

# WHAT IN THE WORLD?



LEVEL 1 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

## Space Tourism

Free  
Sample

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**SAMPLE EDITION**  
2021/2022: ISSUE 3



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NATIONAL

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**WHAT IN THE WORLD?**

Level 1, 2021/2022: Issue 3

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**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.*

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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

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INTERNATIONAL  
**SPACE TOURISM**  
– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

**BEFORE READING**

1. Write the main title of the article on the board: "Space Tourism". Divide the class into two groups. Assign "For" to one group and "Against" to the other.
2. Allow three minutes for students to brainstorm a list of points for or against space travel.
3. After the three minutes, have groups switch lists to review the points raised by the other group. Invite students to add points to that list.
4. Show the news report at the link below. As they watch, encourage students to highlight points from their list that are raised in the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaF4iZnJ2Rs> [2:01]

You may wish to provide students with a short background on William Shatner, and his television role as Captain Kirk on the science fiction show "Star Trek". The opening text of that show included the expression "To boldly go where no man has gone before", which will give them some context for the subtitle of the article and the significance of Shatner's space tour.

5. Finally, invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page **Setting A Purpose Before Reading** as needed.

# INTERNATIONAL SPACE TOURISM

– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE



It was an out-of-this-world adventure that lasted just 10 minutes and 17 seconds. Still, it was enough to move TV **icon** William Shatner to genuine tears.

Mr. Shatner is best known for his role as Captain James T. Kirk on the original Star Trek series. He was reacting to his real-life jaunt into space. The 90-year-old actor is the oldest person ever to reach the edge of Earth. He flew aboard the Blue Origin, a private spaceship owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

The rocket carrying Mr. Shatner and three others left Texas mid-morning on October 13. It shot through the sky traveling at nearly 2600 kilometres per hour. That's about the **velocity** of a speeding bullet. It reached a height of approximately 106 kilometres above the Earth. For

four minutes, the passengers floated weightlessly. They peered down at the shiny blue marble that is home to us all.

Mr. Shatner said he felt the Overview Effect. That is something astronauts have noted after seeing the Earth from a new perspective. It gave him a fresh sense of the need to tackle climate change.

“This air which is keeping us alive is thinner than your skin,” he marvelled, describing what he’d witnessed. “We need seven billion people to be angry. We need to get in motion,” he later added. “This is a struggle against the dark forces of pollution.”

## SPACE TOURISM SOARS

Mr. Shatner’s voyage into space was the latest in a series of trips by private citizens to the borders of our planet. In fact, it was

the sixth rocket to transport amateur astronauts into the Great Beyond this year.

The TV captain was in select company. Only about 600 people have traveled to space since 1961. That was when Russian **cosmonaut** Yuri Gagarin took a one-orbit spin around the world. It was the first-ever trip outside the atmosphere.

Only about one dozen people since then have been space tourists like Mr. Shatner. But that is about to change. Mr. Bezos and other billionaires who build rocketships want to send ordinary people to new heights. Some estimates say the space tourism industry could be worth more than \$2.5 billion by 2031.

## DEFINITIONS

**COSMONAUT:** an astronaut in the space program of Russia or the former Soviet Union

**ICON:** someone who is very famous and whom people think represents a particular idea

**VELOCITY:** quickness of motion



# INTERNATIONAL SPACE TOURISM

– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

## COMPETITION HEATS UP

At present, two others are competing with Mr. Bezos for a piece of this pie in the sky. They are British businessman Richard Branson, who founded the Virgin group of companies, and American Elon Musk, inventor and founder of SpaceX, a space transport enterprise.

Mr. Branson and Mr. Bezos have both traveled on their rocketships to the perimeter of the sky. Mr. Musk, however, still hasn't experienced space travel. Yet many observers say his company could well be the frontrunner for space tourism.

The reason? The Blue Origin and Mr. Branson's Virgin Galactic spacecraft have only made **suborbital** flights. They barely ascended 100 kilometres before quickly returning to Earth.

By contrast, Mr. Musk's Falcon 9 rockets are fully orbital. They have even carried astronauts 408 kilometres to the International Space Station (ISS).

## A COSTLY VACATION...

In any event, only the very rich can afford space tourism today.

Booking a flight on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, for example, will cost over half a

## THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE

Prince William, the heir to the British throne, is a critic of space tourism. "We need some of the world's greatest brains... fixed on trying to repair this planet, not trying to find the next place to live," he said.

To that end, he has founded the Earthshot Prize. It was inspired by former U.S. President John F. Kennedy's 1960s Moonshot program. That resulted in humans landing on the moon in 1969.

Winners and nominees get funding to work on solutions to problems in five areas: nature conservation, waste management, ocean revival, air quality, and climate change. On October 17, the first annual Earthshots were awarded. The winners included the makers of a green hydrogen alternative to fossil fuels, a company in India that inexpensively converts agricultural waste into fuel and fertilizer, and farms in the Bahamas that are growing coral to be replanted in the ocean.

million Canadian dollars. And you'd better really save your money if you're interested in a SpaceX mission. Mr. Musk plans to charge four passengers \$55 million each for a 2022 trek to the ISS. (For that money, he'll throw in sleeping bags and toiletries.) They will spend eight days aboard the station. As for Mr. Bezos, he won't say what customers will pay for a sprint into the black. But he has already reportedly sold \$100 million in tickets.

## ...IN SEVERAL WAYS

Many critics are more concerned about another cost – the cost to the environment. Rocketship fuel is what's worrying them. Mr. Musk's SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, for example, is powered

in part by kerosene. As kerosene burns, it discharges carbon dioxide, chlorine, soot, and other dangerous substances into the upper atmosphere. Fuel emissions also add ozone to the **troposphere** where it acts like a greenhouse gas.

"We have no regulations around rocket emissions. The time to act is now – while the billionaires are still buying their tickets," said one professor.

Still, Mr. Shatner says that if everyone could see what he saw, people might resolve to be better stewards of the Earth.

"We need to take care of the planet. It's so fragile," he said. ★

## DEFINITIONS

**SUBORBITAL:** not in orbit; not achieving an altitude and velocity needed to circle the earth at least once

**TROPOSPHERE:** the lowest layer of the Earth's atmosphere, between the planet's surface and about six to 19 kilometres above the surface



INTERNATIONAL  
**SPACE TOURISM**  
– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. Who was the first person to travel to space?

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2. How many people have traveled to space since 1961? How many have been space tourists?

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3. List the three main competitors in the developing space travel industry.

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4. What is the key difference between the travel capabilities of these three spacecraft?

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5. What is the cost for a trip on one of these spacecraft?

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6. Describe the trip that Blue Origin took on October 13.

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7. Which well-known passenger was on this trip? What is he famous for?

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8. After his trip, Mr. Shatner said he experienced the Overview Effect. What is the Overview Effect?

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9. Why are some people concerned about the environmental impact of space flight? Explain.

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INTERNATIONAL  
**SPACE TOURISM**  
– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

**QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

1. If money were no object, which of the three space tourism options, if any, would you be most interested in experiencing? Explain.

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2. Following his space flight aboard the Blue Origin, William Shatner described his thoughts: "We need seven billion people to be angry. We need to get in motion... This is a struggle against the dark forces of pollution." Do you agree or disagree with his perspective? Give reasons for your response.

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3. During a post-space flight interview, Jeff Bezos, owner of Amazon and Blue Origin, casually stated, "I want to thank every Amazon employee, and every Amazon customer because you guys paid for all this." Respond to this statement. What thoughts does it provoke, and what emotions does it evoke? Explain.

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INTERNATIONAL  
**SPACE TOURISM**  
 – 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

**QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION**

*Note:* The links below are listed at [www.lesplan.com/en/links](http://www.lesplan.com/en/links) for easy access.

1. Three major companies have emerged as the big names in space tourism: Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin; Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic; and Elon Musk's SpaceX. Visit these links to learn about the similarities and differences between these companies, their owners, their spacecraft, and the tourism experience they offer:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/26/space-tourism-how-spacex-virgin-galactic-blue-origin-axiom-compete.html>

<https://news.sky.com/story/bezos-branson-musk-the-new-space-race-explained-as-virgin-galactic-prepares-to-launch-12347249>

[https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=R\\_LqgcndmAo](https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=R_LqgcndmAo) [20:21]

Working with a partner, use a triple Venn diagram to organize the information you gather about each company. Share your findings with another pair.

2. Visit these links to get a glimpse into what it would look and feel like from the inside of these three spacecraft:

Blue Origin: <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=AT2KWso-OGs> [1:42]

Virgin Galactic: <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=-UIuXR-RvdM> [4:05]

SpaceX: <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=aetFZEwh73o> [5:04]

Which features caught your attention? Why?

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3. Find out more about the Earthshot Prize and the finalists for 2021:

<https://earthshotprize.org/>

[https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=8od6\\_5LIhyY](https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=8od6_5LIhyY) [13:54]

What three interesting or important facts did you learn?

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4. Why does space tourism matter anyway? Find out at this link, then summarize what you learned:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20140408-six-reasons-space-tourism-matters>

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# INTERNATIONAL SPACE TOURISM

– 'CAPTAIN KIRK' GOES BOLDLY INTO SPACE

Imagine that you are an investigative reporter interviewing one person in this scene. Generate two powerful questions to ask in your interview. (*A powerful question is not easy to answer, is specific to the situation, is open-ended and requires further research.*) Then, record plausible answers – those that are most likely to be given, believable, and supported by evidence in the image.



Blue Origin vice president of mission and flight operations Audrey Powers, Star Trek actor William Shatner, Planet Labs co-founder Chris Boshuizen, and Medidata Solutions co-founder Glen de Vries wave on the landing pad of Blue Origin's New Shepard after they flew into space on October 13, 2021 near Van Horn, Texas. (Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images)

## Captain Kirk flies into space

William Shatner – Captain Kirk in cult classic *Star Trek* – has boldly gone where no 90-year-old sci-fi actor has gone before, aboard Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket. He is the oldest person ever to travel into space

### NEW SHEPARD



Height: 18 metres

**BE-3 engine:**  
 Fuelled by liquid oxygen and hydrogen

**Diameter:**  
 3-3.5 metres

### CAPSULE

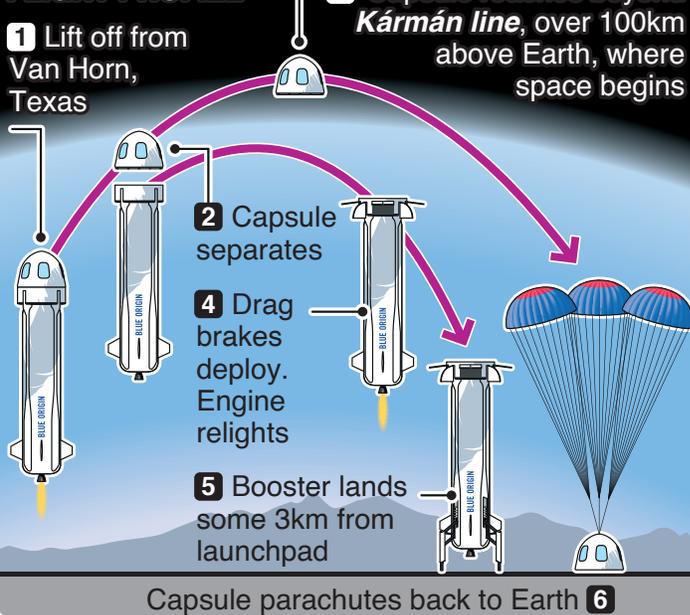
Pressurized capsule, featuring largest windows ever used in space, allows up to six people to experience few minutes of weightlessness



### PASSENGERS

*William Shatner* (left), film and TV actor best known as *Captain James T. Kirk* in *Star Trek* (inset); *Audrey Powers* (right), Blue Origin's vice president of missions and flight operations; two paying passengers, *Chris Boshuizen* and *Glen de Vries*

### FLIGHT PROFILE

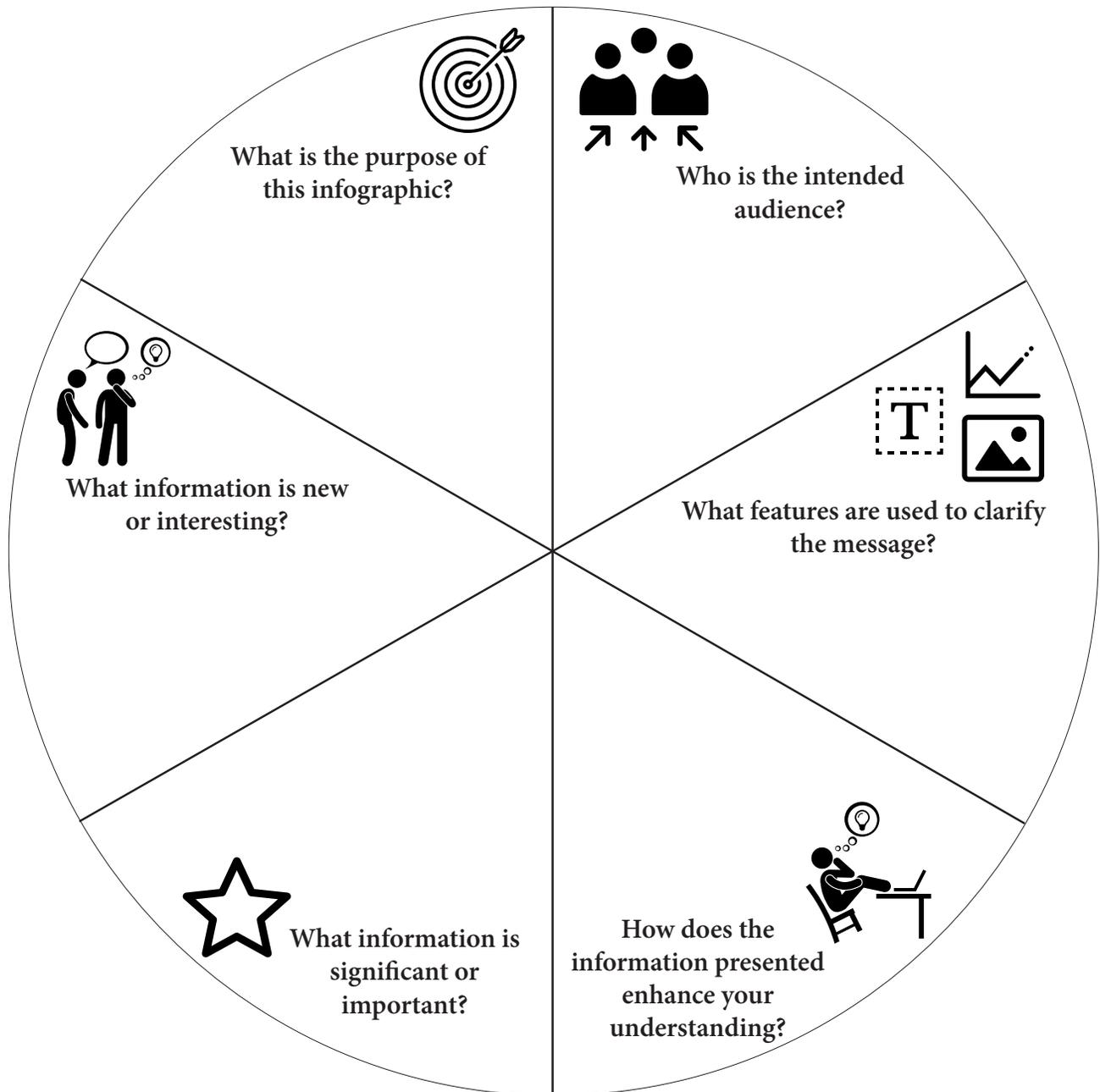


Sources: Blue Origin, BBC, Sky News

Pictures: Blue Origin, CBS

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**ANALYZING AN INFOGRAPHIC**



What questions do you still have about the topic presented?

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Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *Space Tourism*.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

**Resources Required:** pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

**Part A** Locate and label the following U.S. states in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Texas (orange)	New Mexico (yellow)
Oklahoma (pink)	Arkansas (red)
Louisiana (purple)	

**Part B** Locate and label the capital of each state and underline each city name.

**Part C** Locate and label the following U.S. states in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Colorado (red)	Kansas (purple)
Nebraska (yellow)	Missouri (brown)
Illinois (pink)	Kentucky (yellow)
Tennessee (orange)	Mississippi (green)

**Part D** Locate and label Mexico in CAPITAL letters and shade it green.

**Part E** Locate and label the following cities:

Houston	San Antonio
Dallas	Fort Worth

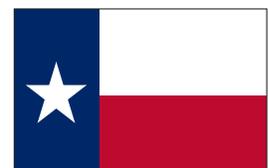
**Part F** Locate and label the town of Van Horn (Blue Origin's launch site in West Texas).

**Part G** Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

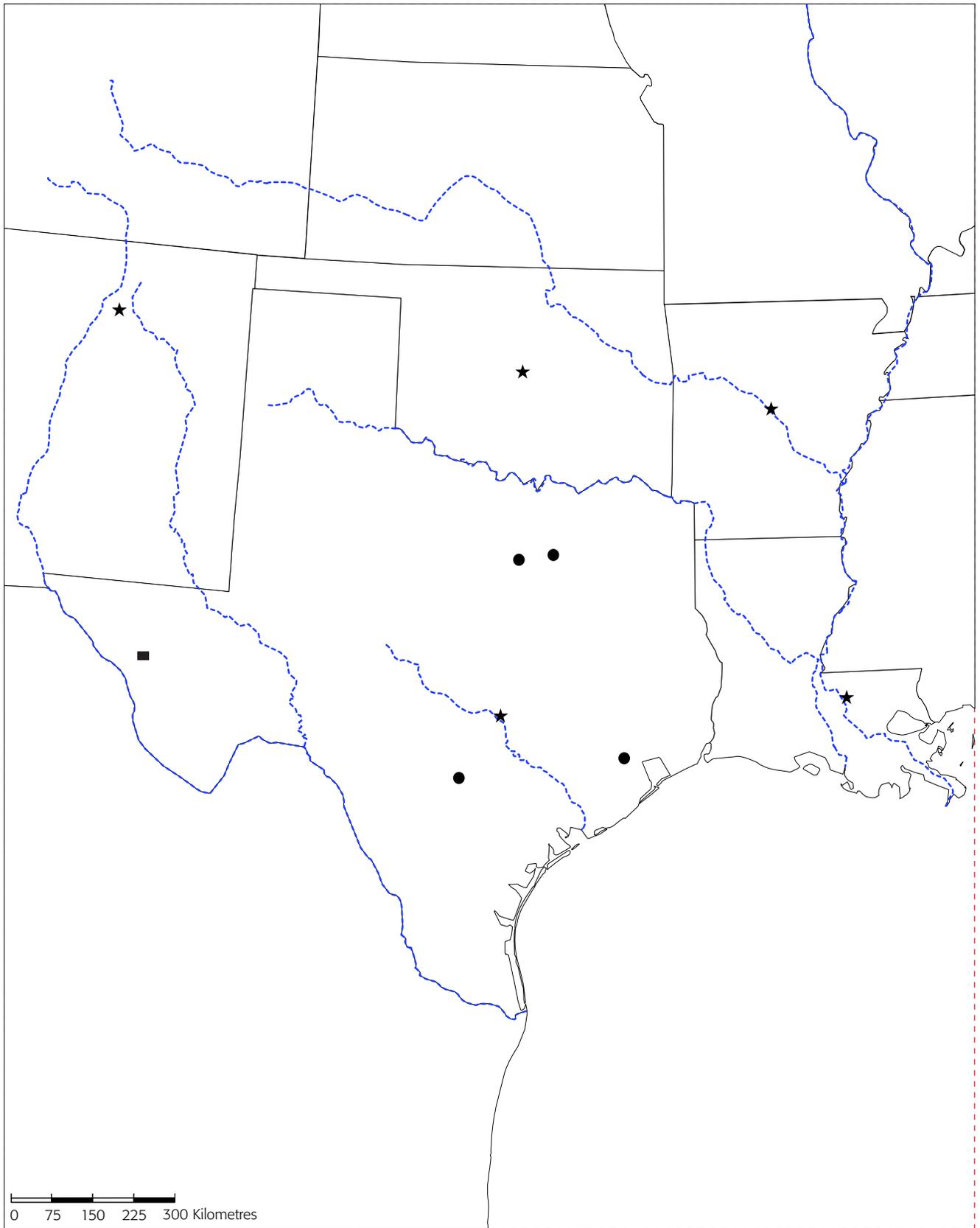
Rio Grande (Rio Bravo)	Pecos River
Colorado River	Red River
Mississippi River	Arkansas River

**Part H** Locate and label the Gulf of Mexico and shade all ocean water dark blue.

**Part I** Complete your map with a frame, title and compass. ★



Texas





**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.

<b>Purpose for reading</b>	<b>What it looks like</b>
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



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PDF/Word resource

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- ✓ Engaging, original illustrations
- ✓ Comics
- ✓ Map assignments

**Product details:** 8 issues. 36 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up.



### *What in the World?*

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

**Product details:** 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.



### *Currents4Kids.com News4Youth.com*

- ✓ **Online** interactive resource
- ✓ Weekly news stories
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Comment page for students to respond to the stories
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities

**Product details:** 38 issues. **One subscription** allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French.

*Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes:* Grades 3 and up.

*News4Youth/Infos-Ados:* Grades 7 and up.



### *Building Bridges*

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ Builds understanding of current events that impact Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians
- ✓ Two theme-based articles and lesson plans
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Consistent with First Peoples Principles of Learning
- ✓ Encourages a respectful, reflective, empathetic, and inquiring frame of mind

**Product details:** 5 issues. Variable page length. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.



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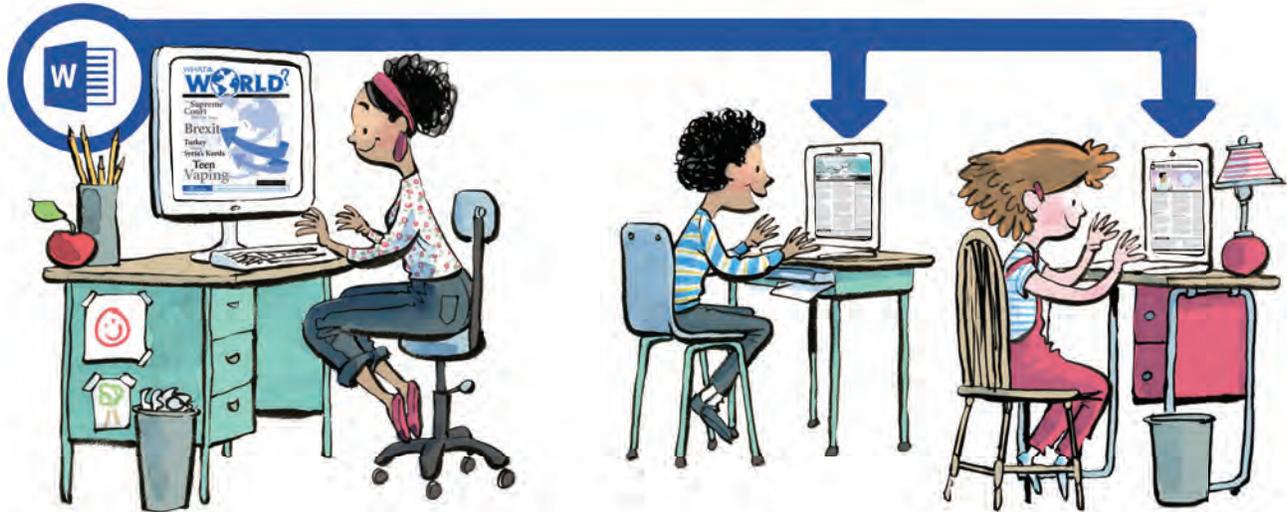
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# Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



## 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 **fonts** and **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

## Password Security

There are **three** ways to access data from a Word file that is password protected:

- 1) Select the data you wish to **Copy** and then **Paste** it into any word processing program. Use **Select All** to copy the entire document.
- 2) Import the entire **Word** file into **LibreOffice** (or another similar program) and then save as a new file
- 3) To remove the password from a protected **Word** file, use **Save As** to make a new copy of the file. You can then change the **Security** settings and remove the password.

## Google Docs and LibreOffice

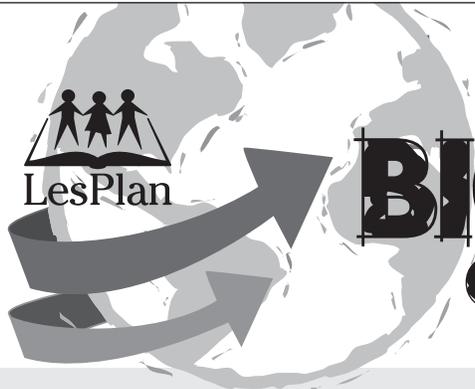
- You can easily upload the **Word** file to **Google Docs** and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate **Google Docs** into another language (*see Tools > Translate document*) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. **Google Docs** can translate into 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](http://www.libreoffice.org)

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**D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON**

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**WHAT IN THE WORLD?**  
LEVEL 1 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

A Liberal  
Minority  
Government

The  
**Michaels**  
Return Home

World Expo  
in Dubai

Vaccines and  
Protests

2021/2022: ISSUE 2

LesPlan A monthly current events resource for Canadian classrooms

Routing Slip: (please circulate)

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Publication	English	French	Grade Level	Price	Amount
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<i>What in the World?</i> Level 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 5 and up	\$105	
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			<b>Online Weekly</b> (Nov. – June 30 issues)		
<i>Currents4Kids</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$105	
<i>News4Youth</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 7 and up	\$105	
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All others add 5% GST				GST	
<b>Total</b>					



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School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email required for password notification

**Billing Options**

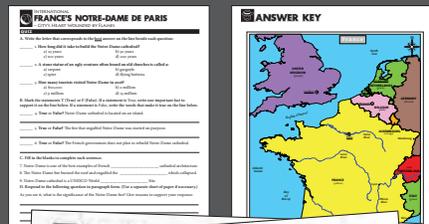
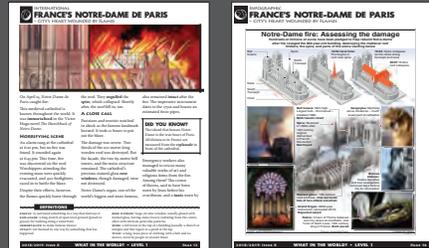
Bill school     Purchase Order    P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_

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