WORLD’S GREATEST PLACES
Every year, TIME magazine puts together a list of the world’s greatest places. Here are some highlights.
LEXILE: 970L (820L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.6, RI.6-8.9, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER
Have students imagine how climate change could affect the place where they live. Ask: How would the natural environment change? How might these changes affect the way you live? What features of this place would you show people in order to convince them that it deserves to be protected? Then, as students read the article, have them note the strategies the author uses to raise the reader’s appreciation for these faraway places.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION
• Which of the places described in the article would you most like to visit, and why?
• What strategies does the author use to make us care about these places? Point to specific examples.
• The article describes several different kinds of places, from cities to wilderness. Why highlight these differences? How do these differences help the article achieve its purpose?

EXTEND LEARNING
Challenge students to create a poster, booklet, or slideshow in which they take the viewer on a tour of the places that represent the beauty and interesting features of their area. Students may work individually or in groups, using the article as a model. Their project should include images and text. They should highlight both natural and human-made structures, with an emphasis on how these things contribute to the happiness and/or well-being of the people who live in the area, and why those structures deserve to be preserved. The project should also have a cover image, with a headline and a line or two that convey the project’s contents and purpose. Invite students to share their completed projects with the class. For each one, encourage students to discuss how the author influences the way they feel about and see a place, and what makes that place worthy of appreciation.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY
The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.
For the Google Forms quiz, click here.
GAS-POWERED CAR BAN
All new cars sold in California will have to be electric or hydrogen-powered by 2035.
LEXILE: 1050L (900L alternate reading level)
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.8, SL.6-8.1

BEFORE READING
Direct students’ attention to the article’s headline—“Gas-Powered Car Ban”—and engage in a discussion by asking: Why might gasoline-powered cars be banned? Do you think gas-powered cars should be banned? Why or why not? What would be the alternative to gas cars, and how would it be better? If gas-powered cars were no longer allowed in your area, how might that affect your family? What current limitations might a car face if it’s not powered by gas? Then, as students read the article, have them note details that confirm or challenge their initial perspective on the topic.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
• What information in the article tells you why California is ending the sale of new gas-powered vehicles?
• What obstacles might stand in the way of California reaching its goal? Do you agree that these obstacles will prevent the state from achieving its goal? Explain.
• Do you think other states will follow California’s lead? Why or why not?

EVERYONE’S MAD AT TICKETMASTER
Why are concert tickets so expensive?
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Production, Distribution, and Consumption
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.1

BEFORE READING
Ask students if they can identify some things that have gone up in price lately. Then ask: What do you think determines the price of a product? Why would prices go up or down? (You might introduce the concept of supply and demand.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
• Why are concert tickets so hard to get, and why are they so expensive?
• The average price for some types of tickets to a Harry Styles show in New York City is $600. Why is that a problem?
• Some U.S. lawmakers want to launch an investigation into Ticketmaster’s “monopoly.” What does that mean?

WRITING ACTIVITY
Challenge students to write an essay that defines value, by answering the following question: What makes an item worth its price? Students might choose to develop their thinking about the article and write about why fans would tolerate such high prices for concert tickets. Or, they might write about things that they value, or about things for which they have been, or would be, willing to pay a high price. Encourage students to include some of the ideas about value that were discussed in class.
1. This article relies mainly on photographs in order to
   A. report recent news from around the world.
   B. show how people live in other parts of the world.
   C. give readers a vivid sense of place.
   D. convey the editors’ point of view on each of these places.

2. What do all of the World’s Greatest Places have in common?
   A. Each has taken steps to preserve an ancient culture.
   B. They are all reminders of the need to protect the natural environment.
   C. They are all in Asia or Africa.
   D. They all feature unusual architecture.

3. Which of the World’s Greatest Places is notable for its mythology?
   A. Ahmedabad, India, where there is a robot gallery
   B. Dolní Morava, Czech Republic, which has the world’s longest suspension bridge
   C. Rapa Nui, where an early king is said to have become a sea turtle
   D. Ilulissat, Greenland, where the visitor center resembles a snowy owl in flight

4. The headline “Trail Mix” most likely refers to
   A. the trail system in Fiordland National Park.
   B. the number of waterfalls in New Zealand.
   C. New Zealand being an island nation.
   D. a popular kids’ snack in New Zealand.

5. According to the article, what steps have been taken in South America to protect the environment?
   A. Rhinos were put under the protection of local communities.
   B. Traditional tiles and cave paintings were restored.
   C. Visitors were given tours of fjords to remind them of the rapid loss of Arctic ice.
   D. Marine-life protections were expanded, and bicycling was encouraged in urban areas.

6. What is the most likely reason Ahmedabad devoted a park to science education?
   A. to promote curiosity, and appreciation for the environment
   B. to encourage hiking and skiing
   C. to protect marine biodiversity
   D. Science is not taught in schools in India.

7. Which of the World’s Greatest Places would you most like to visit? Why?