

#### What Is a Virtual Currency?

According to the European Banking Authority, a virtual currency is "a digital representation of value that is neither issued by a central bank or a public authority, nor necessarily attached to a fiat currency, but is accepted [as] a means of payment and can be transferred, stored, or traded electronically." There are many types of virtual currency, but the best known is probably Bitcoin.

In online articles, or in newspapers or magazines, you may have seen pictures of gold or silver coins marked with the Bitcoin symbol (B). However—since Bitcoins exist only as digital constructs—these are merely representations. Bitcoin is a type of digital money known as a "cryptocurrency"; that is, it uses cryptography—secure coding—to verify ownership of the money. The money can be sent electronically from one user to another anywhere in the world.

Unlike traditional currencies, Bitcoin is not controlled by a central bank or by a government agency. And unlike credit cards, the Bitcoin network is not run by a company. There is no middleman between the parties that are transferring money. It is operated by a global network of computers called a blockchain network, which records every Bitcoin transaction in the world.

#### How Did Bitcoin Begin?

The first reference to Bitcoin appeared in 2008, in a paper by a writer supposedly named Satoshi Nakamoto. However, the name turned out to be a pseudonym for a person or group who preferred to remain anonymous. A year later, Bitcoin was released as open-source software.

1. A pseudonym is a name that someone uses in place of their real name.

12B The Rise of Virtual Money 213

## Technology

Unit 13

## Getting Along with Others

### LEFT BEHIND IN THE RACE FOR NEW GADGETS

#### BEFORE YOU READ

SCANNING A. You are going to read a letter of advice about chasing gadget trends. Quickly skim through the letter and its response and answer the following questions. Then read again to check your answers.

1. What gadget is James being pressured to purchase?
2. Why does he want this new gadget?

Dear Auntie Mimi,

A. Thank you so much for your last letter. You have so many fun and interesting experiences to share! It's great that your company transferring you to India has allowed you to see how other people in the world live. You're so courageous, traveling alone to India's sacred sites, participating in the local traditions, and mingling with Indian society. I wish I had as much faith in myself as you!

B. Thanks for asking about my progress at school. I'm sorry to tell you that things could be better. While my 9th studies are going well, I'm feeling a bit left out. I could do with some of your always sensible advice, because I don't think Mum and Dad would understand my problem if I shared it with them. My friends have all upgraded to the newest models of smartphones to play the latest games together, while I've had the same phone since I was in 8<sup>th</sup>. They constantly tell me to switch phones, and now make jokes and throw insults about my "ancient device" or "dad's phone." They play games together at least two or three times a week without me, and I'm starting to feel like an outsider. Buying a new device is out of the question since I just can't afford one with my allowance, not to mention, Mum and Dad's business is not doing well recently. I've tried to persuade my friends to organize some activities we can all enjoy but they still pressure me to get a new phone.

C. How can I keep my friends, my parents, and myself happy in this situation?

Much love,  
James

Dear James,

D. Thanks for sharing your problems with me! I am so sorry that you are feeling pressured and left out. Your letter reminds me of my own experiences in school, when I felt that my friends were excluding me because I couldn't keep up with their spending on fashion trends and the newest music.

E. A new phone is a substantial expense and it's evident from your letter that you yourself do not think buying a new one is the best idea. Remember, your current one still works and the only issue is

that it can't play the latest games.

It's not sensible to fall into the trap of upgrading technology just because others are doing so. Technology nowadays is made obsolete by new models every year, and nobody has the latest gadgets for long. Remember, happiness and friendships never go obsolete!

F. I suggest that when your friends make fun of your phone, you laugh with them, and explain that buying a new phone is not a priority for you at the moment. Remind them that many older games are just as fun and can be run on everyone's phones, and suggest that they play these sometimes so that you can join their gaming sessions. Stress that it's not the game itself but the opportunity to have fun together that is valuable. Don't let yourself get upset over the fear of rejection; those feelings often lead to bitterness and aggression. Instead, encourage your friends to try something new. Don't confront them or your parents. If you strive for harmony and are supportive and sympathetic of those around you, they will support you too!

Cheer up!  
Auntie Mimi

#### READING COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions using information from the letters.

#### DETAIL

1. Decide whether the following statements are True, False, or the information is Not Given in the letters. Check (✓) the appropriate column.

Statements	T	F	NG
a. Auntie Mimi's company is relocated to India.			
b. She asked James how he was doing in school in a previous letter.			
c. James has been using his current phone for a couple of years.			
d. Auntie Mimi was not given much pocket money in school.			

#### INFERRE

2. Why does James not ask his parents to buy him a new phone?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### PURPOSE

3. In paragraph D, why does Auntie Mimi mention her school friends who chased music and fashion trends?

240 Unit 13 Group Behavior

- a. To tell James that she has experience dealing with a similar problem before.
- b. She enjoys letting James hear from her past.
- c. She believes that following music trends is more meaningful than chasing after the newest gadgets.
- d. She is giving James examples of bad friends.

#### DETAIL

4. What are TWO reasons Auntie Mimi gives for why James should not purchase a new smartphone?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### VOCABULARY

5. Find a word in paragraph F that means outlined.

#### PARAPHRASE

6. In paragraph G, Auntie Mimi offers the solution of introducing James's (i) \_\_\_\_\_ phone game which can be (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ or all of their phones, allowing James to take part in their (iv) \_\_\_\_\_.



## 2. Expanded Vocabulary Practice sections improve students' mastery of vocabulary

An additional part C focuses on collocations, word usage, and word families.

### COLLOCATIONS

C. The words in the box are often used with the word **vital**. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box. One word is extra.

Unit 11

absolutely    importance    link    role

1. The tourism industry is of vital \_\_\_\_\_ to the national economy.
2. Biomimetic research is \_\_\_\_\_ vital if we wish to develop more sustainable solutions to human challenges in design and engineering.
3. Mick Pearce has played a vital \_\_\_\_\_ in designing eco-friendly buildings in Africa.

Unit 12

### WORD USAGE

C. The word **principle** is often confused with **principal**. A principle is a rule or law. As an adjective, principal means "the most important," and as a noun, a principal is the person in charge of a school. Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The school *principle* / *principal* gave a short speech on the first day of class.
2. He is a man of great *principle* / *principal*.
3. The *principle* / *principal* export of Saudi Arabia is oil.

Unit 9

### WORD ROOTS

C. The word **descend** contains the word root **scend**, which means "move toward." Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box.

ascend    crescendo    descend    transcend

1. The plane began to \_\_\_\_\_ as it approached its destination.
2. Divers must not \_\_\_\_\_ too quickly to the water's surface.
3. Musical symphonies often include a series of softer melodies that build toward a powerful \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some types of music are able to \_\_\_\_\_ cultural boundaries and become popular worldwide.

Target vocabulary items are listed at the end of each unit.

### VOCABULARY REVIEW

Do you remember the meanings of these words? Check (✓) the ones you know. Look back at the unit and review any words you're not sure of.

#### Reading A

- compulsory     confine\*     contaminate     determine     digestion  
 feasible     infect     integral\*     nationwide     optimistic

#### Reading B

- allergic     alternative\*     conventional\*     deficiency     diminish\*  
 modify\*     notwithstanding\*     nutritional     revolution\*     trait

\* Academic Word List

184 Unit 10 Food and Health

Unit 10

3. **New, authentic National Geographic videos** showcase the unit topic in motion



Unit 4 Drone Delivery



Unit 5 Brain Power



Unit 12 Take the Money ... and Run?



Unit 13 Social Conformity



Optional subtitles



# Why teachers choose the Reading Explorer

We did a survey in September 2020 on why teachers choose the *Reading Explorer* series. Here is what they have to say.

## Intermediate Unit 1

### SWEET LOVE



A Many scientists believe our love of sugar may actually be an **addiction**. When we eat or drink sugary foods, the sugar enters our blood and affects the parts of our brain that make us feel good. Then the good feeling goes away, leaving us wanting more. All tasty foods do this, but sugar has a particularly strong effect. In this way, it is in fact an addictive **drug**, one that doctors **recommend** we all **cut down on**.

B "It seems like every time I study an illness and trace a path to the first cause, I find my way back to sugar," says scientist Richard Johnson. One-third of adults worldwide have high blood pressure,<sup>1</sup> and up to 347 million have diabetes.<sup>2</sup> Why? "Sugar, we believe, is one of the culprits, if not the major culprit," says Johnson.

C Our bodies are designed to survive on very little sugar. Early humans often had very little food, so our bodies learned to be very **efficient** in **storing** sugar as fat. In this way, we had energy stored for when there was no food. But today, most people have more than enough. So the very thing that once saved us may now be killing us.

D So what is the solution? It's **obvious** that we need to eat less sugar. The trouble is, in today's world, it's extremely difficult to avoid. From breakfast cereals to after-dinner desserts, our foods are increasingly filled with it. Some manufacturers even use sugar to replace taste in foods that are **advertised** as low in fat. So while the foods appear to be healthier, large amounts of sugar are often added.

E But some people are fighting back against sugar and trying to create a healthier environment. Many schools are replacing sugary desserts with healthier options, like fruit. Other schools are trying to encourage exercise by building **facilities** like walking tracks so students and others in the community can exercise. The **battle** has not yet been lost.

<sup>1</sup> If you have **high blood pressure**, your blood pressure is too high around your body.  
<sup>2</sup> **Diabetes** is a medical condition of blood.

"Reading Explorer provides students with authentic materials and interesting content."

## Elementary Unit 11

### THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC



A On a boat near Costa Rica, a team of marine biologists<sup>1</sup> is helping a turtle. The animal is having trouble breathing, and the team discovers why—there is something inside its nose. A scientist tries to **extract** the object, but the turtle cries in pain. Finally, after eight long minutes, a long object is pulled out: It is a 10-centimeter plastic straw.

B The video of the turtle's **rescue** has been viewed millions of times on YouTube. It has helped raise awareness of a growing problem: The world's seas are full of plastic. Since 2000, there has been a **huge** increase in worldwide plastic production, but we **recycle** less than one-fifth of it. A lot of this plastic waste ends up in the ocean. Today, scientists think about 8.1 billion kilograms goes into the sea every year from coastal regions. Most of this plastic will never biodegrade.<sup>2</sup>

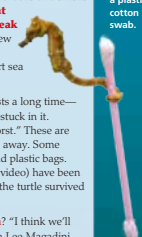
C This ocean plastic hurts millions of sea animals every year. Some fish eat plastic because it is covered with sea plants, and it looks and smells like food. **Typically**, eating plastic leads to **constant** hunger. "Imagine you ate lunch and then just felt **weak** ... and hungry all day," says marine biologist Matthew Savoca. "That would be very **confusing**." In some cases, eating sharp pieces of plastic can seriously hurt sea animals and even result in death.

D Plastic is useful to people because it is strong and lasts a long time—but this is bad news for sea creatures who eat or get stuck in it. According to Savoca, "Single-use plastics are the worst." These are items that are used only once before we throw them away. Some **common** examples include straws, water bottles, and plastic bags. About 700 sea species (including the turtle from the video) have been caught in or have eaten this kind of plastic. Luckily, the turtle survived and was released back into the ocean.

E How will plastic affect sea animals in the **long term**? "I think we'll know the answers in 5 to 10 years' time," says Debra Lee Magadin from Columbia University. But by then, another 25 million tons of plastic will already be in the ocean.

<sup>1</sup> A **marine biologist** is a scientist who studies sea life.  
<sup>2</sup> If something **biodegrades**, it breaks into little pieces and goes away completely.

A seahorse clutches a plastic cotton swab.



158 Unit 11 Plastic Planet

### DO ANIMALS LAUGH?



A We know animals have emotions. They can feel **fear**. We also think they feel love, since they have strong **relationships** with each other. So are animal emotions similar to our own? And do animals have a **sense of humor**?

#### A Parrot's Joke

B Sally Blanchard's parrot, Paco, didn't get along<sup>1</sup> with her other parrot, Pato. **In fact**, Bongo Marie clearly didn't like Paco at all! One day, Blanchard cooked a chicken for dinner. She started to cut the chicken with a knife. "Oh, no! Paco!" Bongo Marie said loudly and **laughed**. Blanchard laughed, too, and said, "That's not Paco." "Oh ... no," said Bongo Marie. This time, she sounded disappointed.<sup>2</sup> Then the parrot laughed at her own **joke**.

#### Yoga Dog

C Jean Donaldson enjoys yoga—and so does her dog Buffy. While Donaldson does yoga, Buffy carefully **places** her toys on Donaldson's body. If a toy falls, Buffy runs to put it back. Does this **behavior** have any real purpose? "She thinks it's hilarious!"<sup>3</sup> says Donaldson.

#### Animal Laughter

D Can dogs "laugh"? Recent research shows that dogs can tell each other when they want to play. They make a special sound—a kind of "laugh." Psychologist Patricia Simonet recorded the sound. Then she played it back to dogs and studied their behavior. "All the dogs seemed to like the laugh," says Simonet. So do animals have a sense of humor? If laughter is a clue, then perhaps the answer is "yes!"



Do dogs really laugh?

<sup>1</sup> When people or animals **get along**, they are friendly and like each other.  
<sup>2</sup> If someone is **disappointed**, they are sad they didn't get what they wanted.  
<sup>3</sup> If something is **hilarious**, it is very funny.

88 Do Animals Laugh? 117

"Students can learn English through global issues."

"Students love the attractive photos."

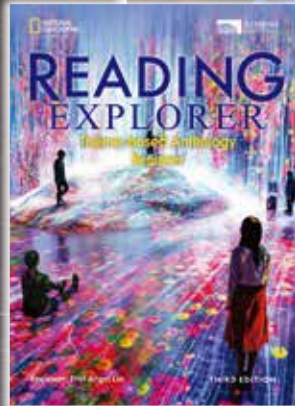
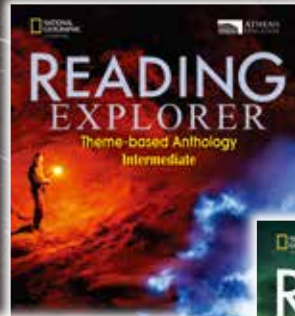
## Beginner Unit 8







**NEW for 2021**



"We like the themes and the genres of the articles."

**Intermediate Unit 9**

"The series contains a wide variety of updated topics."



**BEFORE YOU READ**

**SCANNING** A. The essay below discusses whether electric vehicles are a greener choice. Quickly scan the first paragraph and answer the following questions. Then read again to check your answers.

1. Where is the electricity of electric vehicles stored?

2. How many electric vehicles were there in Hong Kong in 2020?

A Have you ever ridden an electric vehicle (EV)? If so, you'll agree that they are now typically faster, more powerful, and every bit as stylish, comfortable and fuel-efficient as diesel-powered vehicles—all without the tailpipe emissions. EVs use electricity stored in a battery pack to deliver instant torque to power an electric motor that turns the wheels. They have long been touted by the Hong Kong government as the solution to our city's most longstanding and severe environmental problem: the progressive **decline** of roadside air quality. The government's partnerships with EV manufacturers and its generous tax subsidies to facilitate private ownership of EVs have been so successful that we now have one of the world's highest penetrations of EVs among new private car purchases. From just 20 vehicles in 2010 to over 13,000 ten years later, EVs now represent 2.2% of all SAR vehicles. Our top-selling sedan is the Tesla Model S. Yet, lately, the claims of EVs being environmentally-friendly are being questioned, and many are asking whether EVs are really a green alternative.

technology needed to produce and store alternative sources of clean electricity, without reliance on fluctuating weather patterns, is still decades away, some naysayers also predict that power plants will simply **substitute** vehicles as the main source of pollution after the switchover to EVs is complete.

C More significant, however, is recent research which contradicts the green **guarantee** that EVs are a clean substitute for conventional cars. When emissions produced during the production of EVs' electric batteries are factored into the vehicles' total emissions, EVs were found to be 20% dirtier than **equivalent** diesel-powered vehicles. The cost of EVs is **steep**, so the government may, ironically, be sponsoring the industry and owners to increase—not reduce—the city's pollution burden.

D Regardless, there is no denying the many health and lifestyle benefits of **utilizing** EVs. Regular diesel cars spray out contaminants at street level, fouling our air and spreading a pall of smoke throughout the city. The SAR already rife with respiratory illnesses, many welcome any initiative towards a **decline** in cases.

B As electricity still needs to be generated to run EVs, critics say that EVs powered by coal-produced energy are no greener than diesel-powered vehicles. Moreover, as the



**THE TEENAGE BRAIN**

A Parents, teachers, and anyone who regularly **deals with** teenagers knows how difficult the adolescent years can be. Adolescents have always been known to do wild—even dangerous—things. This was thought to be due to the foolishness<sup>1</sup> of youth. Now, brain-imaging technology allows scientists to study the physical development of the brain in more detail than ever before. Their discoveries have led to a new theory of why teens act the way they do.

**A Work in Progress**

B Recently, scientists discovered that though our brains are almost at their full size by the age of six, they are far from fully developed. Only during adolescence do our brains truly "grow up." During this time, they **go through** great changes, like a computer system being **upgraded**. This "upgrade" was once thought to be finished by about age 12. Now, scientists have **concluded** that our brains continue to change until age 25. Such changes make us better at balancing our impulses with the need to follow rules. However, a still-developing brain does this clumsily.<sup>2</sup> The result, scientists claim, is the unpredictable behavior seen in teenagers.

<sup>1</sup> **Foolishness** refers to the behavior of someone who makes bad decisions.  
<sup>2</sup> If something is done **clumsily**, it is done in an awkward or uncontrolled way.

"Reading Explorer encourages students to read more and think globally."



# of the Upper Intermediate level?

14B

## BEFORE YOU READ

### SCANNING

- A. Scan paragraph A on the next page. Match each person (1–3) with their job description (a–c).
1. Patricia Cornwell • a. medical examiner
  2. Alphonse Pokis • b. author
  3. Marcella Fierro • c. director of toxicology

### SKIMMING

- B. Read the interview questions on pages 254–255. Check (✓) the topics you think Fierro and Pokis will discuss. Then read the passage to check your answers.
- how they got their jobs
  - how to perform autopsies
  - technological advances in their field
  - a memorable case they worked on
  - their thoughts on how to prevent crime



## IN THE CRIME LAB

A. Marcella Fierro has been a professor in the Department of Legal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCLU) School of Medicine since 1973. She is also the former chief medical examiner of the Commonwealth of Virginia. She oversaw the forensic investigation of violent, **suspicious**, and unnatural deaths in Virginia, and she inspired the character Kay Scarpetta in Patricia Cornwell's best-selling crime novels. Alphonse Pokis served in the Department of Pathology at VCLU for almost 30 years. As director of its toxicology laboratory, he worked with Fierro to analyze medical evidence in homicide cases, and often testified as an expert in court.

Unit 14

## The Individual and Society



252 Unit 14 Investigations

Unit 16

## Cultures of the World



## IN SEARCH OF LONGEVITY

Ennio Moricono of Italy celebrates her 117th birthday surrounded by friends and family.

1. A long, healthy life is no accident. It begins with good genes inherited from your family, but it also depends on good habits. So what's the formula for success? In a study funded in part by the U.S. National Institute on Aging, scientists focused on groups living in several regions where exceptional longevity is widespread.

### Sardinians

2. Taking a break from farm work in the village of Silius, 75-year-old Italian Tina tickles the chin of his five-month-old grandson, Filippo, who watches from his mother's arms. "Gocchi, gocchi, go," Tino says whippers. For this strong, healthy, 1.8-meter-tall man, these two things—hard

3. A community of 2,400 people, Silius is located on the edge of a mountainous region in central Sardinia, where dry fields rise suddenly into mountains of stone. In a group of villages in the heart of the region, 91 of the 17,865 people born between 1880 and 1900 have lived to their hundredth birthday—a rate more than twice as high as the average for Italy.

4. Why do they live so long? Lifestyle is part of the answer. By 11:00 a.m. on this

particular day, the **industrious** Tonino has already milked four cows, chopped wood, slaughtered<sup>2</sup> a calf, and walked over six kilometers with his sheep. Now, taking the day's first break, he gathers his grown children, grandson, and visitors around the kitchen table. Giovanni, his wife, unites a handkerchief containing a paper-thin flatbread called *carta de manna*, pours some red wine, and cuts slices of homemade pecorino cheese.

5. These Sardinians also benefit from their genetic history. According to Paolo Francescalco of the University of Sassari, 80 percent of them are directly related to the first Sardinians, who arrived in the area 11,000 years ago. Genetic traits made stronger over generations may favor longevity. Nutrition, too, is a factor. The Sardinians' diet is loaded with fruits and vegetables, milk and milk products, fish, and wine. Most of these items are homegrown.

### Adventists

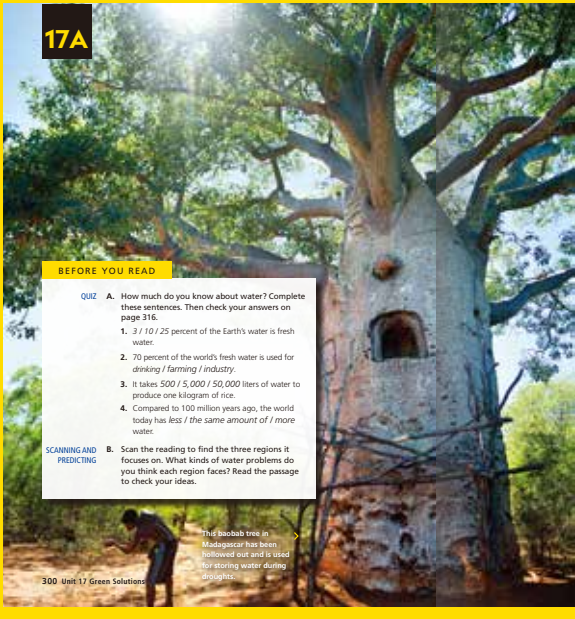
6. It's Friday morning, and Marge Jetton is speeding down the highway in her purple Cadillac.<sup>1</sup> She wears dark sunglasses to protect her eyes from the sun's glare, though her head is **barely** higher than the steering wheel. Marge, who turned 103 in September, is late for one of several volunteer commitments she has today. Already this morning she's eaten breakfast, walked one and a half kilometers, and lifted weights. "I don't know why God gave me the **privilege** of living so long," she says, pointing to herself. "But look what he did!"

7. Marge—like many other residents of Loma Linda, California—is a Seventh-Day Adventist. The Adventist Church has always practiced and been a proponent of

1 To slaughter animals such as cows and sheep means to kill them for their meat.  
2 A Cadillac is an American brand of car.

168 In Search of Longevity 289

17A



## BEFORE YOU READ

### QUIZ

A. How much do you know about water? Complete these sentences. Then check your answers on page 316.

1. 3 / 10 / 25 percent of the Earth's water is fresh water.
2. 70 percent of the world's fresh water is used for drinking / farming / industry.
3. It takes 500 / 5,000 / 50,000 liters of water to produce one kilogram of rice.
4. Compared to 100 million years ago, the world today has less / the same amount of / more water.

### SCANNING AND PREDICTING

B. Scan the reading to find the three regions it focuses on. What kinds of water problems do you think each region faces? Read the passage to check your ideas.

This baobab tree in Madagascar has been hollowed out and is used for storing water during droughts.

300 Unit 17 Green Solutions

## SAVING WATER



In the Castilla-La Mancha region of Spain, Julio Escudero, a 74-year-old former fisherman, recalls an area on the Guadiana River called Los Ojos—"the eyes." Large underground springs bubbled up into the river, where Escudero and his community fished for carp and crayfish. "I would sit in my boat six or seven meters away and just watch the water coming up," Escudero says. "Now it looks like the moon." Los Ojos doesn't exist anymore—that stretch of the river dried up in 1984. Additionally, 186 square kilometers of surrounding wetlands<sup>1</sup> have disappeared.

2. As farming in the region has increased, La Mancha has witnessed an explosion of well digging in the past 40 years that has hollowed the water table<sup>2</sup> and **diverted** water from rivers. The number of wells has grown from 1,500 in 1960 to an official count of 21,000 today. Some experts say the real number, which includes illegal wells, could **surpass** 50,000.

### A Global Problem

3. La Mancha is just one of many places facing water **shortages**. This century, many countries will face the same dilemma that has confronted the people of Spain: How do you balance human needs with the requirements of natural systems that are vital for sustaining life on Earth?

4. The United Nations recently outlined the **extent** of the water **crisis**. Due to water scarcity,<sup>3</sup> 5 billion people will face severe water shortages by 2050 if **consumption** continues at current rates. Today, lack of access to clean water means that an estimated 2.1 billion people drink water that is unsafe. More than 2 million people die each year from diseases **related** to unclean water.

5. All over the world, humans are pumping water out of the ground faster than it can be replenished.<sup>4</sup> To address this issue, water conservationists, such as Rajendra Singh in India and Neil Marwood in South Africa, are searching for innovative ways to improve their local water situations.

1 A wetland is an area of wet, muddy land in which wild plants grow.  
2 The water table is the layer below the Earth's surface where water is found.  
3 A scarcity of a resource means there is not enough of it.  
4 If you replenish something, you restore it to its former level.

17A Saving Water 301

Unit 17

## Nature and Environment

# List of teaching resources

- Reading Explorer: Theme-based Anthology Teacher's Edition
- e-Textbook
- Teacher's Resource Disc (with Audio Recordings)
- Video on DVD
- Test Bank Resource Disc
- Online teaching resources
  - ✦ Additional reading comprehension worksheets
  - ✦ Additional reading practice
  - ✦ Additional vocabulary crosswords
  - ✦ Additional graphic organizers
  - ✦ Additional communicative activities
  - ✦ Additional video worksheets
  - ✦ Vocabulary lists



Promotional website

NEW

## A 4-month Gale Databases trial account for schools (that include Reading Explorer (3rd edition) in their school textbook list)

Gale offers over 8,000 resources on various disciplines, including art, science, computing, history, literature, and math. It is perfect for learning across the curriculum!

The image displays three overlapping screenshots from the Gale Ebooks platform. The top screenshot shows search results for 'Reading Explorer' with columns for Author, Title, and Year. The middle screenshot shows a citation tool interface with options for MLA, APA, Chicago, and Harvard styles, and export options like PDF, EasyBib, RefWorks, Google Drive, and OneDrive. The bottom screenshot shows a sample article page titled 'The Very, Very Best in the World' with a photo of a soccer player and text about the 2014 World Cup.



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