



THE WESTCOAST READER

TEACHERS' NOTES



JANUARY 2013

 www.thewestcoastreader.com

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OUR FIRST FEATHERED ... (p. 1)

Before reading the story, show learners photos of fossils and feathers.

On a map show learners the area where the fossils were discovered (www.traveldrumheller.com/maps-and-guides.html). Explain also that there is a famous museum in Alberta's badlands – the Royal Tyrrell Museum with exhibits on prehistoric life (www.tyrrellmuseum.com).

Ask learners what they feel is more important - spending money on the future or spending money on the past; in other words, ask learners if they believe the government is spending too much or too little on space travel or on digging up the past.

NEW PLANET FOUND (p. 1)

What would a new planet mean for us on Earth? Why are scientists looking for new worlds?

- Omit the verbs from the sentences.
- Create a word bank with the verbs.
- Ask learners to find the correct verb for each sentence.

FINANCIAL LITERACY (p. 2 and p. 3):

Before reading, discuss the word “taboo” with your learners. What other topics of discussion are taboo in Canada? In other cultures, what is considered taboo?

Explain other vocabulary such as debt, consumer, mortgage, relationships, and so on associated with the articles on pages two and three.

Give learners scenarios with fictitious names of people in debt. How would learners solve these characters' financial problems?

PHOTO OF HAPPY NEW YEAR –ISTOCKPHOTO

BACK TO THE FUTURE 2012 NEWS QUIZ (p. 4)

Since the six news stories were released, how much has changed? For example, the protests continue in Tahrir Square. What predictions can students make about these topics in 2013?

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (p. 4)

Ask your students what their message would be in a bottle. How would they introduce themselves? Who would they want to find their message(s)? Check our links online to see Oisin, the bottle and the message.

ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

Matching (TN p. 2)

(1) d (2) f (3) b (4) a (5) e (6) c

Finish the words (TN p. 2)

(1) new (2) planet (3) found (4) Earth (5) October (6) scientist (7) travel (8) away (9) near (10) area

Join the group (TN p. 3)

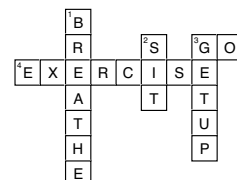
(1) envelope (2) cash (3) bottle (4) Earth (5) dinosaur

Writing questions (TN p. 3)

Practice question writing. Then try the exercise.
(1) Where did/do they live? (2) What did the two girls write? (3) Where did they put the message? (4) Where did they toss it? (5) How old is/was Oisin? (6) challenging: How did Oisin feel?

Garfield and crossword (TN p. 4)

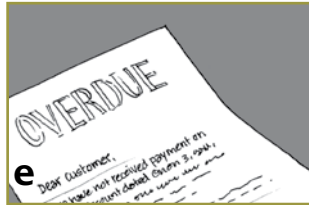
First, discuss New Year's resolutions for 2013.



Matching



Match the picture (a - f) to the sentence.



ILLUSTRATIONS: NOLA JOHNSTON

PHOTO—ISTOCKPHOTO

1. You are afraid to open your mail. ____
2. You cannot sleep due to money stress. ____
3. You use credit to pay other credit. ____
4. You fight with your family about money. ____
5. You get collection letters or phone calls. ____
6. “How can I pay my bills this month?” ____

Finish the words

These words are in the story “New planet found.”
Add vowels to finish the words.



PHOTO – REUTERS

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. n__w | 6. sc__nt__st |
| 2. pl__n__t | 7. tr__v__l |
| 3. f__nd | 8. __w__y |
| 4. __rth | 9. n__r |
| 5. __ct__b__r | 10. __r__ |

Join the group

Find a word which can join the group.
Take your answer from the word bank.
Then write it on the line beside its group.

1. letter, stamp, pen, _____
2. credit card, bank card, cheque, _____
3. can, cup, bowl, _____
4. stars, new planet, space, _____
5. rock, fossils, bones, _____

Earth
cash
envelope
dinosaur
bottle

Writing questions

Wherever necessary, change the story
“Message in a bottle”
from simple present tense to simple past tense.
Then write the questions to the answers below.
Work with a partner. (Number 6 is challenging.)



PHOTO — THE PROVINCE

Example:

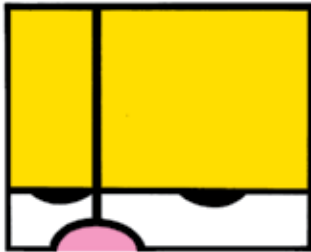
Answer: It ^{was} **is** June 2004. Charlaine and Claudia ^{were} **are** 12 years old.

Question: How old **were** the girls in June 2004?

1. They live in Montreal. _____
2. The two girls write a message. _____
3. They put it in a green bottle. _____
4. They toss it into a river. _____
5. Oisin is nine years old. _____
6. He is excited. _____

Garfield in 2012

Read the comic. Write two sentences.
In each sentence, tell Garfield what he should do in 2013.



G A R F I E L D.



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1. _____
2. _____

Fill in the crossword with the verbs in the comic.

				1				
					2		3	
4	e	x	e	r	c	i	s	e