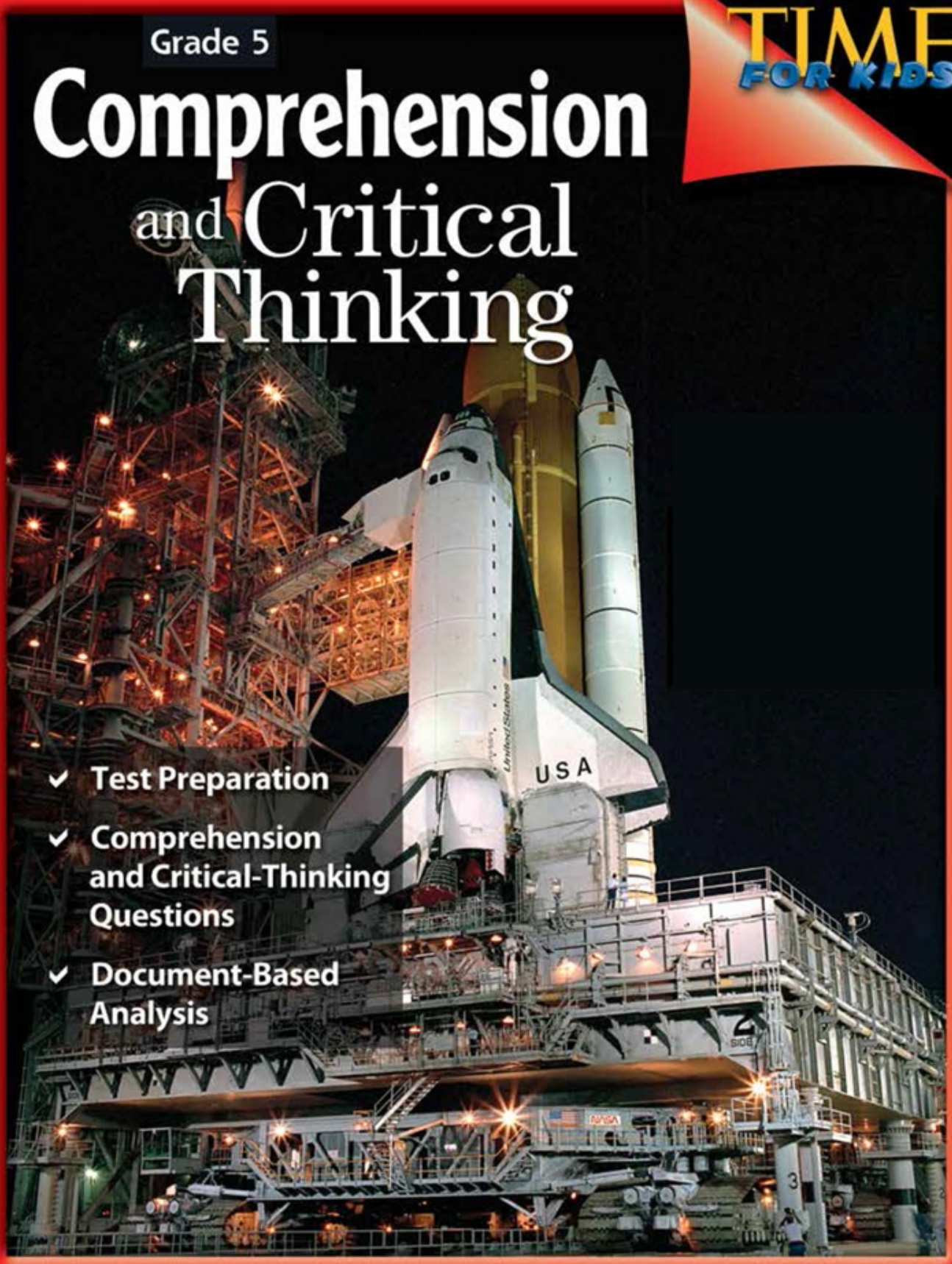
TIME FOR KIDS

Grade 5

Comprehension and Critical Thinking



- Test Preparation
- Comprehension and Critical-Thinking Questions
- Document-Based Analysis

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Shell Education

5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
http://www.shelleducation.com
ISBN 978-1-4258-0245-5

Reprinted 2013

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Appendix C: Answer Key

Directions: Read the article.

Earth Day Heroes

He Has a Bright Idea

Avery Hairston is lighting up people's lives. The 15-year-old from New York City created a charity called RelightNY. It helps people who struggle to pay their energy bills by giving them compact fluorescent light bulbs, which reduce long-term energy costs. They are also better for the environment than regular bulbs. "People who can afford the bulbs, which are a bit expensive, should buy them for themselves and supply them to others," Avery insists.

He Is Big on Recycling

Eli Kahn, 15, started Cartridges for a Cure to raise money for children's cancer research by recycling empty ink cartridges. Eli has raised $82,000 for Johns Hopkins Children's Center. "With a little time and effort, anything can get bigger," Eli says.

She Makes Water Safe to Drink

Kelydra Welcker, 17, is on a mission to make drinking water safer. She invented an easy way to remove the chemical C8 from her West Virginia town's water supply. C8 seeped into the water from a nearby industrial plant. "Clean water should be a given," Kelydra explains. "Everyone should have it."

She Combats Deforestation

Wangari Maathai, from Kenya, Africa, has been working for 30 years to save the environment. In 1977, she started a movement in Kenya to help combat deforestation. The program has planted more than 30 million trees in Africa. Her work earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

Now Maathai has invited the world to join her growing efforts. Last fall, she helped launch the Billion Tree Campaign. The United Nations program encourages people to plant trees in their communities, with the goal of planting one billion trees worldwide this year. Pledges to grow green have poured in, and more than nine million trees have been planted. Says Maathai, "This is something anybody can do."

Directions: Answer the questions. You may use the article.

1. What is RelightNY? Who created it?

_____

_____

_____

2. Summarize Kelydra Welcker's mission. What happened? What did she do? How did she do it? Explain the impact of her mission on those around her.

3. Why do you think Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize? Describe how her movement has changed the world.

4. Compose a fictional letter to your local representative requesting assistance in organizing a community tree-planting day. Remember, you are trying to organize a community event; therefore the goal of this letter should be to acquire all the information necessary to do so. Use the back of this page for your letter.

5. In your own words, describe how the people mentioned in this article are alike. What kind of people are they? Do they share a similar view of the world?

6. Is it possible for one person to make a difference? What is it about the people celebrated in the article that leads you to believe one person can or cannot make a difference?

What Can We Do?

In today's world, we have the opportunity to make choices that will impact our environment. Do you recycle? Do you conserve water? Do you help plant trees? Do you turn off the lights when you leave the room? Is your home as energy efficient as it could be? If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you are not alone! Many of us do not do enough to protect our environment. Maybe this is because we don't know where to start.

Did you know that if every household replaced just three 60-watt incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), we would reduce as much pollution as if we took 3.5 million cars off the roads? That's just one example of how we can make a big difference.

Use the table provided to compare the two types of bulbs. Then answer the questions below.

Incandescent Lightbulb	Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)
75 watt bulb used 6 hours/day = $12/year to operate	18 watt bulb used 6 hours/day = $3/year to operate
Less expensive to purchase	More expensive to purchase
Only 5–20 percent of energy used is converted to light; the rest is converted to heat	Uses up to $\frac{2}{3}$ less energy

1. Which type of bulb is the most energy efficient as well as the most cost effective over time?

2. What are the benefits of a CFL bulb compared to an incandescent bulb?

3. According to the chart above, how much money can a consumer save each year on operational costs by switching one bulb in his or her house to a CFL bulb? How much would the person save per year if he or she switched to 10 CFL bulbs?

Document-Based Extension Activities

Students may work independently, or the teacher may copy this page and cut out the activities and distribute them to the students for completion in small groups.

1. Make a list of three ways your class can work together to protect the environment. Then pick one and come up with a plan to make it happen. Prepare a presentation to share with the rest of class.	2. Create a pledge for your classmates to agree to. For example, urge them to replace at least one incandescent light bulb to a CFL bulb. If necessary, ask for others to donate extra CFL bulbs to those in need.
3. Interview teachers and other school employees to see what they do with their old ink cartridges. Do they recycle them? Do they donate them? If they are throwing	4. Write a letter to your city water department. Ask about your city's water supply. Is it safe to drink? What measures are being used to ensure that it remains safe to drink?

them away, tell them how they can recycle them.	Is there anything you can do to help your city?

Directions: Read the article.

Population Boom!

The United States reached a big milestone on October 17, 2006. According to the United States Census Bureau's population clock, at 7:46 A.M., the number of people in the country hit 300 million. The clock uses an estimation formula that ticks off a birth every seven seconds, a death every 13 seconds, and the addition of a new immigrant every 31 seconds. That equals one new American every 11 seconds.

Calculating the number of people in a large country is not an easy job. The Census Bureau counts the nation's population every 10 years. The last official census, taken in 2000, was conducted by mail, by telephone, and through in-person interviews. That tally was 281,421,906 people. Since then, the Census Bureau has used the population clock to predict growth.

My, How We've Grown

By any measure, the United States population has exploded in recent years. It is the third most populous country in the world, behind China and India, each of which has a population of more than 1 billion. The United State's first census, taken in 1790, registered 3.9 million people. It took until 1915 for the tally to reach 100 million. When the population hit 200 million in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson held a press conference to celebrate.

Americans will likely number 400 million in 2043. Many things could affect this estimate, including new immigration policies. If current trends keep up, the United States will continue to become more diverse. White, non-Hispanic people will still be the majority, at about 52 percent. About 22 percent of the population will be Hispanic. People of many races consider themselves Hispanic. African Americans will make up 14 percent of the population and Asians 7 percent. The United States population is expected to grow by about 1 percent each year. That's about the same as the growth rate for the entire world. There are 6.5 billion people on the planet.

Some people did not cheer the new United States milestone. They worry about the population boom. "Americans will be using so much more of our share of the world's resources and kicking so much more pollution into the air," said Charles Westoff, a population expert.

Of today's Americans, 34.3 million were born in a foreign country. That's 12 percent of the total population. Experts predict that this number will keep climbing, making the country more diverse.

Directions: Answer the questions. You may look at the article.

1. How often does the Census Bureau count the nation's population? When was the last census taken? When will the next census be conducted?

2. List the three most populous countries in the world in order.

3. In what year did the United States complete its first census? What were the results? Describe the growth that occurred from the year of the first census until 1967.

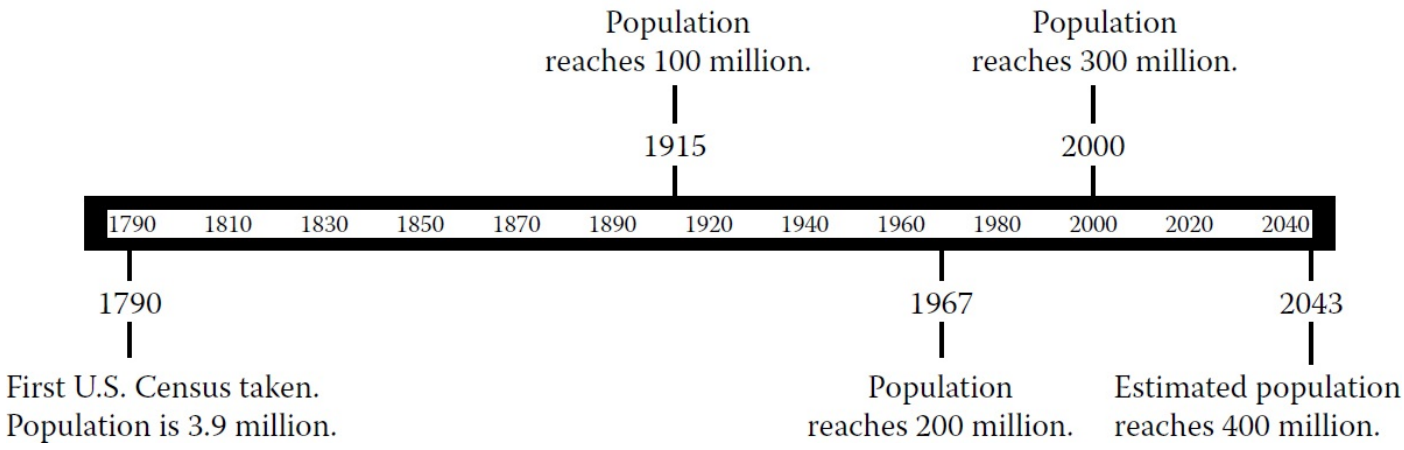
4. In October 2006, the United States population reached 300 million. Many people cheered and considered reaching that number a milestone. Other people, however, did not. Explain the feelings and fears of those who worry about this population boom.

5. What is the population estimate for Americans in 2043? How do you feel about that number? Do you have any concerns about our rapid population growth? Explain how the increase could affect you and your family.

6. Create a news article that describes your opinion on how the rise in population could affect our environment. Use the back of this page. You may need to research current environmental issues and concerns. **Hint:** Reread the quote by Charles Westoff in the second-to-last paragraph of the article.

300 Million and Counting

United States Population Milestones



1. Write two questions that can be answered by using the time line.

2. Approximately how long did it take for the United States population to increase from 3.9 million to 100 million?

3. Do you think it is possible to know the exact day the United States population reached 300 million? From what you have been told about the United States census process, discuss your opinion on its accuracy. If necessary, you may do more census research to answer this question.

4. Discuss some of the changes that take place during population growth. Think about housing, education, technology, transportation, environmental issues, etc.

Document-Based Extension Activities

Students may work independently, or the teacher may copy this page and cut out the activities and distribute them to the students for completion in small groups.

1. We now know that China has a population that exceeds one billion. What do you think life is like in China? Imagine how our lives would be different with over a billion people living in the United States. Discuss the areas of your life you think would be the most affected by such a large population. Think of traffic, environmental concerns, housing, water supply, etc.	2. Think about population growth. Is growth always positive? What social, environmental, and economic effects can continued growth have on the United States? Create a brief presentation that discusses the potential problems you have identified.
3. Why do you think immigration policy and trends are such important factors in tracking and predicting population growth? How do we account for the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States? You may want to research this topic more on the Internet, or ask your social	4. What does the term *melting pot* mean to you? Explain why the United States is considered a melting pot. What does that mean? What are the benefits and risks

studies teacher to participate in your discussion.	associated with living in a melting pot?

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