

Lyme Disease on the Rise

Article

page 5

Questions

page 7

Line Graph

page 10

Quiz

page 11



Includes

- A News Story
- Assignments
- A Quiz

Subscribe to receive 3 additional articles, answer keys, and more!

\$AMPLE EDITION 2024/2025: ISSUE 8



A monthly current events resource for Canadian classrooms





HAT YOU'RE MISSING



NATIONAL

MMER MCINTOSH'S SUMMER OF GOLD



Canada's swimming sensation Summer McIntosh delivered a dazzling performance recently. Her results at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore ...

Subscribe to read the full article. www.lesplan.com



A DRY SUMMER FOR THE PRAIRIES



Canada's Prairie region is known for its vast grasslands, fertile farmland, and rich energy resources. For years, 'Canada's breadbasket' has produced over ...

Subscribe to read the full article. info.lesplan.com



INTERNATIONAL

ADE DISPUTE BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS



Canada is bracing for what could be a big economic hit. The reason? U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed a stiff tax, called a tariff, on goods the U.S. imports from ...

Subscribe to read the full article. 1 (888) 240-2246

SUBSCRIBE TODAY & GET IT ALL

With a subscription, you'll receive **eight full issues**. Each issue includes four articles, a political cartoon, a news photo assignment, maps, questions, quizzes, and answer keys - everything you need to help your students understand current Canadian and international events and issues.

- "Of the reams of educational resources out there, What in the World? is easily one of my favourites."
- G. Shuley, Nanaimo, BC

"I love this publication! It is an excellent complement to my Social Studies curriculum and the activities enable me to cover many provincial outcomes."

- S. Giffin, Dartmouth, NS



WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Level 1, 2025/2026: Issue 1

PUBLISHER

Eric Wieczorek

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Janet Radschun Wieczorek

ILLUSTRATOR

Mike Deas

CONTRIBUTORS

Krista Clarke Rosa Harris Catriona Misfeldt

Erin Thomas

WHAT IN THE WORLD? © is published eight times during the school year by:

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.



#1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road Victoria BC V8Z 5A7 www.lesplan.com

PHONE: (toll free) 888 240-2212 FAX: (toll free) 888 240-2246

TWITTER: @LesPlan

SUBSCRIBE to WHAT IN THE WORLD? © at a cost of \$28.75 per month per school.

COPYRIGHT AND LICENCE

These materials are protected by copyright. Subscribers may copy each issue for use by all students and teachers within one school. Subscribers must also ensure that the materials are not made available to anyone outside their school.

COMPLIMENTARY SAMPLE

Please let us know if you or a colleague would like to receive a complimentary sample of any of our publications.

Hay'sxw'qa!

LesPlan is grateful to the Lkwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose unceded land we now live, and do our work.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.

MISSION STATEMENT

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students' engagement in, understanding of, and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality, up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources appropriate for use across the curriculum.





I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think What in the World? is, and they look forward to each month's issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

> K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher Admaston, ON



GET BREAKING NEWS STORIES FREE ONLINE

Articles and supplementary materials for breaking news stories are posted at www.lesplan.com.

Download as many as you'd like!



BEFORE READING

- 1. Ask students to think about their summer vacation this year and to identify some critters that can be annoying while participating in outdoor activities. (*E.g.*, *mosquitoes*, *hornets*, *bees*, *flies*, *deer flies*, *ticks*, *etc.*) *N.B. Ticks are not insects*, *they are arachnids*.
- 2. Ask students to share what they usually do to deal with these critters. (*E.g.*, wear bug spray, don't take food outside, eat indoors, wear long sleeves shirts and pants, burn citronella candles, clean up dead leaves, etc.)
- 3. Tell students that the article they are about to read is about ticks and lyme disease.
- 4. Have them watch this video and encourage them to jot down 1 or 2 questions that they have about the information presented: https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=np9rxmMF-w [6:08]
- 5. Invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, using one of their questions. (*My purpose for reading this article is to find out...*). Refer to the resource page **Setting A Purpose Before Reading** as needed.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TICKED OFF: LYME DISEASE ON THE RISE

- TINY CREATURES ARE MOVING TO CANADA—AND SPREADING BACTERIA



It's a great day for a walk along a woodland trail. As you stroll, tall grasses brush against your legs. You don't know it but a hitchhiker is lurking there, waiting for you to pass.

THE ICKY, TRICKY TICK

That hitchhiker crawling inside your clothing? It's a black-legged tick—a member of the **arachnid** family. These tiny creatures, about the size of a grain of sand, don't jump or fly. They crawl. And they feed on the blood of animals, including humans.

The one clinging to you is seeking a dark place on your body. There, its mouth parts can latch on for a big, long slurp. The tick's mouth is covered in hooks. These hooks let it burrow into your skin. Meanwhile, the

creature produces a numbing saliva that prevents clotting, creating an inviting pool of blood. You won't feel a thing as the tick engorges. So the animal can latch on for several days. It can swell to the size of a small grape before it falls off.

The problem? There's a chance that the tick may be infected with a **bacterium** called Borrelia burgdorferi. If it stays on your body for 36 to 48 hours, it will transmit this bacterium to you. Now, you're infected with Lyme disease—and that's serious.

A TOUGH DIAGNOSIS

If left untreated, Lyme disease can be devastating. It can cause heart issues, paralysis, mental confusion, or nervous system disorders. Even after treatment, some people suffer symptoms for months or years.

The good news? The illness responds to antibiotics. The bad news? It's hard to diagnose. The symptoms—fatigue, fever, chills, headache, and muscle pain or weakness—resemble the flu. And people's symptoms may vary. Some will have mild reactions soon after the bite. Others may experience severe symptoms, but not for several weeks.

To pin down a diagnosis, doctors look for evidence at the site of the bite—a bull's-eye-like rash, a bruise or blistered skin. But these symptoms don't always show up. So it helps to know if a person was bitten.

A lab test is a useful diagnostic tool. It can detect antibodies in

DEFINITIONS

ARACHNID: a type of small animal, similar to an insect, with eight legs and no antennae (e.g. spiders, scorpions, and ticks) **BACTERIUM**: a very tiny single-celled microorganism, with cell walls but no distinct nucleus that often causes disease (bacteria is the plural form of bacterium)

ENGORGE: to fill a body part with liquid, especially blood, so it is swollen

SALIVA: a liquid produced by glands in the mouth that helps with chewing and digesting food

a person's blood that have been fighting the disease. But the test isn't reliable in the early stages of the illness. So it can take many months and medical visits before a diagnosis is confirmed.

ON THE UPTICK

Lyme disease was once quite rare in Canada, but it's increasing rapidly. Health professionals must report cases to the **Public Health Agency of Canada** (PHAC). Authorities then watch for patterns and track outbreaks.

The data reveals an alarming trend. In 2009, when the agency first started monitoring the illness, just 144 cases were reported. So far in 2025? Over 5200. And the number is likely higher because the condition is so hard to diagnose.

TRAVELING NORTH

Ticks have infested the eastern United States for decades. Some 400,000 Americans get Lyme disease each year. Ticks can't survive harsh winters but temperatures are getting milder. As the climate warms, studies show that they are spreading north at a rate of 35 to 55 kilometres per year.

Canada is home to many species of ticks, but the "black-legged" or "deer" tick is the most common Lyme carrier. Most are found in Ontario, Québec, and New Brunswick. Nova Scotia, too, has become a hotbed. Western

black-legged ticks are even present in British Columbia. In fact, the critters can now be found in the southern parts of every province. They turn up in other places too, often carried by migrating birds.

AN ALL-OUT RESPONSE

In response, federal and provincial agencies are working together to improve early identification. Rules on reportable cases were updated in 2024. PHAC also maintains risk maps showing where ticks are becoming established. As well, it is educating Canadians that ticks can be active if temperatures are above freezing. So prevention isn't just a summertime issue.

Together, these steps help doctors recognize and report cases and make communities aware of growing Lyme risks.

Part of the response is the Pan-Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network. It was created in 2018 with \$4 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The network aims to improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Lyme disease.

"[It] will help advance the science of this disease and support the development of new tools, information, and resources to help Canadians and communities make informed decisions about their health," says Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer.

PLAYING YOUR PART

The easiest way is to prevent Lyme disease is to protect yourself. Ticks wait on tall grasses, shrubs, or fallen leaves in woodlands. So when walking, hunting, fishing, or camping, your best bet is to deter the critters. Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants tucked into your socks, and a long-sleeved shirt tucked into your pants. Use a bug spray that contains DEET.

Have someone give you a scan now and then when you're outside. That's easier if you wear light clothing. Once inside, shower off any ticks and put clothing in a dryer for 15 minutes to kill any hiding in the fabric.

If you do find a tick, it will look like a tiny red or dark bump three to five millimetres long. Remove it quickly with clean tweezers. Grasp the head as close to the skin as possible, and pull straight out. If mouth parts remain, remove them, too. Wash the area with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

If you can, photograph the tick or put it in a clean container. Record the date of the bite. The tick could confirm a Lyme diagnosis and reveal hot spots.

Ticks are a growing problem. But don't stay inside and miss all the fun. Being tick-aware is the best way to stay safe. ★

DEFINITIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA: federal agency that is responsible for public health, emergency preparedness and response, and infectious and chronic disease control and prevention

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many people in the U.S. contract Lyme disease each year?
2. How many people have been diagnosed in Canada this year?
3. How is this disease usually transmitted to humans?
4. What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?
5. How do doctors treat this disease in the early stages?
6. Describe what can happen if Lyme disease is left untreated.
7. Where are most blacklegged ticks located in Canada?
8. Explain why ticks are expanding their range.
9. List at least three ways that governments and organizations have mobilized to learn about and fight Lyme disease.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

I. The Pan-Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network was created in 2018 with the goal of improving diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the disease. As you see it, what kinds of data would be important to gather to better understand Lyme disease? Support your ideas with examples.	
2. You've been invited to a friend's cottage for the weekend. How might your packing list change with what you've learned about ticks in this article? Explain.	

QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access.

1. Find out more about the symptoms of Lyme disease and hear from a young man and his personal experience: https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/ontario-kids-lyme-disease-story-shows-importance-of-checking-for-ticks

What did you learn?

2. Listen to an infectiou	s disease expert about	how to deal with t	cicks and Lyme disease:
https://www.cbc.ca/play	<u>er/play/audio/9.685647</u>	72 [8:23] (podcast)	

What questions do you have?

3. The tick population is moving further north into southern regions of Canada. Find out where they are and why:

https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6855567 [0:00 - 4:09] https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/tick-prevention-canada-1.7596902

4. Explore how the Public Health Agency of Canada is monitoring Lyme disease across Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease.html

What information did you learn about your province or territory?

5. Check out this infographic summary of Lyme disease in Canada: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/lyme-disease-surveillance-canada-infographic-2022/lyme-disease-surveillance-canada-infographic-2022.pdf

What key points stood out for you?

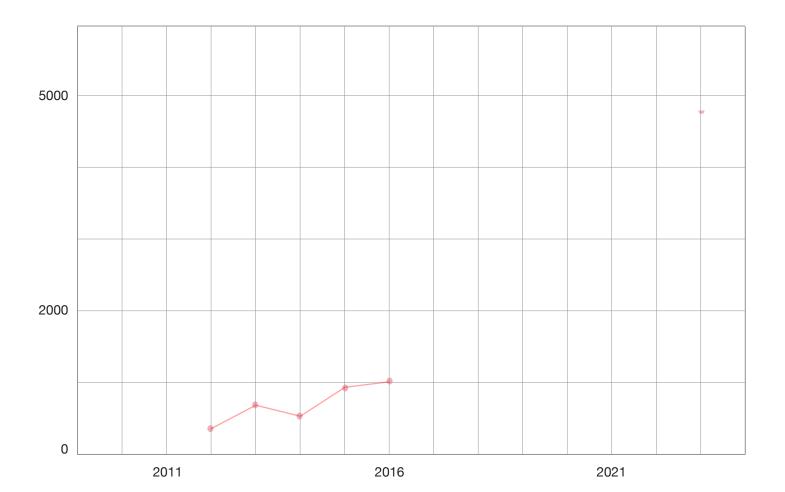
- 6. Learn more about the possibility of a human vaccine against Lyme disease: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/vaccine-lyme-disease-1.7550778 [2:37]
- 7. A number of celebrities have suffered from Lyme disease. Read more about their experience: https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6855975 [2:04]

GRAPH INSTRUCTIONS

A. Complete the table below to show Lyme disease cases in Canada since 2009. See the following link: www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/surveillance-lyme-disease.html

Canada	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lyme disease cases		143			682		917	
Canada	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (preliminary)
Lyme disease cases				1617				

- B. Plot a line graph to show to show the number of Lyme disease cases in Canada from 2009 to 2024.
- 1. Complete your graph with a proper title.
- 2. How many total Lyme disease cases have been reported from 2009 to 2024?
- 3. After completing your graph, what observations can you make and what conclusions can you draw?
- 4. What predictions can you make about the number of cases going forward?



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best ar	nswer on the line beside each question:
a) kills white blood cells c) prevents clotting	hat: b) creates a rash d) causes nerve damage
2. What do doctors use to treat Lyme distance a) antibiotics c) CAT scan	Č
a) over 700 c) over 250,000	•
B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a support it on the line below. If a statement is False. 4. True or False? Lyme disease is easily defined below.	e, write the words that make it true on the line below.
5. True or False? It is safest to wear dark of	clothing when walking in areas where ticks are located
6. True or False? Black-legged ticks are st	teadily expanding their range.
C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.	
7. PHAC = Public Aş	gency of Canada.
8. A tick's mouth is covered in	·
9. If you find a tick feeding, its best to remove it w	ith clean
D. Respond to the following question in paragray	ph form. (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)
10. <i>People should remain indoors during the sum</i> with this statement? Give reasons to support your	<i>mer months to avoid ticks.</i> Do you agree or disagree response.

RESOURCE PAGE FOR STUDENTS SETTING A PURPOSE BEFORE READING

There are a number of reasons we read, and setting a purpose for reading – knowing WHY we are reading – helps us to focus on important information and to better understand and remember what we read. It also helps us decide HOW we will read the text.

We don't read all texts for the same purposes or in the same way. For example, we read an instruction manual for a new Blu-ray player for a different reason than we read a book or a website. How we will read it – the strategies we use – will also differ. We are more likely to skim to find the information we need in a manual. Once we find what we need, we might read the instructions carefully to figure out what to do. Then, we stop reading, put the manual down, and carry out the steps. We may have to reread if we get confused or forget what to do.

This is a very different approach than the one we would use to read a book. When we read a book, we usually read cover-to-cover. We read carefully so we don't miss any details because we want to understand the whole story. Sometimes we make connections or create images in our minds as we read to help us better understand what we are reading. Depending on its length, we may put the book down before we finish reading it but we will start reading where we left off.

Good readers are flexible and responsive. This means that they match their reading strategies to their purpose for reading. What types of text do you read? Why do you read them? What strategies do you use to read each of these texts? The chart below is a summary of the main purposes for reading and what each entails.

Purpose for reading	What it looks like		
For enjoyment	Usually student-selected.		
	Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms.		
	Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.		
To experience something new	Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.		
To learn more about themselves and others	Students reflect on what they've read and express opinions and perspectives.		
	Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.		
To gain information	Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they've learned.		
To understand issues	Students develop a sense of perspective.		
	Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.		
To appreciate writing	Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they've learned in new contexts.		
To appreciate use of media to communicate	Students respond to a variety of media formats (e.g., infographics, political cartoons, videos, etc.) and react to how the format supports the meaning of the message.		

^{*} Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.



Current Events, Clearly Explained



Students want to know what's happening in their world but the news can be difficult and time-consuming to teach.

WE HAVE THE SOLUTION. (Four, actually.)

The Canadian Reader

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ Clearly written, leveled Canadian current events articles
- ✓ Literacy-based lesson plans
- ✓ Engaging, original illustrations
- ✓ Comics
- ✓ Map assignments

Product details: 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up (1 reading level).



What in the World?

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ Four national and international news stories
- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations

Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

Currents4Kids.com

- ✓ Online and interactive
- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Reader responses
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities

Product details: 40 issues.

One subscription allows all teachers and students access from any device. Available in English and in French. Grades 3 and up (1 reading level).

Focus on high-interest stories suitable for younger students.





- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Reader responses
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities

Product details: 40 issues.

One subscription allows all teachers and students access from any device. Available in English and in French. Grades 5 and up (3 reading levels).

call toll free: 888 240-2212

Focus on national, international, Indigenous, and sci/tech stories.

1-888-240-2212 www.lesplan.com

Contact us for a sample copy or free demo.



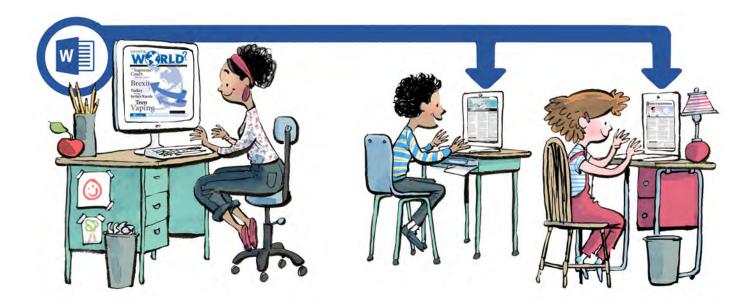
grade 3 & up



Egg Prices

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.

Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



Did you know...

... that each issue of *What In The World?* includes a PDF file (complete document) and a Word file (articles and questions only).

Students can complete assignments directly in the **Word** file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The **Word** file also allows teachers to:

- easily modify and format content including changing ${f fonts}$ and ${f text}$ sizes
- create a PDF document and use Adobe Reader's 'Read Out Loud Mode'
- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- · promote and encourage students' computer skills

Data in the Word file

There are **three** ways to access data from a **Word** file:

- Select the data you wish to Copy and then Paste it into any word processing program. Use Select All to copy the entire document.
- Import the entire Word file into LibreOffice (or another similar program) and then save as a new file.
- 3) Create a new file in a different format. Use the **Word Save As** command to choose: 1) plain text, 2) rich text format (RTF), 3) Web page (.htm), 4) PDF, etc.

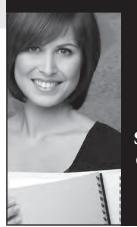
Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the **Word** file to **Google Docs** and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate a **Google Docs** file into another language (*see Tools>Translate document*) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. **Google Docs** can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.
- LibreOffice is a free alternate to Microsoft Office and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org

Visit: www.lesplan.com email: info@lesplan.com call toll free: 888 240-2212

Help your students understand today's top stories with **WHAT IN THE WORLD?** – LesPlan's highly-acclaimed monthly current events resource.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscribe now for the 2025 - 2026 school year, and get the September and October issues FREE! (a \$57.50 value)

When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that's when I know I have an excellent resource.

A. Eisler, Burnaby, BC

It is a relief to have a resource that fits with the curriculum and is teacher-friendly (ready to hand out). The added bonus of having the answers to the questions and discussion notes makes my life just a little bit easier.

B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine. Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!

D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON

Engaging, levelled articles, background information and original illustrations make the news interesting and easy to grasp. Accompanying questions and assignments provide multiple ways to examine the topics and enhance literacy and critical thinking.



SEE NEXT FOR PAGE SAMPLES AND ORDERING DETAILS!

 \blacksquare YES, sign me up for the 2025 – 2026 school year and send me the

September and October issues FREE*

Promo code: 2Free

* Offer only applies to $\underline{\mathsf{new}}$ subscriptions.

Publication	English	French	Grade Level	Price	Amount
4			8 issues (Sept. – May)		
The Canadian Reader*			Grades 3 and up	\$172.50	
What in the World? Level 1*			Grades 5 and up	\$172.50	
What in the World? Level 2*			Grades 8 and up	\$172.50	
			Online Weekly (Sept June 40 issues)		
Currents4Kids*			Grades 3 and up	\$172.50	
News4Youth Level 1, 2 and 3**			Grades 7 and up	\$330	
Subtotal					
ON add 13% HST NS add 14% HST NB, NL, & PEI add 15% HST					
All others add 5% GST			GST		
Contenucate				Total	

- * Receive 8 issues for the price of 6. Save \$57.50 off the regular price of \$230.
- ** Receive 10 months for the price of 8. Save \$110 off the regular price of \$440.

Deliver to (please print clearly)

Name		
School		
Address		
City	Province/Territory	Postal Code
Email [*]	, (
* Email required for password notificat	ion	
Billing Options		
☐ Bill school ☐ Purchase Order ☐ Please charge to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ \	/ISA	P.O. #
Card Number		Expiry Date (MM/YY)
Cardholder Name		CVV Code



HOW TO ORDER

Online: www.lesplan.com Fax (toll-free): 1 888 240-2246 Phone (toll-free): 1 888 240-2212

Mail

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. #1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road Victoria BC V8Z 5A7

 $\label{eq:visit_www_lesplan} Visit\ www.lesplan.com\ \ {\rm to\ download} \\ FREE\ SAMPLES\ \ {\rm of\ all\ our\ publications!}$