

EXPLORE THE WORLD



WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES

Each year, TIME magazine makes a list of the World's Greatest Places. TIME Edge picks its favorites.

LEXILE: 770L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.6, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Tell students that they'll read about some of the world's greatest places, as chosen by TIME magazine. Ask: What do you think is the purpose of this kind of article? How do you think TIME editors chose the places on its list? What criteria would you use in choosing the greatest places in the world to visit?

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Which of the places on the list would you most like to visit, and why?
- Are there similarities between the places on the list? Are there differences? How do you think TIME editors chose these places?
- Which of the entries include environmental issues? Why might these issues be of interest to world travelers? Several of the entries refer to traditions or to the past. Why might this information be useful to travelers?

EXTEND LEARNING

Have the class create its own edition of *World's Greatest Places*. Start by asking the class for a list of the places in the world they'd most like to visit. Then have students research these places and gather the information they'll need to create their magazine. Students can either work individually or in small groups that focus on a single place. They should write down information about a place's most characteristic details, its particular traditions or history, and its main attractions. They should also gather images.

Have students write a paragraph or two about the place they've chosen. They can use the article selections as models. Then have the class gather their entries as a paper magazine or digital slide show.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide. To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. D (RI.1) 2. D (RI.1) 3. B (RI.1) 4. C (RI.3) 5. A (RI.6)
6. A (RI.8) 7. Answers will vary. (W.1)



NATURAL DISASTERS IN AFRICA

Rescue efforts continue in North Africa, a region that has been hit with two major natural disasters.

LEXILE: 850L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.6

BEFORE READING

Tell students that they'll read an article about an earthquake and floods that recently struck North Africa. Ask: Why do news publications include international news? Why are stories from around the globe interesting to readers in the United States? How might events in other parts of the world affect you? As students read the article, have them note the similarities and differences between the two natural disasters, and in the way the article presents them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- According to the article, what challenges do countries face in rescuing the victims of these disasters? Cite specific details.
- What does "at press time" mean? Why is this phrase used in the story? What does it tell us about the news?
- What sources does the article cite? Why did the author choose these sources to tell the story?



A FOLKORIC FEAST

Nasuḡraq Rainey Hopson is the author and illustrator of *Eagle Drums*.

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Culture

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.6, W.6-8.2

BEFORE READING

Ask students: Why do we tell stories? Tell students that some people have oral storytelling traditions. They don't write stories down. Ask: What's the difference between hearing a story and reading it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Hopson's book is based in folklore. What is folklore? Can you think of any examples? Why do we tell these stories?
- Hopson says that when Inupiaq kids read her work, they get "excited about seeing something from their own area and their own culture." Do you agree that it's important to see your culture in books? Explain.

CLOSING ACTIVITY/WRITING

Challenge students to write an updated version of a folktale. Have them start by writing an outline of the folktale, how it begins, what follows, and how it ends. They should also think about the tale's purpose, the idea it intends to convey. Then they should think about how the tale could be told with characters and situations taken from their lives. Have them write an outline of the tale's beginning, middle, and end before they begin writing their drafts.

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "World's Greatest Places," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

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| <p>1. What do all of these places have in common?</p> <p>A. They feature incredible human-made structures.</p> <p>B. They all look out on the future.</p> <p>C. They are windows to the past.</p> <p>D. They represent some aspect of the beauty or culture on our planet.</p> | <p>4. Kangaroo Island is currently recovering from</p> <p>A. earthquakes.</p> <p>B. avalanches.</p> <p>C. bushfires.</p> <p>D. volcanoes.</p> |
| <p>2. Why is Dominica called the "Caribbean's nature island"?</p> <p>A. for its waterfalls</p> <p>B. for its hot springs</p> <p>C. for its new resort</p> <p>D. both A and B</p> | <p>5. What does Julia Eskins contribute to the article?</p> <p>A. a description of a city in Austria</p> <p>B. details about a museum in Giza</p> <p>C. an explanation of a new theme park in Phuket</p> <p>D. a list of the animals you can see in Chyulu Hills.</p> |
| <p>3. Both beluga whales and polar bears</p> <p>A. call Churchill, Manitoba, their home.</p> <p>B. migrate through Churchill.</p> <p>C. spend the year in Churchill.</p> <p>D. spend their summers in the small bay town.</p> | <p>6. Which detail provides evidence of El Yunque's biodiversity?</p> <p>A. Puerto Rico is home to more than 240 plant species and 18 native bird species.</p> <p>B. There is a new visitor center at El Yunque.</p> <p>C. El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the United States National Forest Service.</p> <p>D. El Yunque is located in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.</p> |

7. If you could visit any of these places, which would it be? Why?
