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How to Use This Product

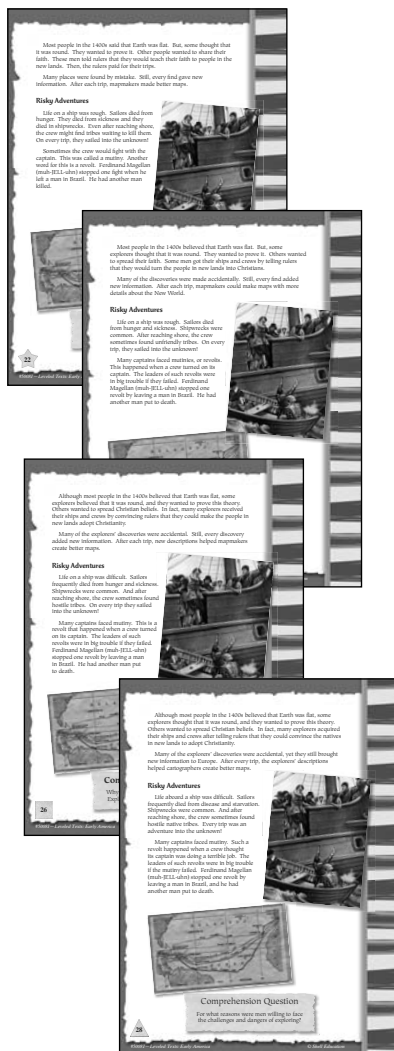
Readability Chart



Title of the Text	Star	Circle	Square	Triangle
Exploring the New World	1.7	3.2	5.2	6.8
Explorers	1.5	3.1	5.1	6.9
American Indian Tribes of the East	1.7	3.2	5.0	7.0
American Indian Tribes of the Plains	1.8	3.1	5.0	6.9
American Indian Tribes of the West	1.7	3.1	5.1	7.0
The New England Colonies	2.0	3.4	5.2	7.1
The Middle Colonies	1.9	3.3	5.1	6.7
The Southern Colonies	1.6	3.5	5.1	6.8
Slavery in the New World	1.8	3.3	5.0	7.0
Causes of the American Revolution	1.9	3.2	5.1	6.9
The American Revolution	2.2	3.3	5.0	6.9
The Declaration of Independence	1.6	3.0	4.9	6.8
Early Congresses	1.9	3.1	5.0	7.0
The Constitution of the United States	2.1	3.3	4.9	6.5
The Bill of Rights	2.1	3.3	5.0	7.1

How to Use This Product (cont.)

Components of the Product



Primary Sources

- Each level of text includes multiple primary sources. These documents, photographs, and illustrations add interest to the texts. The historical images also serve as visual support for second language learners. They make the texts more context rich and bring the texts to life.

Comprehension Questions

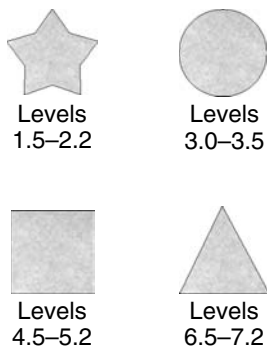
- Each level of text includes one comprehension question. Like the texts, the comprehension questions were leveled by an expert. They are written to allow all students to be successful within a whole-class discussion. The questions for the same topic are closely linked so that the teacher can ask a question on that topic and all students will be able to answer. The lowest-level students might focus on the facts, while the upper-level students can delve deeper into the meanings.
- Teachers may want to base their whole-class question on the square level questions. Those were the starting points for all the other leveled questions.

The Levels

- There are 15 topics in this book. Each topic is leveled to four different reading levels. The images and fonts used for each level within a topic look the same.
- Behind each page number, you'll see a shape. These shapes indicate the reading levels of each piece so that you can make sure students are working with the correct texts. The reading levels fall into the ranges indicated to the left. See the chart on page 18 for specific levels of each text.

Leveling Process

- The texts in this series are taken from the Primary Source Readers kits published by Teacher Created Materials. A reading expert went through the texts and leveled each one to create four distinct reading levels.
- After that, a special education expert and an English language learner expert carefully reviewed the lowest two levels and suggested changes that would help their students comprehend the texts better.
- The texts were then leveled one final time to ensure the editorial changes made during the process kept them within the ranges described to the left.



The American Revolution

It was April 1775. British General Thomas Gage went to Boston. He planned to find and take the guns that belonged to the colonists. He also wanted their gunpowder. The Sons of Liberty found out about this plan. Three men got on horses. Paul Revere was one of these men. The men rode in the dark. They told colonists that the British were coming. Some colonists got ready to fight in a few minutes. These men were called “minutemen.”

The British soldiers met the colonists in Lexington, Massachusetts. No one knows who shot first. But it is called the “shot heard ’round the world.” This shot began the American Revolution. Eight colonists died. One British soldier was hurt.



Important Battles

The British made General George Washington's leave from New York. Washington's army went to Pennsylvania. Washington wanted to catch the British off guard. He set out with 2,500 troops. It was Christmas Day 1776. They went across the river at night. The British soldiers did not know this. They were shocked when Washington's army showed up in Trenton, New Jersey. The colonists quickly took the town.



The Battle of Saratoga was very important. It changed the war. British General John Burgoyne crossed Lake Champlain. Then, he went down the Hudson River. He met the colonists in Saratoga, New York. The British troops fought hard. They fought for a month. Yet, the Americans won this battle.

France saw that the colonists could win. France and Great Britain did not like each other. So, France chose to help the Americans. They sent men to fight. They sent cash, too.



The War Ends

The last battle was at Yorktown, Virginia. General George Washington and the French navy blocked off the area. Then British General Charles Cornwallis was trapped. He could not get the things he needed. His men did not have enough food. His men did not have enough gunpowder. On October 11, 1781, the British gave up. The war ended. The colonists had done it. They were free!

British and American leaders went to France. They agreed to stop fighting. They made an agreement. It was called the Treaty of Paris. They signed it on September 3, 1783.

Comprehension Question

Why did France decide to help in the war?

The American Revolution

In April 1775, British General Thomas Gage went to Boston. He was to find and take the colonists' guns. He also wanted their gunpowder. The Sons of Liberty found out about his plan. Three men, including Paul Revere, got on horses and rode through the dark. They told the people that the British were coming. Colonists called "minutemen" got ready to fight. It took them just minutes to get ready.

The British soldiers and the colonists met in Lexington, Massachusetts. No one knows who fired the first shot. It is called the "shot heard 'round the world" because this battle started the American Revolution. Eight colonists were killed. Just one British soldier was hurt.



Important Battles

General George Washington decided to catch the British soldiers, or redcoats, off guard. The British had pushed his army back from New York to Pennsylvania. Washington set out with 2,500 troops. On Christmas Day 1776, they crossed the Delaware River at night. The British did not expect this. Washington's army landed in Trenton, New Jersey. They soon took over the city.



The Battle of Saratoga was the turning point of the war. British General John Burgoyne wanted to take Albany, New York. So, he crossed Lake Champlain. Then he went down the Hudson River. He met colonial fighters in Saratoga, New York. The British fought for a whole month. Still, they lost the fight. This showed France that the colonists could win. France and Britain had long been enemies. France chose to help the colonists. They sent money and soldiers.

The War Ends

The last big battle of the war was at Yorktown, Virginia. General George Washington and the French navy set up a blockade at Yorktown. This meant they closed off the area. British General Charles Cornwallis could not get supplies for his troops. The troops were running out of food. They were running out of gunpowder. On October 11, 1781, the British gave up. The war was over.

Later, a treaty was made. British and American leaders met in France. They signed the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783.

Comprehension Question

How did the French help the colonists in the war?

The American Revolution

In April 1775, British General Thomas Gage went to Boston. He was to find and take the colonists' guns and gunpowder. Paul Revere and the other Sons of Liberty found out his plan. Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott got on their horses and rode through the night. They told the colonists that the British were coming. Colonists called "minutemen" were ready to fight within minutes of getting these warnings.

The British soldiers and the colonial militia met in Lexington, Massachusetts. No one knows who fired the first shot. This is called the "shot heard 'round the world" because this battle started the American Revolution. Eight colonists were killed. Only one British soldier was hurt.



Important Battles

On Christmas Day 1776, General George Washington decided to catch the redcoats off guard. The British had pushed the Continental (kon-tuh-NEN-tuhl) Army back from New York to Pennsylvania. Washington set out with 2,500 troops. They crossed the Delaware River in the dark. The British did not expect them. When Washington's army landed in Trenton, New Jersey, they quickly took over the city.



Most people think of the Battle of Saratoga as the war's turning point. British General John Burgoyne wanted to take Albany, New York. So, he crossed Lake Champlain and traveled down the Hudson River. He met colonial fighters in Saratoga, New York. The British fought for an entire month, but they lost the battle. This victory by the colonial army showed France that the colonists could win. The British had long been enemies of the French. France decided to help the colonists. The French sent money and soldiers to help the Americans.

The War Ends

The last major battle of the war was at Yorktown, Virginia. General Washington and the French created a trap for British General Charles Cornwallis. The colonists and the French navy set up a blockade at Yorktown. This meant that Cornwallis was unable to get supplies. On October 11, 1781, he surrendered (suh-REN-duhrd) his armies. The war was over.

Later, a treaty was made between Britain and the colonists. The Treaty of Paris was signed in France on September 3, 1783.



Comprehension Question

How did France affect the outcome of the war?

The American Revolution

In April 1775, British General Thomas Gage was sent to Boston to locate and take possession of the colonists' stockpile of guns and gunpowder. Paul Revere and the other Sons of Liberty discovered his plan. Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott jumped on their horses. They rode through the night to warn the colonists that the British were coming. Colonists called "minutemen" were ready to fight within minutes of getting these warnings.

The British soldiers and the colonial militia met in Lexington, Massachusetts. Nobody knows who fired the first shot. This is called the "shot heard 'round the world" because this battle started the American Revolution. Eight colonists were killed, while only one British soldier was injured.



Important Battles

On Christmas Day 1776, General George Washington made a major move to catch the redcoats off guard. The British had pushed the Continental (kon-tuh-NEN-tuhl) Army back from New York to Pennsylvania. Washington set out with 2,500 troops. They crossed the Delaware River under cover of darkness. The British were not expecting them. When Washington's army landed in Trenton, New Jersey, they quickly captured the city.



Most people think of the Battle of Saratoga as the war's turning point. British General John Burgoyne wanted to capture Albany, New York, so he crossed Lake Champlain and traveled down the Hudson River. He met colonial fighters in Saratoga, New York. The British fought for an entire month but lost the battle. This important victory by the colonial army showed France that the colonists could win the war. The British had long been enemies of the French. France decided to help the colonists. The French sent money and soldiers to assist the Americans.

The War Ends

The last major battle of the war was at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 11, 1781. General Washington and the French decided to create a trap for British General Charles Cornwallis. The colonists and the French navy set up a blockade at Yorktown, and Cornwallis was unable to get necessary supplies. He surrendered (suh-REN-duhrd) his armies. The war was over.



Afterwards, a treaty was made between Great Britain and the colonists. The Treaty of Paris was signed in France on September 3, 1783.

Comprehension Question

In what ways did France change the course of the war?

How to Use This Product

Readability Chart



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Correlation to Standards

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation mandates that all states adopt academic standards that identify the skills students will learn in kindergarten through grade 12. While many states had already adopted academic standards prior to NCLB, the legislation set requirements to ensure the standards were detailed and comprehensive. In many states today, teachers are required to demonstrate how their lessons meet state standards. State standards are used in the development of Shell Education products, so educators can be assured that they meet the academic requirements of each state.

Shell Education is committed to producing educational materials that are research and standards based. In this effort, all products are correlated to the academic standards of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. A correlation report customized for your state can be printed directly from the following website: <http://www.shelleducation.com>. If you require assistance in printing correlation reports, please contact Customer Service at 1-877-777-3450.

McREL Compendium

Shell Education uses the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Compendium to create standards correlations. Each year, McREL analyzes state standards and revises the compendium. By following this procedure, they are able to produce a general compilation of national standards. The social studies standards on which the texts in this book focus are correlated to state standards at <http://www.shelleducation.com>.