



EXPLORE OUR WORLD

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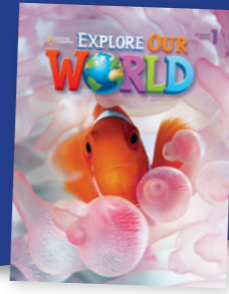
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Introduction

Explore Our World, a six-level primary series from National Geographic Learning, uses real-world content, stunning photographs and video from National Geographic, and a variety of interactive digital resources to fully engage and motivate students as they learn about the world in English. Young learners will be captivated by the beautiful photography and high-interest content relevant to their world as they learn about people and places from across the globe. *Explore Our World* is unique in the way that it brings the real world, with all its beauty and diversity, into the English language classroom.



STUDENT BOOK Walk-through



UNIT OPENER

The Unit Opener uses high-interest photographs to engage students, present the unit theme, and provide opportunities for speaking and listening.

A goal-setting activity focuses student attention.

A teacher-led warm-up activity provides suggestions for pre-teaching of unit themes and target structures.



Image captions provide useful cultural and geographic information for instructors to discuss with learners.

RESOURCES

Lesson Planner with Audio CD and Teacher's Resource CD-ROM

The **Explore Our World Lesson Planner**, with Audio CD and Teacher's Resource CD-ROM, provides everything needed to successfully plan, teach, and supplement lessons:

- a detailed scope and sequence
- explicit instructions for teaching vocabulary, grammar, and songs
- answer keys and audio scripts for all activities in the Student Book and Workbook
- support for teaching English in English
- teaching tips for using the *Explore Our World* Video and the Classroom Presentation Tool
- an Audio CD containing recordings of all exercises, activities, and readings in the Student Book

The **Teacher's Resource CD-ROM**, provided with the *Explore Our World* Lesson Planner, supplies additional teaching resources including:

- pacing guides for easy lesson planning
- printable worksheets and templates for in-class games and activities
- Writing worksheets for additional Writing practice
- Project worksheets for optional theme-related closing activities
- customizable Home-School Connection Letters

VOCABULARY 1

Target vocabulary is presented visually, using photographs and photo-realistic art, to create interest and enhance retention.



All target language is recorded on audio CDs to help students with pronunciation and practice.

Mascots model dialogues that help students use target language to communicate.

Audio CD

The **Explore Our World Audio CD** provides audio content that aligns with all Student Book content:

- language presentation and review
- contextualized vocabulary
- original songs
- readings
- games and activities



GRAMMAR 1/VOCABULARY 2

Grammar lessons include natural examples of real-world language.

Sticker activities in each unit provide reward, motivation, and interactive practice.

GRAMMAR 2/SONG/THE SOUNDS OF ENGLISH

Additional grammar is presented through photographs, illustrations, and activities. Group and pair work gives learners the chance to use structures in conversation as they collaborate with classmates.

The Sounds of English activities found in every unit provide opportunities for students to listen to and practice English pronunciation.

A unit song supports the unit theme. Lyrics incorporate unit target vocabulary and grammar. Each song is easy to learn and remember, and models natural rhythm and intonation.

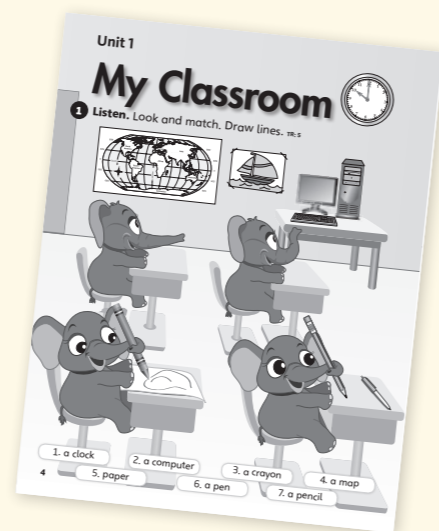
RESOURCES

Workbook

The **Explore Our World Workbook** contains exercises that reinforce and consolidate Student Book instruction, including listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary activities.

The Workbook includes the following:

- 8 pages of skills practice and activities, as well as additional readings, for each unit
- unit review sections
- practice with English pronunciation and sound-spelling relationships
- audio for all listening comprehension and review sections, provided on an Audio CD bound in with the Workbook, or accessed online through myNGconnect



Explore Our World Picture Cards including The Sounds of English

The **Explore Our World Picture Cards including The Sounds of English** provide additional support for vocabulary and English pronunciation and phonics.

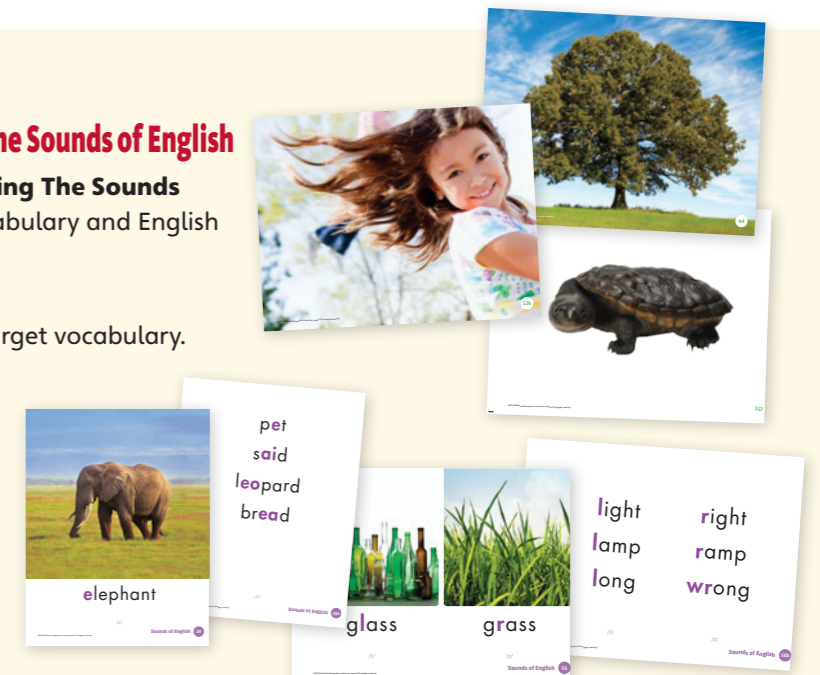
Picture Cards include

- full-color, double-sided picture cards for target vocabulary.

The Sounds of English Cards include

- individual and contrasted English sounds with related images and spellings.

All **Explore Our World Picture Cards including The Sounds of English** are available on the Teacher's Resource CD-ROM and online through myNGconnect.

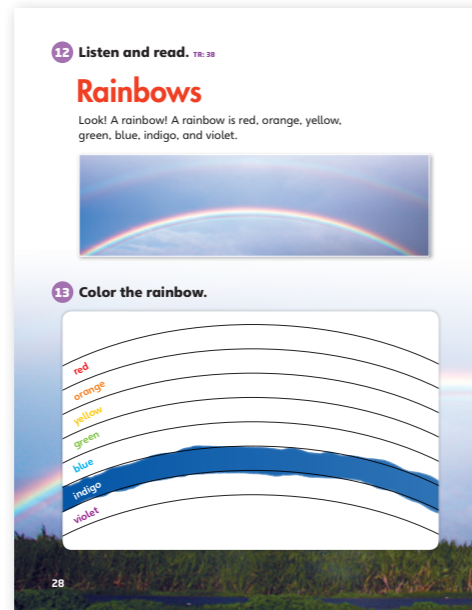


CONTENT READING/VALUE

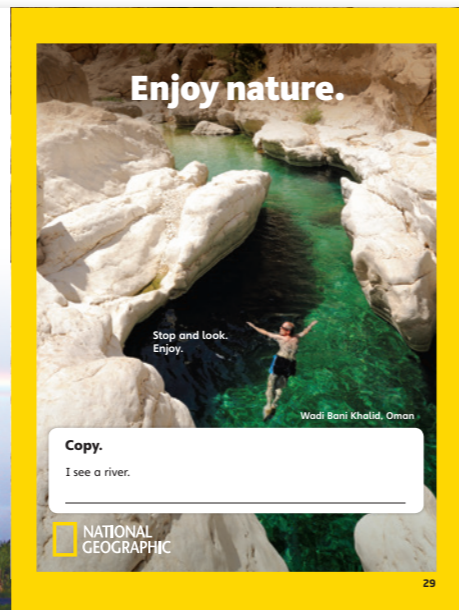
Infographics show factual information in fun and sometimes surprising ways.

Graphic organizers help students collect, organize, and visualize information.

Real-world content readings develop language through topics such as science, nature, history, art, culture, music, and sports.



National Geographic Value and Mission pages explore and explain common values such as practicing sportsmanship, showing respect for others, caring for our planet, looking after animals, and staying healthy.



CLASSROOM PRESENTATION TOOL

A **Classroom Presentation Tool**, provided on DVD or online through myNGconnect, is available for each level of *Explore Our World*. The Classroom Presentation Tool integrates a variety of teaching resources including video, songs, games, language presentations, and student activities, which can easily be used with a computer or Interactive Whiteboard (IWB). For each unit, the DVD includes the following:

- interactive unit-opening activities that provide the setting for each unit's theme
- presentation of target vocabulary and grammar through video and animation
- fun classroom activities that practice what has just been presented
- songs presented in two ways: as a video with a singing host and as a karaoke-style sing-along
- reading activities that support reading selections
- editing activities that support writing instruction

EXPLORE OUR WORLD STUDENT ACTIVITIES CD-ROM

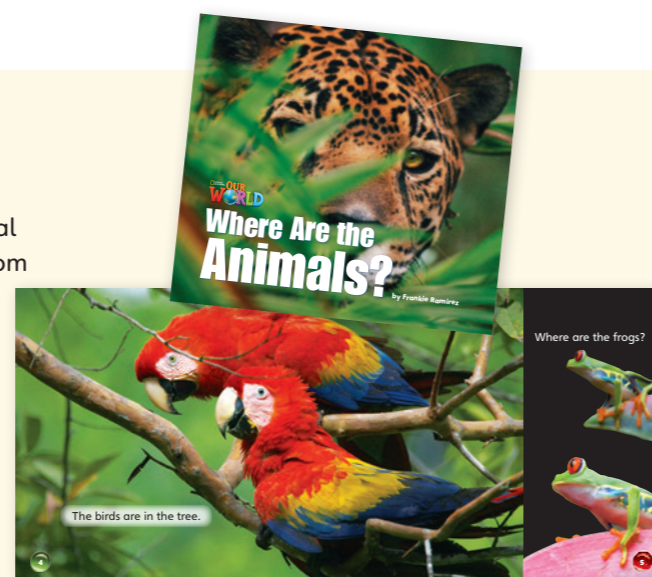
Explore Our World student activities, provided on a **Student Activities CD-ROM** bound with the Student Book or accessed online through myNGconnect, are fun, engaging, game-like activities that reinforce and expand on Student Book content. Each unit has two Vocabulary and Grammar activities, as well as a Reading activity.



RESOURCES

Our World Readers

The **Our World** series **Readers** consist of six levels of original stories, classic folktales, myths, and nonfiction selections from around the globe. A graded Reader is available to support the theme and language of each unit in the Student Book. Each Reader includes additional fun facts and activities related to the story and unit theme. All Readers are available as "Story Time" in the *Our World* series Video or on the **Story Time DVDs**.



Poster Sets

Eight full-color poster sets bring beautiful photography into the classroom, reinforce the unit theme, and feature National Geographic *Explore Our World* values.



EXPLORE OUR WORLD WEBSITES

Teachers and students can find student activities, Student Book and Workbook audio tracks, and other resources online at **myNGconnect**.

EXPLORE OUR WORLD VIDEO

Each *Explore Our World Video* is 30 minutes of fun-filled, fully integrated content:

- vocabulary and language presentation and review
- original songs
- games
- inspiring, real-world video
- *Our World* series Readers Story Time

Presented in highly manageable 3- to 5-minute clips, *Explore Our World Video* can be used before, during, or after instruction to preview, support, and review content. *Explore Our World Videos* are available on a Video DVD and in the Classroom Presentation Tool DVD.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To ensure that instructors are able to improve their classroom practice and get the most out of the *Our World* series teaching resources, Dr. Joan Kang Shin, a respected trainer of young-learner teachers in over 100 countries and series editor for *Our World* series and *Explore Our World*, has developed the *Our World* series **Professional Development Program**.

Professional Development Video

Using short videos of real classrooms and interviews with teachers from around the world, the **Professional Development Video** program, available on DVD, provides useful insights and practical advice on the following topics:

- developmentally appropriate activities
- managing classrooms for effective learning
- planning successful lessons
- 21st Century skills



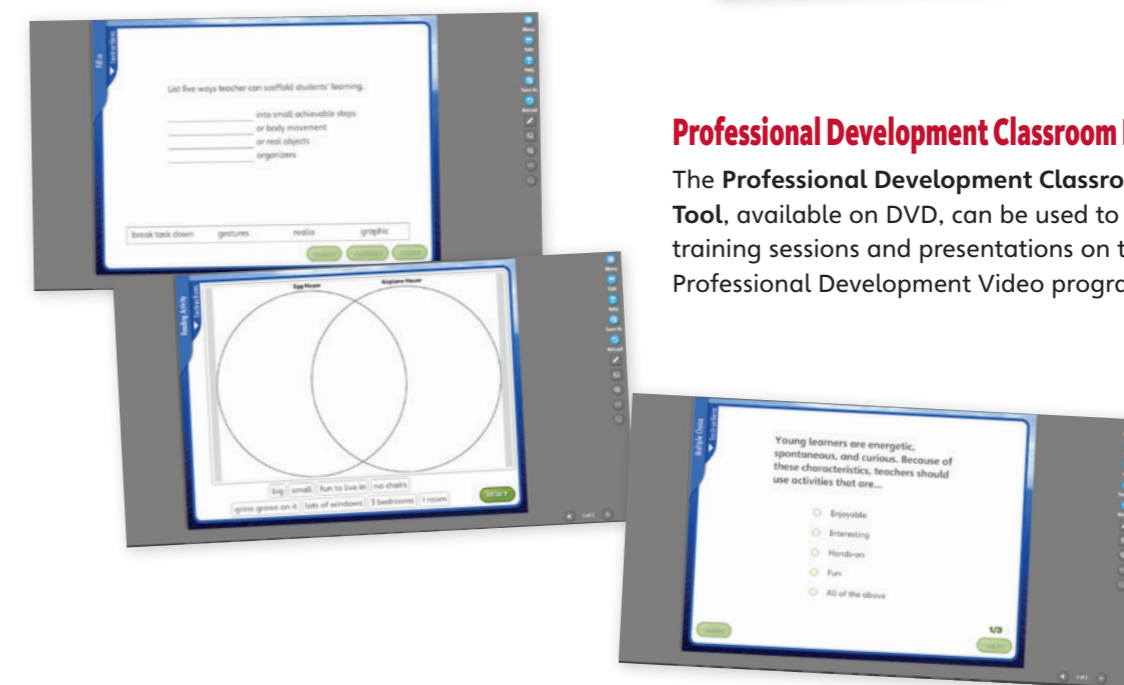
RESOURCES

Assessment Book with Audio CD

The *Explore Our World Assessment Book* provides teachers with the tools they need to place their learners within the correct level of *Explore Our World*, plan their lessons based on what students already know, and assess students' comprehension of and progress through the content of the Student Book.

Each Assessment Book includes photocopiable Quizzes, Mastery and Final Tests, as well as additional resources, including the following:

- an *Explore Our World* Placement Test and level Pre-Tests (Diagnostic Tests which help determine students' language ability)
- Listening and Speaking scripts which provide guidance for the listening and speaking portions of the quizzes and tests
- Answer Keys
- an Audio CD, with recorded scripts for all of the quizzes and tests



Professional Development Classroom Presentation Tool

The **Professional Development Classroom Presentation Tool**, available on DVD, can be used to support formal training sessions and presentations on the topics in the Professional Development Video program.

TEACHING WITH EXPLORE OUR WORLD

Our World Philosophy

The *Our World* series reflects key concepts and principles of English language teaching and learning.

- Students learn through a process of constructing meaning. They are active learners who try to make sense of their world through interaction in personal, social, and academic contexts. As they do, they gradually modify their understanding of how both the world and language work.

- Activities designed for young learners must provide multiple opportunities for understanding and construction of meaning at a level appropriate to the emotional and intellectual stages of the students' development.

- Students learn effectively when they are challenged just one step beyond their current stages of cognitive and language development. They most often need support from a knowledgeable person at this time to successfully understand and incorporate new information.

- Goal-oriented learning contributes to young learners' success. In addition to the larger goals of educating children to be responsible global citizens in the 21st century and to be knowledgeable and caring stewards of our planet, providing explicit language-learning goals helps learners understand the purpose of the activities they carry out. Young learners then have the opportunity to compare their outcomes to the original goals, important in judging their own progress.

- Learning about the world through theme-based teaching benefits young learners. Different topics provide informational structure and a meaningful basis for exploration through a variety of language learning tasks.

- Addressing the needs of the whole child in the language class includes attention to learning styles, learning strategies, critical thinking skills, 21st Century skills, and universal cultural values.

- In order to accurately evaluate progress, assessment of young learners must go beyond traditional paper-and-pencil tests. Multiple opportunities for concept checking and performance assessment provide different ways to determine students' depth of learning. Young learners also benefit from peer- and self-assessment.

Explore Our World Content

Global Citizenship

To empower young learners for the 21st century, teachers of English as a foreign language must understand the global importance of English as well as what it means to be a global citizen. It is widely recognized that English is the world's *lingua franca*. English is used internationally as the language for science, technology, business, trade, tourism, diplomacy, and global problem solving. Today's children will grow up communicating in English with people from countries all around the world.

Real-world Content

Explore Our World uses real-world and multicultural content to help young learners grow up to become successful global citizens. Dramatic photos from around the world spark their curiosity and broaden their perspective by teaching them about the planet and different cultures. Through images and content, young learners explore other people, places, and societies and learn to care about our fascinating and ever-changing world. Their increased understanding of the world and their ability to communicate in English across cultures will prepare them to actively and successfully participate in the world of the future.

Multicultural Materials

When teaching English as a global language, it's important to bring materials that represent different cultures into the classroom. Students are very open to learning about other cultures. It only makes sense to take advantage of their natural curiosity and openness by exposing them to different customs, traditions, and ways of life.

Explore Our World incorporates content from other cultures in every unit. For example, in the Level 6 unit called "Arts Lost and Found," students learn about different traditions and art forms from other cultures, including storytelling through dance in Laos, cloth weaving in Ghana, and the 2000-year-old Chinese tradition of dragon-boat racing.

Cultural Connections

It's also important to connect young learners to their home cultures in the English language classroom. Making connections to the local culture will help young learners relate to the content and build a stronger understanding of themselves and their place in the world. In addition, learning to express aspects of their own culture in English is another step toward effectively using English as a global language. *Explore Our World* helps young learners appreciate their own cultures and encourages them to keep their cultures strong.

Global Values

Each unit in *Explore Our World* has a National Geographic Values page that connects to the real-world content presented in the unit. These pages promote universally recognized values for students such as loving your family, being a good sport, and taking care of others. For example, in the Level 2 unit called "Awesome Animals," the National Geographic Values page teaches students to respect animals.

In upper levels, the National Geographic Values page is titled "Mission," and it highlights the work and words of a real-life National Geographic explorer. These explorers, including Aparajita Datta and Elizabeth Kapu'uwaitani Lindsey, are from different parts of the world and contribute to the betterment of our planet.



Learning English through “Real-World” Content

The *Our World* series, including *Explore Our World*, takes into account current research and approaches in teaching language to young learners. Students learn language and content at the same time, so it’s natural and authentic to incorporate academic content into the English language classroom. Integrating content from different areas such as art, science, and social studies makes language learning more interesting and engaging. It will also help prepare young learners who may eventually study these subjects in English.

Contextualizing language instruction by integrating it with other learning provides opportunities to reinforce in English the academic skills and knowledge learned in other classes. A framework for this type of lesson should include four stages:

- **Processing text**

This includes the use of texts that incorporate visual and text-structure markers such as headings and subheadings as well as features such as bold or italic text for emphasis.

- **Identification and organization of knowledge**

This includes the use of graphic organizers such as tree diagrams, time lines, flowcharts, and tables.

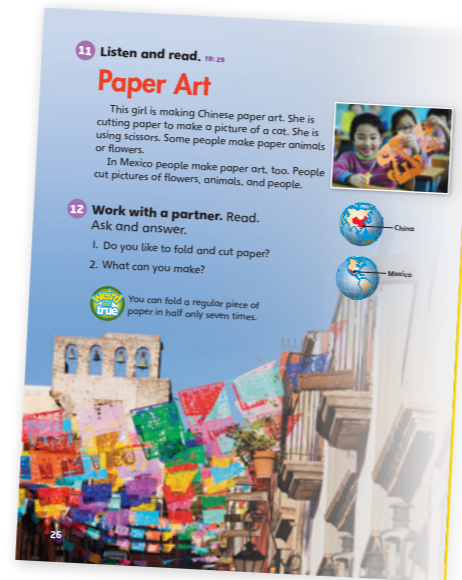
- **Language identification**

This includes the use of language features that help students to reproduce core content knowledge in their own words including the language of comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and speculation; it also includes features such as collocations, subject-specific vocabulary, and academic vocabulary.

- **Tasks for students**

This includes the use of a variety of learner-appropriate tasks, both receptive and productive. *Explore Our World* uses subject-area content as the basis for motivating students to learn English and to support what they are learning in other areas of their curriculum. Each unit has a Reading page that integrates real-world content from various subject areas and teaches academic skills. For example, the Level 2 unit “Fun in Class” focuses on language for the

classroom. The vocabulary includes various actions for classroom activities, such as reading, writing, counting, coloring, cutting, drawing, and gluing, as well as classroom objects such as scissors, markers, glue, and notebooks. The reading content, called “Paper Art” describes the art of paper cutting in China and Mexico. This is cultural content that also integrates art and social studies.



21st Century Skills

Today’s students are growing up in an interconnected world. As English language teachers, our job is to help them become responsible global citizens and leaders of the future. The Framework for 21st-Century Learning deals with “the skills, knowledge, and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life; it is a blend of content knowledge, specific skills, expertise, and literacies.” These skills can be categorized in four ways:

- **Ways of working**

Students need to be able to communicate clearly and collaborate effectively. *Explore Our World* helps students use the vocabulary and language structures they are learning to both communicate about real-world content and collaborate on activities and projects that allow them to apply the English they are acquiring in meaningful ways.

- **Ways of thinking**

Students also need to think creatively and critically. They need opportunities to learn how to make decisions and solve problems. *Explore Our World* challenges them to practice both these skills. For example, in Level 5 students learn about preparing for extreme weather and discuss the importance of protecting the oceans. In Level 6, students explore plant behaviors and adaptations, discuss how people in their community can reduce their human footprint, and learn about ancient civilizations.

- **Tools for working**

English students today aren’t just learning English. They are preparing to enter a competitive global workforce. In order to be ready for the future, they need to be able to navigate technology and to extract information from many forms of media. They also need to acquire technology literacy, information literacy, and visual literacy. All of these needs are addressed in the *Explore Our World* Student Books, comprehensive video program, and interactive technology.

- **Skills for living in the world**

It’s critically important for students to develop awareness of the skills and qualities that will help them achieve success in their future lives and careers. In *Explore Our World*, young learners are introduced in age-appropriate ways to concepts such as openness to new ideas and experiences, adaptability, and initiative. They learn about 21st-century professions, such as crisis mapper, and National Geographic Explorers are presented as potential role models.

Living in the world also encompasses the idea of personal and social responsibility. On a personal level, younger *Explore Our World* students learn about taking care of themselves and other beings. Older students discuss how they as individuals can make changes or adopt new behaviors for the greater good.

On a social level, students explore ways of connecting to their local community such as exploring where they live and participating in local events. As local citizens, older students interact with their community through activities such as planning and executing events to protect the environment, conducting interviews, and creating a local brochure for tourists.

Personal and social responsibility play a large part in students’ preparation for global citizenship as well. Students must commit to developing intercultural competence by building their knowledge of global cultures, by acquiring skills that enhance their interactions, and by refining their attitudes regarding cultural differences and customs. They must be willing to see the world from other points of view and to understand and respect cultural behaviors that are different from their own.

Throughout *Explore Our World*, young learners are introduced to people, places, and cultures from around the world. At the same time students are learning to recognize cultural similarities and appreciate differences, they are also encouraged to express their own culture in English as a first step to building their intercultural awareness and competence. In short, *Explore Our World* prepares students to be curious, engaged, and well-informed citizens of the 21st century.



Visual Literacy

Visual literacy is a necessary skill for the 21st century, which is increasingly image-, media-, and technology-driven. In the past, the term *literacy* referred to being able to read and write, but today it includes the interpretation of various kinds of texts in print and media. Visual literacy is the ability to construct meaning from images such as photos, illustrations, graphic organizers, signs, symbols, information graphics, and video.

Brain-based research shows that between 80 and 90 percent of the information we take in is visual. Learning a language, then, is not only reading and writing words; it is also being able to understand visual information and communicate it to others. An additional benefit of learning information simultaneously through text and visuals is that it can dramatically improve retention and recall. *Explore Our World* uses a variety of images of different types to help young learners understand text and organize information; some examples are tables and charts, diagrams, mind maps, T-charts, maps, bar graphs, calendars, time lines, line graphs, Venn diagrams, cause-and-effect arrows, and pie charts.


National Geographic has the most impressive and highest quality collection of photos and video in the

world. These visuals enrich the *Explore Our World* print, video, and media components. These materials help young learners become visually literate through imagery that reflects print and media in the real world. This will further help them to succeed as 21st-century citizens.

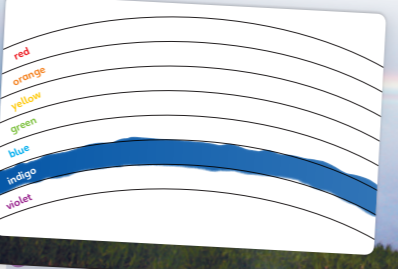
12 Listen and read. 18-20

Rainbows

Look! A rainbow! A rainbow is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.



13 Color the rainbow.



Up, Down, and All Around!

You are going on a roller coaster ride. Sit in the car and pull down the safety bar. Are you ready? Let's go!

First, you go up a steep hill. The roller coaster goes slow. Suddenly, when you reach the top, the roller coaster goes down the hill very quickly. Gravity pulls you down. Whoosh! You feel very light!

Next you reach a big circle, called the "loop-the-loop." This part is many people's favorite. First, you go up the circle, and you feel heavy. Gravity is pulling you down. Then you reach the top. You're high in the sky and you're hanging upside down! So why don't you fall out of your seat? Your body wants to fly off, but the speed of the car and a force called centripetal force keep you moving in a circle, and keep you in your seat!

The roller coaster uses friction to stop. If it stops quickly, your body wants to continue moving. But the safety bar keeps you in place! Roller coasters are the best!

14 Look and discuss. Work with a partner. Describe a ride on a roller coaster.

The Russians invented the roller coaster. They made the "cars" from ice. And they put fat on the seats to keep the passengers warm.


The largest known volcano is on Maui. It is about 22,000 m tall and 700 km across!

What does your favorite roller coaster look like?

It looks like a spaghetti!

When do you go?

You go straight toward a moon, but then you turn!



12 Listen and read. 18-20

Active Volcanoes

There are active volcanoes all over the world. Some erupt often, sending hot lava down their slopes. People live near these volcanoes. Because of the ash, the land is good for farming.


The longest erupting volcano is Mount Etna, in Sicily. It has been active for 3,500 years. Mount Etna erupts very often. It has destroyed many towns.

Five volcanoes created the island of Hawaii. Mauna Loa is the largest volcano in the world. Kilauea is one of the most active. In fact, it almost never stops erupting. These volcanoes are also a problem for local people.

Popocatepetl is about 70 kilometers from Mexico City. An eruption in 2000 made 50,000 people leave their homes. In 2012, Popocatepetl covered cars and streets with ash. Every March, people honor the volcano, offering it food and music.

13 Work with a partner. Read the text again. Talk about two volcanoes. Take notes.

Name of Volcano	Notes
1.	
2.	



Video and Technology

Video is a powerful tool that can bring the world into the classroom and the classroom to life. In learning language, video can be especially valuable because it can provide a real-world context that helps students experience the language in a natural and dynamic way. This will help them better understand how to use the language, and it makes learning more fun. The videos in *Explore Our World* are divided into short, manageable clips that present the following:

- **vocabulary** through amazing photos
- **grammar** in animated contexts
- **songs** performed by fun hosts
- **video** clips that give examples of real-world communication
- **stories** read by the hosts using images from the *Our World* series Readers

Explore Our World Video is flexible. For example, lessons can be presented from the Student Book first, and then followed by the corresponding segment in the video to review and check comprehension. Or the video can be used to present the language and then the Student Book can be used to review and practice. Either way, using the video helps contextualize language instruction and engage children in the classroom in fun and meaningful ways.

The **Classroom Presentation Tool** allows the introduction of many types of content, including video, audio, and interactive activities into the classroom using either an interactive whiteboard or a computer with a projector. Learning becomes more active and interactive using this digital classroom tool.

For example, young learners love games, and the *Classroom Presentation Tool* includes games that present and practice the Student Book lessons in new and unique ways. These activities allow for teaching and reteaching that will engage the whole class. With these games, students have opportunities to predict, to think critically, to work in teams, to sing along, and to use English in a safe and motivating environment that sets them up for success.

The computer is an excellent resource for English language learning and teaching. *Explore Our World* Student Activities, online and on CD-ROMs, encourage language practice through fun game environments that will entertain, inform, and motivate students. For example, they will play soccer against **meerkats**, puffer fish, polar bears, pigeons, mountain goats, and even alligators. They'll clean up the ocean, feed chameleons, solve puzzles, and explore mysterious mazes, all while practicing and playing with English.

Interactive media provide a richer environment for learning and engage young learners in the ways they are used to learning, getting information, and entertaining themselves. More importantly, building students' media and digital literacy skills helps prepare them to use English in the real world in the 21st century.



Characteristics of Young Learners

In order to teach young learners successfully, it is important to understand how students develop and how they learn. Effective materials reflect gradual growth in ability in the areas of gross and fine motor skills, language, cognition, and socialization. Students of different ages have different levels of development, and it is important that teachers use methods and activities that are appropriate for their students' abilities.

In general, students are very energetic and spontaneous. They do not like to sit still for long periods of time and they have short attention spans. Although they can be easily distracted, they are very curious and will pay attention if the topic is interesting or if the activity is fun and engaging. Although these characteristics can make teaching young learners challenging and even difficult at times, they can also make the young learner classroom joyful and rewarding. *Explore Our World* keeps learners active and engaged by using developmentally appropriate activities that cater to their learning profiles.

Learning Styles

Young learners tend to process information about the world primarily through their senses. The sensory learning styles are visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic.

• Visual learners

Visual learners notice the details of their surroundings and use color, shape, and position to help them learn and remember information. They understand instructions for activities much better when they are shown what to do rather than told what to do. Visual learners respond well to board work and to activities involving photos, drawings, flash cards, posters, video, arts and crafts, murals, projects, puzzles, and board games.

• Auditory learners

These students learn and remember information through sound and rhythm. They can memorize information easily and repeat back the text of stories, role plays, and song lyrics after one or two listenings. They understand oral directions for activities and often agree to act them out or repeat them for other students. They do well with listening and pronunciation activities, and they enjoy discussions, sound tracks, video and computer games, songs, and chants.

• Tactile learners

As the word *tactile* indicates, these learners use touch and the manipulation of objects to help them process and remember information. They depend on their physical and material surroundings. For example, when they are trying to concentrate, they may flip pencils or play with their hair. To understand instructions, they need to see, hear, and physically carry them out. Tactile learners do well with arts and crafts, flash cards, puzzles, board games, and realia.

• Kinesthetic learners

These students process and remember information through physical movement. Like tactile learners, they also touch and manipulate objects, and they are good at working with their hands. They understand directions for activities much better when they can see, hear, and physically carry them out. They need to release tension through movement and will look for ways to do so—going to the pencil sharpener or trash basket several times, for example. Kinesthetic learners do well with Total Physical Response (TPR) activities, charades, role plays, puzzles, and board games.



Skills and Strategies

Learning Strategies

Strategies are generally defined as behaviors that learners use to understand and complete a task. Learning strategies and their use and instruction can benefit young learners as well as adults. As described by Ana Chamot and Michael O'Malley, these strategies fall into three categories: metacognitive, cognitive, and social-affective:

- Metacognition is “thinking about thinking.” For young learners, this means helping them plan before doing a task. They need to think about the purpose of the task, what information is most important, how they will use the information, what the best way to do the task is, and how much they understand about the task.

- Cognitive strategies include accessing prior knowledge about a topic, seeing how new information connects to the material the student already knows, identifying where more information could be accessed, thinking of good ways to organize the material, and identifying ways to remember the new information.

- Social-affective strategies are especially useful in language classes, as language is social by nature. While using English, young learners can ask for explanations from teachers and classmates, find out how and when they can ask for help, discuss how they can work together with classmates, and how they can get and give feedback.

Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is a higher order of thought that involves analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information. In many young learner classrooms, teachers' questions may be limited to basic comprehension questions (What is the story about? Is it a happy or sad story?) and to display questions (How many planets are there in our solar system? Is the moon hot or cold?). Even though children's analytical abilities

are not yet fully developed, teachers can nevertheless design age-appropriate questions that go beyond the surface and require deeper processing on their students' part. Ask questions that bring into play the following skills:

- **classifying** What are (two) ways you can group together these words?
- **comparing** How are (dogs) and (wolves) alike?
- **contrasting** How are the (cassowary) and (ostrich) different?
- **getting meaning** What clues in this sentence help with the meaning of the word (*ground*)?
- **inferencing** Looking at these effects, what do you think is the cause?
- **predicting** What will happen when (the volcano erupts)?
- **problem solving** What are some ways we can (conserve water at school)?
- **ranking** How would you list your (favorite sports) from one to five?
- **sequencing** When (planting vegetables), what are the steps in order?
- **using graphic organizers** How could you use a graphic organizer to map out the ideas in this reading?
- **visualizing** How do you picture (the treasure) in your mind?

Creating Successful Lessons

Effective teaching begins with a lesson plan. A lesson is like a long road trip that requires a map: The final destination or goal cannot be reached without carefully planning each stop along the way. These steps help learners reach the lesson objectives successfully, which is the final destination of the trip teachers and students are taking together.

A good lesson plan has many benefits. It helps teachers prepare for class, including gathering or creating the materials needed to make the activities successful. It lays out step-by-step instructions that provide a guide for every moment in class. But most importantly, it requires teachers to define objectives for the lesson and plan activities in a sequence that will ensure student success.

Stages of a Lesson

Explore Our World uses five steps recognized as standard practice for effective language instruction: Warm-up, Presentation, Practice, Application, and Wrap-up.

• Warm-up

These activities help English language learners switch from their native language to English, remember material from earlier lessons, and begin class feeling confident about what they know. Warm-ups create interest and excitement about the topic and prepare learners for the new language input. This new input can be vocabulary, grammar structures, or language functions. Warming up students can involve activating students' prior knowledge of the topic or context as well as reviewing known language that will be used or recycled in the unit. By helping students see what they already know and connecting the new language to their previous experience, warm-ups prepare them to learn.

• Presentation

After students are warmed up, it's time to present the new language. This means teaching new vocabulary words or new grammatical structures through visuals, realia, examples, or the context of a song or story. Teachers should take time on this step and provide numerous activities to give lots of meaningful listening and reading input. This will help students gain comprehension of the new language. Use a number of activities that require the four skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing) to check students' comprehension. For example, use concept checking to see if students know the word *bakery* by asking questions such as *Can I buy a bike in a bakery? What can I buy in a bakery? Give me an example of a bakery near here.* Or have students draw a bakery and write a few lines about what they do and buy in a bakery. The *Explore Our World* Lesson Planner suggests multiple activities to present and check comprehension of language to support the activities in the Student Book.

• Practice

As an important step in the process of learning, practice focuses on students' first efforts to use the new language. For young learners, especially beginners, the practice is guided, meaning that the students are given the structures and vocabulary needed to produce the language; they are not yet expected to create the language independently. Of course, the goal is to give learners plenty of opportunities to try out the new language in order to prepare them for real communicative contexts. The Lesson Planner provides suggestions for giving additional support or guidance for the practice stage.

• Application

Applying the new language in a communicative context is a natural step after practice because it encourages students to act more independently with the language they have practiced previously with more guidance and support. At this stage, students should be able to use the new language in a realistic context and to personalize the language with respect to their own lives. Application further develops students' abilities to use language communicatively. The *Explore Our World* Student Books have application activities for each vocabulary and grammar section that encourage students to communicate with each other and apply the language to their lives. The Lesson Planner provides suggestions to help teachers carry out the application activities successfully.

• Wrap-up

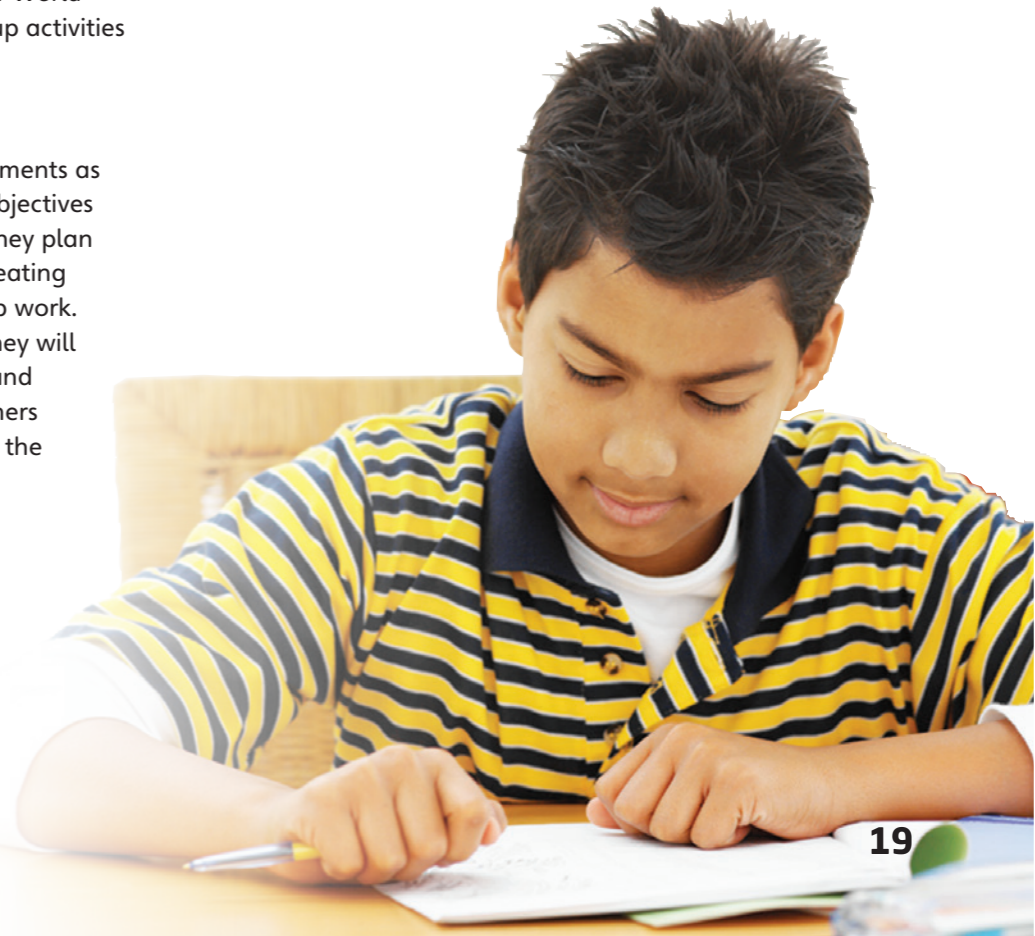
Concluding a lesson or class with a final activity is always important, as students need to leave the class knowing that they have completed an activity and learned something. This might be a review of what was learned in class in a game to check comprehension of vocabulary words, or it might be a song or chant. The wrap-up might be a conclusion to a pair-work activity in which the teacher asks individual students what they learned from their partners. The *Explore Our World* Lesson Planner provides appropriate wrap-up activities for each class.

Lesson Adjustments

Teachers keep in mind many different elements as they plan their lessons. They identify their objectives and match appropriate activities to them. They plan how they will use their physical space and seating arrangements for individual, pair, and group work. They collect the materials and equipment they will need. They think about time management and pacing. But no matter what they plan, teachers know they should expect the unexpected as the day's lesson unfolds.

In a classroom full of young learners, there are many factors teachers cannot control. Successful teachers learn to be creative so that they can adapt to unplanned events, whether they be a surprise fire drill, an equipment failure, or unexpected student behaviors. This includes adjusting instruction based on students' unique personalities, their mood swings, their varied interests, and their diverse personal, cognitive, and emotional needs.

In mixed-ability classes, for example, teachers spend more time with some students than with others. When this is the case, they have ready a number of activities for the rest of the class to do. These may include starting homework in class or choosing something from an activity box that includes worksheets, puzzles, board games, vocabulary cards, comic books, and class-produced books. In the *Explore Our World* Lesson Planner, teachers have different activities to choose from, including extension activity suggestions that are not in the Student Book. In addition, there are many additional activities and games in the Classroom Presentation Tool, the CD-ROM, and the video.



Successful Activities

- **Activities have meaning and purpose.**

Activities for young learners should above all be meaningful and purposeful.

Engaging students in authentic and meaningful contexts helps them recognize and remember language patterns. As Lynn Cameron (2003) wrote, “Children see the foreign language ‘from the inside’ and try to find meaning in how the language is used in action, in interaction, and with intention, rather than ‘from the outside’ as a system and form.” So, instead of presenting language as isolated grammar structures to be analyzed, teachers do well to present language in meaningful contexts. They make sure to provide plenty of opportunities for students to practice the language through both repetition and recycling, and to give students a real purpose to communicate with each other in English.

- **Activities are supported and scaffolded.**

Scaffolding is used to describe the exterior support structure around a building under construction. When the building is finished, the scaffolding is taken away and the building stands on its own. In the same way, teachers have to provide scaffolding to students in order to help them construct knowledge and learn language effectively. *Explore Our World* sets students up for success by supporting and scaffolding the learning process. It is important to break tasks down into small, achievable steps and give students a model to follow. *Explore Our World* teaches language step-by-step, but the teacher still needs to take the time to make sure students have plenty of ways to show their comprehension of the new language.

- **Activities are active and hands-on.**

Explore Our World materials promote the active and hands-on classroom. Because students are kinesthetic learners and like to move their bodies and move around the room, it is important to keep instruction physically active. Students also like to learn by touching and manipulating objects. In other words, students learn by doing. They need to be active and have many hands-on activities that encourage them to interact with objects and visuals. If possible, bring in real-world objects and incorporate projects that allow students to produce their own creations that further the learning process. Doing artwork, crafts, posters, and projects are great ways for learners to be active and make things with their own two hands.

- **Activities are enjoyable and interesting.**

To teach young learners effectively, language classes need to be enjoyable and interesting. The photographs and artwork in *Explore Our World* will capture students’ attention and interest. The units are full of activities that young learners find fun and engaging such as singing songs, listening to stories, and playing games. There is a song in each unit, as well as games, pair work, and group work that will keep young learners’ interest. In addition, the Video program and the Classroom Presentation Tool contain a wide variety of motivating and enjoyable activities.

Repetition and Recycling

Teachers should provide plenty of opportunities to practice the language. Using repetition and recycling is important when working with young learners. Luckily, if there is a fun song, students will ask to sing it again. If there is an interesting story, they will ask to hear it again. Repeating is a natural part of students’ learning process. *Explore Our World* provides plenty of opportunities for meaningful repetition, especially if the video program and/or Classroom Presentation Tool is used in conjunction with the Student Book. Students will get the chance to hear, repeat, and use both vocabulary and grammar multiple times.

Recycling is also important to improve young learners’ ability to understand the new language structures and use them correctly. *Recycling* means “to use again.” When teachers recycle language, they use it again in another context. Within a unit, the new vocabulary is constantly recycled and used in different contexts in the song, the grammar activities and games, and the Reader and storytelling activities.

Explore Our World also recycles language from unit to unit and level to level. For example, in one lesson students may learn vocabulary for different clothes. A teacher may recycle this language by teaching about the weather and asking students what to wear when it is hot and sunny or when it is cold and rainy. Recycling helps students increase their proficiency by getting them to use the language in a new context. This makes the learning process more authentic and meaningful.

Classroom Management

As teachers everywhere know, real learning requires a well-managed classroom. Teachers of young learners need to develop a plan for managing their own classrooms that will keep students engaged and on task. At the same time, teachers should avoid giving students opportunities to get distracted or out of control. Expectations of proper classroom behavior can vary from culture to culture, but in all cases, effective classroom management goes beyond dealing with misbehavior.

Many aspects of teaching can affect the behavior of students in the classroom.

- **Time**

Effective teachers use their class time carefully. They plan the time it takes to greet students and start the class, the duration of each activity, the time spent between activities, the time it takes for student breaks, and the time it takes to assign homework at the end of class. They also reserve five minutes or so as extra time to be used as needed during the class. In addition, they keep in mind what is known as “wait time,” the amount of time the teacher waits for a student to answer a question. Some teachers count to ten slowly and silently, while others use a watch to allow from three to five seconds. This helps students formulate better quality responses.

- **Activities and transitions**

It is important to have ready all the materials needed for each activity before class so that young learners don’t have time to get restless. Activity directions are another area that can require advance planning. To keep students’ attention, it is a good idea to read all activity directions before class so that there time to simplify and provide options as necessary.

Moving smoothly from one activity to another requires planning. For the youngest learners, consider clapping a chant (*We are done/That was fun/Now let’s do/Another one*), visual cues such as a teacher-held stop sign or flipping the light switch on and off three times, or auditory cues such as a whistle or bell. If the previous activity has involved movement, a useful transition to the next activity can be having students close their eyes and rest their heads on their hands for a minute. If the previous activity has been concentrated seat work,

a useful transition to the next activity can be having students stand by their desks and “shake out” their hands and legs, or having them jump up and down a few times. For older learners, transitions that link two activities can be language-based. For example, if students have just read about someone’s activities last weekend, a teacher may say *We just read what (David) did last weekend; now we’re going to listen to find out what he’s doing next weekend.*

- **Classroom rules**

The establishment of rules in the young learner classroom is particularly important because students need rules to function successfully. Teachers need to communicate these rules clearly and simply, and make sure they consistently enforce them with age-appropriate rewards and sanctions. When possible, allow students to help create the rules and consequences. The teacher and students may come up with rules such as *Be quiet when someone is talking, Raise your hand to talk, Be kind to others, Work hard, Share, and Cooperate.* Display the rules on a poster on the classroom wall or provide each student with a copy to keep in their notebooks.

- **Classroom routines**

Equally important is the establishment of predictable routines. Young learners feel secure when they know what to expect during different stages of the lesson. Routines help them get organized and prepare to learn in English. Common routines include starting the class with a greeting, designating the day’s classroom helpers, taking attendance, naming the day and date, establishing objectives, checking homework, dividing the class into pairs or groups, cleaning up the room, assigning homework, and ending the class.

- **Classroom atmosphere**

Effective teachers take care to build a fair, safe, and supportive classroom climate. As supportive adults rather than friends, they aim for positive relationships with all their students and consciously avoid favoritism. They have high but reasonable expectations and model the values they hope to inspire in their students—kindness, patience, fairness, and respect.

The 4 Skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Explore Our World provides multiple opportunities for young learners to develop all four skills in a balanced and age-appropriate way.

Listening

Young learners learn about other people and the world around them primarily through oral interaction. In the classroom, they benefit from multiple opportunities to listen to and practice routine language, vocabulary, basic structures, and patterns. And while practicing listening and speaking together is very important, so is a focus on listening-only activities. Some of these activities develop students' ability to discriminate sounds, words, and sentence boundaries, while others focus on stress, rhythm, and intonation. Songs, chants, and poems are a natural and fun way to practice, too. The Workbook includes a variety of listening activities as well.

In addition, students need practice with basic listening strategies such as listening for the main idea and listening for details. Older learners can listen for sequence (*first, next, then, finally*), for time frames (verb forms signaling present, past, or future time), and for cause and effect (*why, because*), among other details.

Speaking

Listening and speaking interactions are the communicative foundation for language learning. Question-and-answer exchanges, whether between teacher and student or between student and student, play an important role in the classroom. At first, young learners will rely on modeled language in their exchanges, but it is also important to introduce opportunities for personalized, authentic language use as soon as possible. Gradually move away from display questions (to which students provide already known answers in order to show their comprehension) such as *What color is your hair?* and *How many students are in our class?* to authentic communication (questions to which the answers are not yet known) such as *Do*

you have any pets? and *Did you play soccer today?* Other speaking opportunities include games, group discussions, and project presentations. The more relevant the language is to learners' lives, the more meaningful and memorable it becomes.

In addition to working on the pronunciation of whole words and sentences, it can be very useful to spend time practicing individual sounds, especially those sounds students find particularly difficult. The Sounds of English lessons focus on known words with a target sound in the initial position and eventually include words with the sound in the medial and final positions. Fun Sounds of English activities in every unit provide additional opportunities for students to listen to and practice individual sounds.

Explore Our World provides many different speaking models including work with Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) in Student Books 4–6 on the pages titled *Let's Talk*. In addition, students gain valuable practice with rhythm, stress, and intonation in songs and chants, and with pronunciation and sound discrimination using The Sounds of English cards. The Workbook includes different speaking activities as well.

Reading

A unique feature of the *Explore Our World* series is the use of engaging content from the world-renowned National Geographic archives. Children are naturally curious about the world around them and will enjoy reading about copycat animals, chocolate, flesh-eating plants, extreme sports, and other interesting topics. Readings are age-appropriate and provide basic practice in reading strategies such as identifying the main idea, finding details and examples, figuring out meaning from context, and relating texts to graphic organizers.

The Lesson Planner includes a variety of before-, during-, and after-reading tasks that draw students deeper into texts. Before-reading activities prepare learners for the reading by drawing their attention to titles, headings, photos, and captions; by accessing what they already know about the topic; and by predicting what the reading might include.

During reading, it is useful to train students to ask themselves silent questions such as *Who, When, Where, What, Why, and How* and find the answers as they go. They can also underline or highlight information as they read or make brief comments in the margin.

After-reading activities include comprehension questions, but they also include questions that require higher-order thinking, questions that require learners to support their ideas and opinions, as well as the use of summaries, and graphic organizers. Additional readings are found in the Workbook.

In addition, eight *Our World* series Readers accompany each of the six levels. These readers are age-appropriate and are designed so that they may be read independently, either in class or at home. Each Reader is thematically related to the corresponding Student Book unit and contains some of the unit target grammar and vocabulary. Texts are an entertaining and informative mix of fiction and nonfiction.

Writing

Younger learners are systematically introduced to writing beginning in Workbook 1, where they work at the word level, gradually move into sentence

stems, and finally to one–three simple sentences. Students draw and then write about their drawings. In Workbook 2, young learners are guided to organize and write short paragraphs through answering specific questions. In Workbook 3, students learn about compound sentences, descriptive words, the parts of a paragraph, complex sentences with *because*, and sequence words. In Levels 1 through 3, a page in each Workbook unit provides additional writing practice.

In Workbook 4 through 6, older learners are introduced to the concept of paragraph unity and to different writing genres such as journal entries, blogs, reviews, and paragraphs of opinion, cause and effect, contrast, comparison, exemplification, fact and opinion, persuasion, classification, and more. Students are guided step-by-step in the Workbook for each writing assignment.

A complete model is provided for each writing task in the Workbook, so that learners have clear, meaningful examples of what they are expected to do. Additional writing worksheets are available on the Teacher's Resource CD-ROM. In Levels 1–3, worksheets expand on Workbook writing content, while in Levels 4–6 students are introduced to Process Writing.

12 Listen and read. (18:18)

Wonderful Work!

Annie Griffiths is a photographer. She travels all over the world for her work. She takes photographs of people at work and people having fun. She also takes photos of cute animals and some very scary animals. Annie wants all her photos to tell a story. She wants people to think about them.

The first photo of a person is from Paris in 1838.

1838 First color photograph
1839 First camera and lens phone
1840 First photograph
1939 First digital camera

Victoria Falls, Zambia

13 Work with a partner. Talk. Today you are a photographer. What do you want to photograph?

I want to take pictures of the mountains.

I want to take a picture of my family.

16

11 Listen and read. (18:28)

Colorful Corals

Corals look like a colorful garden under the water. But corals are not plants! They're animals.

What's for dinner? Each coral is made up of small animals called polyps. Polyps have a mouth, stomach, and tentacles to catch food. Many polyps live in the *sault zone*, where they eat small plants called algae.

What's a coral reef? Most corals live together. As old corals die, new polyps grow on top. That's how you get a coral reef. Some coral reefs are millions of years old, and they're home to more than 4,000 kinds of fish!

Save the reefs! Coral reefs are amazing resources. They're important for tourism and jobs. Scientists use reef animals to make new medicines and other products. Coral reefs are a source of food, too. But coral reefs are in danger. Because of pollution, many coral reefs are disappearing. Some people say that only 30 percent of the world's corals will exist in the year 2050. We must protect our corals now.

12 Work with a partner. What did you learn? Ask and answer.

The Great Barrier Reef is over 2,250 km (1,400 mi) long! You can see it from outer space!

12

OUR WORLD

How Quetzalcoatl Brought Chocolate to the People

An Aztec legend

Retold by Lynn Mesh

Vocabulary

Explore Our World helps develop vocabulary through a variety of activities that encourage communication. The target vocabulary items in each unit are presented in thematically related, meaningful contexts, and then recycled several times in different activities and in different components. Active vocabulary consists of words necessary to understand and talk about the unit theme as well as high-frequency, high-utility items used in real communication relevant to the world of the student.

For younger learners, many items are related to concepts they are exploring in their first language such as colors, shapes, and numbers. For older learners, vocabulary items are related to their own lives (habits, chores, likes, and dislikes), to their relationships (as family members, as friends, as members of the community), and to their studies at school (science, health, language arts, social studies, and sports).

Encourage students' active involvement in vocabulary learning through the use of pictures, flash cards, posters, arts and crafts, kinesthetic games, projects, personal dictionaries, word mobiles, and word walls. When applicable, raise learner awareness of vocabulary strategies, such as paraphrase and circumlocution ("the thing you cut paper with," for *scissors*), and familiarize students with the concept of cognates and false cognates.

To clarify meaning, encourage word associations and teach word collocations such as *have + noun*: *have a good time, have breakfast, have a flat tire, have a headache, have a quiz*. Have students keep vocabulary notebooks in which they write definitions, use words in sentences, develop word maps, note collocations, and build word groups (*photo, photograph, photographer, photographic, photographically*). When appropriate, raise awareness of word formation through prefixes and suffixes.

Grammar

Explore Our World presents grammar in age-appropriate, meaning-based ways. Because their analytical skills are not yet fully developed, younger learners gain little from analyzing forms and memorizing rules the way many adults do. They benefit more by seeing many repetitions of a target grammar point in different meaningful contexts and by using grammar as unanalyzed "chunks" that help them communicate. The grammar boxes in the Student Books and Workbooks, then, show target points in meaningful sentences that students can use as models for language production. As learners age and develop cognitively, they are invited to notice certain language features and think about how they function. The oldest learners can keep grammar reference notebooks in which they have a page for each grammar point with examples of form, meaning, and use. They can also record their most frequent errors and write a corrected version of each one in their notebooks.

Grammar practice in the Student Book is supported by additional activities in the Workbook, the Video program, and the Classroom Presentation Tool.



Assessment

Because of young learners' age; level of maturity; limited range of experience; and cognitive, linguistic, and literacy development, they need appropriately designed assessment tasks, whether traditional or performance-based.

- Tests should mirror learning. The material actually taught in class is what is assessed. Tests should reflect the objectives of the curriculum and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and what they can do with the language in tasks and formats that are similar to the ones they have experienced in class.

- Tests should contribute to learning on the teacher's part as well as on the students' part. Test results should provide teachers with information on which to base subsequent instruction, especially modifications that are needed for some or all students. And, of course, the results should provide information to learners on their current strengths and weaknesses and progress in learning English.

- Tests should include a variety of techniques that correspond to learners' different intelligences and learning styles. That is to say, tests should provide opportunities for learners who are not primarily linguistically, logical-mathematically, or spatially inclined but rather demonstrate other types of intelligences or learning styles. All learners should have multiple chances to demonstrate their skills, strategies, and knowledge.

- Tests should be contextualized and reflect relevant tasks and language for young learners. Assessment items are more authentic when they reflect a previously taught theme or body of content and when the language tested is that used by young learners in class and in their real lives.

- Tests should allow all learners to experience success, while providing both lower-than-average learners and advanced learners opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge. Just as teachers deal with mixed-ability learners in class through differentiated instruction, so should they provide opportunities for mixed-ability learners on tests.

- Tests should motivate learners and build learner confidence. Teachers work hard to include a variety of motivating and fun activities in their lessons, and they are conscientious about providing praise and constructive feedback to their students in class. Students should have the same opportunities for fun, engagement, and motivating feedback in their assessments.

- Tests should take place over time in order to collect evidence of growth. Assessment should not be approached as an occasional but necessary, fear-inducing evil. Indeed, the more frequently students are assessed through a variety of ways, the less test anxiety they may have and the more practiced and confident they may feel.

The *Our World* series ensures that students engage in a wide variety of communicative activities in each thematic unit, and many of these themes and activity types are correspondingly reflected in the assessment process. *Explore Our World* provides many opportunities for both formal and informal assessment of different types.

The typical paper-and-pencil test with formats such as multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank is one example of formal assessment. In many language curricula around the world, these task types remain popular. The *Explore Our World* assessment program includes various kinds of written tests: placement tests and level pre-tests, eight unit quizzes, three mastery tests, and final tests, together with an Audio CD for the listening and speaking components. In addition, with the use of the Assessment CD-ROM with ExamView®, all of the quizzes and tests are easily generated and customizable to the needs of each teacher's students.

Accurate assessment reflects not only what students can recognize and produce on a written test, but also what they can perform or do as they actually use the language in real or realistic contexts. *Explore Our World* therefore provides a wealth of opportunities for informal assessment. These include pair and group work, Review pages in the Student Book, Workbook activities, and the Classroom Presentation Tool, among others.