Directions: Make sure you have reviewed the scoring rules in the Acadience Assessment Manual and have them available. Say these specific directions to the students:

1. Before handing out the worksheets, say *I am going to give you a worksheet. When you get your worksheet, please write your name at the top and put your pencil down.* Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure each student has the appropriate worksheet.

   When all of the students are ready, say *You are going to read a story with some missing words. For each missing word there will be a box with three words. Circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. Look at Practice 1.*

   *Listen. After playing in the dirt, Sam went (pause) home, summer, was (pause) to wash her hands. You should circle the word “home” because “home” makes the most sense in the story. Listen. After playing in the dirt, Sam went home to wash her hands.*

   *Now it is your turn. Read Practice 2 silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. When you are done, put your pencil down.*

   Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down. If necessary, after 30 seconds say *Put your pencil down.*

2. As soon as all students have their pencils down, say *Listen. On her way home, she (pause) chair, sleep, saw (pause) an ice cream truck. You should have circled “saw” because “saw” makes the most sense in the story. Listen. On her way home, she saw an ice cream truck.*

   *When I say “begin,” turn the page over and start reading the story silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. Ready? Begin.*

   Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”

3. Monitor students to ensure they are reading and circling the words. Use the reminders as needed.

4. At the end of 3 minutes, stop your stopwatch and say *Stop. Put your pencil down.* Collect all of the Maze worksheet packets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>3 minutes. Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reminders</td>
<td>If the student starts reading the passage out loud, say <em>Remember to read the story silently.</em> (Repeat as often as needed.)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>If the student is not working on the task, say <em>Remember to circle the word in each box that makes the most sense in the story.</em> (Repeat as often as needed.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If the student asks you to provide a word for them or, in general, for help with the task, say <em>Just do your best.</em> (Repeat as often as needed.)</td>
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A Change of Plans

The afternoon was cooling off as the dinner hour approached. The family was sitting in the middle of a beautiful garden at Hot Springs State Park in Wyoming. Shannon, who was going into the fifth grade, was eager to make plans for the next day. Billy, who would be in the third grade, was still thinking about the bison herd they had visited that morning.

“They had the coolest beards, Dad,” Billy said. “And they were enormous. I didn't expect them to be so huge.”

“They are certainly very powerful beasts. There's no doubt about it,” their father replied.

Shannon said she really liked the bison calves as well, but she wasn't as interested in bison as her brother. She had something else on her mind. She was afraid that if she didn't get everyone thinking about tomorrow, her mom and dad would come up with something boring to do on their last day at the park. Shannon asked her parents what they planned on doing for the rest of their time at the park.
After thinking about it for a minute, Dad suggested that a soak in the hot springs' mineral water might be nice. Billy and Shannon gave each other a familiar look. Billy immediately began complaining about that plan. Shannon took another approach. She explained that while a soak might be fun for her parents, she and her brother would rather do something more active.

To Billy and Shannon's delight, their mom agreed. She said that since they would be spending a lot of time in the car in the next few days, some physical activity would be a good idea. She suggested going to the Dinosaur Museum. There they could see partial dinosaur skeletons that had been found in the park. Even better, a park ranger had told Mom that visitors could actually dig for dinosaur fossils near the museum!

Everyone decided that a trip to the museum was the perfect plan, especially since the Mesozoic era, when dinosaurs lived, was one of Billy and Shannon's favorite school subjects. During this time, many thousands of years ago, dinosaurs had been very common in Wyoming. Conditions
around the hot springs were perfect for the dinosaurs' bones to fossilize, or turn into rock-like material. At the museum, workers would show the family where and how to dig for the best results.

Shannon thought that sounded way better than soaking in a pool, and Billy was convinced of it, too. He figured that if he could find a real dinosaur bone, he would be able to go back to school with the best summer vacation report ever. He didn't want to wait another moment. He was ready to go to the museum right away!
Bringing the Mail

When you think about different careers, do you ever imagine what it would be like to be a mail carrier? I didn't, until I met a remarkable man who comes to our house several times a week. His name is Al and he has been our mail carrier for the past ten years.

If you think that going from house to house slipping letters into mailboxes sounds like an easy job, let me describe Al's work. Our family calls him “the Amazing Al.” He works under difficult conditions. The houses in our community are a mile or more from one another, and the temperatures are often extreme. We live in a hot, dry, remote desert area of southern Arizona.

Al travels an established route from house to house in our community, delivering and collecting mail. On a typical workday, he begins at four in the morning at the Yavapai County Post Office, forty miles away. He arranges all the mail in the order in which he'll deliver it. Then he makes sure that he has plenty of stamps and other materials for customers who need them.
Because the distances between houses in our area are so great, Al drives his truck on the route. To walk the route would take several days. He usually has a few minutes to stop for a visit at our house. In the hottest months of the year, my mother always has a tall glass of cool lemonade waiting for him. My sister and I sometimes give him cookies we have baked. I like to talk to him about his job. He tells me that he enjoys his work. He likes it even when it means delivering mail on blistering hot days or in the midst of blinding windstorms.

In addition to delivering and collecting mail, Al gives out change-of-address cards and other forms, and answers questions about mail service. He also sells stamps and money orders. He even collects money for parcels and certified letters that his customers send.

Al participates in a community service for elderly or ill persons in our area, too. Even if there's no mail to collect or deliver, he knocks on doors to check on these people, to make sure they're all right. If they need anything, Al will notify someone who can help them.
month, he knocked on the door of our \[\text{neighbor}\]. When she didn’t answer the door, Al \[\text{went}\] around to the back yard where he \[\text{found}\] her sitting on the ground. She had \[\text{fallen}\] off a ladder while clearing debris from the \[\text{gutters}\] and broken her ankle. Al acted as a \[\text{support}\] as she hopped indoors.

He also \[\text{made}\] sure that she got the help she \[\text{needed}\].

When Al is finished with his \[\text{route}\], he returns to the post office. He \[\text{sorts}\] the mail he has \[\text{gathered}\] and \[\text{deposits}\] the money he has collected from \[\text{selling}\] stamps or accepting parcels to mail.

Another long workday is over.
Why to Save

Jeremy finished collecting all the money he could find from various corners of his room. He sorted out the crumpled bills and stacks of assorted change and counted them. When he calculated his grand total of eight dollars and forty-seven cents, Jeremy sighed. Today he was supposed to go to the bank with his sister Angelina to open a savings account, but he didn't think he had enough money to make the trip worthwhile.

As Jeremy walked into the kitchen, where Angelina and his mom were having breakfast, he was still frowning. Angelina noticed he looked glum. “What’s wrong?” she asked.

“I only have about eight and a half dollars,” said Jeremy, “so what’s the point of putting that in the bank?”

Jeremy’s mom put down her coffee on the countertop and said, “Well, you're supposed to receive your allowance today.”
“Yeah,” said Jeremy, “but if I put that money in the bank, I won’t be able to spend it when I need it.”

“Do you ever have anything left over from your allowance after you’ve made all your necessary purchases?” asked his mom.

“Sometimes I have a little,” said Jeremy, “but it’s never enough to buy anything good with, so I usually just buy a pack of gum or something.”

“What would you think about saving that money instead?” his mom asked.

“Oh, it’s hardly anything,” said Jeremy. “It’s certainly not worth taking to the bank.”

Angelina said, “You’d be surprised how small change can really add up. For example, even if you only saved a couple of dollars a month, over a year that would be around 25 dollars.”

Jeremy admitted that Angelina had a point, but he wondered why he couldn’t just drop
the money in a piggybank.

“Well,” said Angelina, “I know I’m extremely likely to spend money I keep in my room, often on unimportant things I don’t really need. Depositing it in the bank helps me avoid impulse buys. You may be better at resisting that than I am, but banks are a good option for other reasons, too.”

“Like what?” asked Jeremy.

“Banks are insured, which means your money is protected there,” said Angelina.

“You don’t have to worry about robberies or accidents.”

His mom said, “Also, you earn interest in a bank, which means your investment increases annually. If you put five dollars in a piggybank and manage to keep from spending it, a year later you’ll still have five dollars. If you deposit it in a bank, at the end of the year it will have increased in value. The longer you keep it in the bank, the more you’ll have, and you can
Jeremy was convinced, and agreed to go with Angelina to the bank after finishing breakfast.

“It's great that you're starting to save now,” said his mom. “Even if you don't have much to invest yet, it's an important habit to get into for the future.”
Being a Lifeguard

In Caroline's opinion, no one was a better lifeguard than her older brother, Max. She thought he was a natural for that position, constantly prepared to blast his whistle at unsafe behavior or jump in to rescue a swimmer in trouble. Caroline had always looked up to Max, and not just because he was older. Caroline looked up to Max because he had always possessed a certain air of authority. He had a way of seeming to be in charge without being a bully.

Max had learned lifeguarding skills at the local community center. After passing a final examination, Max became a certified lifeguard. Soon after receiving his certification, he was hired to work at the neighborhood public pool. Caroline visited her brother one day while he was on duty and brought him a sandwich that she had made. Max entertained Caroline with a silly story about his first day as a lifeguard.

After chatting with her brother, Caroline went swimming with a group of her friends. When it was time for Max to finish his shift, Caroline saw her brother descend the ladder from the
stand. He walked to the pool storage room to hang up his whistle and complete his schedule.

While Max was in the storage room, a gust of wind suddenly slammed the door to the room shut.

From the pool, Caroline could see the doorknob turning, but the door didn't budge. After a minute had passed, and Max still had not opened the door, Caroline realized that her brother might be stuck. No one else at the pool seemed to notice. Another lifeguard was already perched in the stand, twirling her whistle on a string. The swimmers and sunbathers seemed to be enjoying themselves.

"I think Max needs some help," Caroline said to her friends. She clambered out of the pool and went to the door of the storage room. "Max, are you all right?" she called.

"I think I got locked in here when the gust of wind slammed the door shut," Max called back.

"I'll get you out," Caroline said confidently. "I'll find the pool manager and I'll have
him come and unlock the door.”

Caroline walked rapidly to the pool manager’s office. She explained the situation to the manager.

“You’re Max’s sister?” the manager asked. Caroline nodded, and he said, “Then from what Max has told me about you, I know I can trust you with this. Here’s the key.”

Caroline thanked the manager and hurried back to the storage room. When she managed to unlock the door, Max seemed very relieved. “It was hot and humid in there,” he told Caroline.

The two returned the key to the pool manager. Caroline went to say goodbye to her friends and she and Max walked home together. Max thanked his sister for rescuing him. Caroline smiled to herself, pleased with the knowledge that, on that day, she had been a lifeguard’s lifeguard.
Books for Children

Think back to some of the books you read as a small child. Those books may have seemed easy to read, but that does not mean they were easy to write. In fact, writing books for children can be harder in many ways than writing books for adults. There are a lot of things authors must think about when writing a book for children. For example, authors must think about the age of their audience and determine the skills and interests of children at that age. What if an author wants to write books for infants and toddlers? Children in this age range are not really old enough to understand long stories. So, baby books often have just one brightly colored drawing or photograph on each page. Baby books might contain nursery rhymes, silly songs, or lullabies. Sometimes baby books have pop-up art, or pages with different textures they can touch and feel. The main idea is for these books to stimulate the baby's growing mind. Many authors choose to write stories for children who are a little older. These authors...
have to approach the task a bit differently. Books for preschool children are often called picture books. Family members or teachers usually read these books aloud to children. The large pictures on each page help guide children through the story, which is often very simple. In most cases, a good artist is as important as a good writer in producing picture books.

Authors create books known as easy readers for children who are just starting to read on their own. While these books still have a few illustrations, the format is more like that found in books for older readers. The words might be easier to recognize and the stories are broken up into short chapters.

Transition books bridge the gap between easy readers and chapter books. The stories are longer and are intended for children to read on their own. These books are smaller in size than easy readers, and drawings are limited to one every few pages. Authors of books at this level must keep a few things in mind. Their readers understand the rules of storytelling, but...
they tend to lose interest quickly. For this reason, stories in transition books must be lively and full of action. Also, authors may end chapters in the middle of important scenes. This tactic encourages young readers to keep turning the pages.

After reading transition books, children are ready to move up to chapter books. These are the kinds of books they will read and enjoy for the rest of their lives. And then, someday, they may get to share their favorite children's books with a new generation of young readers.
Ping-Pong

The ping-pong ball bounces once. Then, with a relaxed but controlled swing, a paddle strikes it, sending it soaring back over the net. It bounces again. Another paddle connects with it, and the ball is shot forward once more. Eventually, the ball will collide with the net, overshoot the table, or miss the paddle. The game being played is table tennis, also called ping-pong, and it is a fun sport for all ages.

Ping-pong is played on a table that is longer than it is wide. The table is divided in half by the net, which runs across the table like a mesh fence. Players stand on either end of the table and hit the ball to each other. The ball is small, hollow, and very light, and it is hit with rubber paddles with short wooden handles. Casual players may simply tap the ball gently to their opponents. More competitive players slam the ball across with speed and topspin to try to make it hard to hit back.

Watching a ping-pong tournament may make you dizzy, as the ball zooms back and forth.
rapidly across the net many times during the game. A game is divided into a series of points, each of which begins with a serve. The serving player tosses the ball in the air and then hits it so that it bounces on the near side of the table, continues over the net, and then hits the opponent's side. If the ball does not make it through all these steps, the server's opponent wins the point. The server is trying to hit the ball to make it difficult to return. If the serve is successful, then the returning player's paddle must strike the ball before it bounces a second time. The returning ball cannot touch the returner's side of the table, but must sail across the net to hit the server's side. If the return is not successful, the server wins the point. If it is a legal return, the server must now return the ball. Play continues until one player makes an error, and the opponent wins the point.

Since 2001, official matches of ping-pong have been won by the first player to win eleven points. In these matches, players serve twice in a row before switching. Before 2001, matches were
played to twenty-one points. In these longer games, the person who serves switches every five points. Many recreational players prefer to follow the older rules. In either version, the winner must win by two points.

Ping-pong requires quick reflexes and good coordination. Since strength does not provide much of an advantage in ping-pong, it is a game in which players of all ages and sizes can challenge each other fairly. All over the world, people enjoy ping-pong, concentrating intently on shooting the ball over the net, onto the table, and, they hope, out of reach.
A Moment in the History of Tennis

Imagine that you are a famous tennis player. How do you think you would prepare for a big match, one that would be watched by people around the world? Perhaps you would prepare by hitting balls with a partner. Maybe you would imagine yourself in the match hitting every ball smoothly. If you were Althea Gibson, you would practice on the court every day. Then you would write a speech to give when you accepted the winning trophy, and choose a gown to wear at the winner’s ball.

Althea Gibson was the first African American to win Wimbledon, a well-known tennis tournament held in England each year. The year that Gibson won, the weather during the match was unusually hot and muggy. As the temperature rose above one hundred degrees, many people in the stands fainted. However, on the tennis court below, Gibson didn’t let the heat bother her. She even claimed that it helped her muscles.

Gibson also wasn’t bothered by the presence of an important visitor in the stands, Queen

Maze Scoring Key G5/Progress Monitoring 7
Elizabeth of England. When the final match was over, Gibson went to the trophy table. Queen came on the court wearing a pink and white silk suit, pearls, and gloves. The queen spoke to Gibson and congratulated her, and then handed Gibson the trophy. Gibson knew that it was an honor to receive the trophy from the queen. Very few winners had received trophies from queens in the past and Gibson was the first player to be honored by Queen Elizabeth. When Gibson arrived at the ball that night, people walking past stopped to cheer for her as she got out of her car. More people cheered as she walked inside and sat at the head table. In her speech, Gibson thanked the people who had supported her over the years. She said, “This is the hour I will remember always as the crowning conclusion to a long and wonderful journey.” Later, Gibson returned to her home in New York City. When she stepped from the plane onto a red carpet, the crowd of people who had come to greet her went wild with excitement. Later, she arrived at her childhood home. Her neighbors came out of their apartments to welcome...
The next day, a parade was held in Gibson's honor. People lined the streets of Broadway just to see and cheer for the famous athlete. They watched bands and color guards from the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Gibson, who rode in an open car, waved and blew kisses to her fans. “It's amazing,” she said over and over. The people lining the sidewalks probably thought, “What an amazing athlete.”
Great Salt Lake State Park

Can you imagine swimming in a lake and floating on the water without any effort? That's exactly what happens to many people who visit Great Salt Lake State Park. Great Salt Lake, which is located in Utah, is the largest body of water between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean. The lake is actually an inland saltwater sea, and it is even saltier than an ocean. It is the salt in the water that keeps swimmers afloat.

Many different factors contribute to the salinity of the lake. Salt dissolves easily in water. The land around Great Salt Lake has rocks that contain this mineral. Rain and melting snow cause the salt to be released from the rocks. The water then carries the salt into streams and rivers, which flow into Great Salt Lake.

Salt and other minerals are carried away from most lakes by rivers and streams. But when salt goes into Great Salt Lake, it stays there because no streams or rivers drain its waters. Of course, water evaporates from the lake, but fresh water does not replace it.
The **size** of Great Salt Lake varies. During dry spells, the **lake** gets smaller and saltier.

When there **is** a lot of rain, it gets **larger** and the salt is less concentrated.

Great Salt Lake State Park **is** located about sixteen miles west of the **state capital, Salt Lake City.** Many visitors flock to the **park** to enjoy water sports. Sailing, motor **boating**, and kayaking are popular. Sailors enjoy **being** able to sail for miles across the **surface** of the large lake, while kayakers **enjoy** exploring the miles of shoreline. People in **motorboats** may explore the lake to discover **sparkling** beaches or stop in the middle of the lake for a **swim**.

People who enjoy these water sports **must** keep an eye on the weather. *Because* the water in the lake is **very** shallow, winds sometimes cause the water to **become** rough. The salty **water** of the lake **can** also damage the motors of motorboats. This **damage** can be avoided if people remember to **rinse** the salt from their boats with **fresh** water.

Other visitors come to hike and **enjoy** the park's wildlife. Great Salt Lake State Park is
known as a great place for bird watching. In fact, more than two hundred species of birds can be seen in the park throughout the year. People also love to watch the magnificent purple and gold clouds often appear at sunset.

Great Salt Lake has fascinated people for centuries. Some early explorers were convinced that the lake was part of the Pacific Ocean. Others looked for a river that connected the lake to the ocean. Some settlers even told stories about a monster with a huge head that lived in the lake!

This extraordinary body of water continues to inspire mystery and wonder today.
Trace Lake State Park

Next Saturday, everyone in my scout troop will be meeting at Trace Lake State Park at noon for food and fun with our families. I'm really excited because this weekend is one of my favorite events of the whole year. There are tons of fun activities at the park like soccer, face painting, hikes, nature walks, and even a fishing contest. Both parents and children can come and enjoy the beautiful park. The lake even has boats to rent for all types of water sports.

My favorite part about the lake, though, is the fishing. The park also has fishing equipment and hiring ramps. I don't need a license to fish because I'm under sixteen years old, but my dad had to get one so he can fish, too.

After a long day of fishing and fun, my family spends the night in one of the ten air-conditioned cabins at the lake. The cabins hold as many as twelve people. We always share a cabin with my friend Zev's family. The cabins have everything you need: towels, linens, and basic cooking supplies, including an outdoor grill. We just relax and make dinner while enjoying...
the view of the lake from the back porch.

The next day, my dad always organizes a group picnic with the other scout families. There are more than twenty picnic sites in the state park, but we always go to my favorite spot on the south side of the lake. I think it has the best view. Plus, it has a picnic pavilion with lots of tables and a grill. Using the area requires an advance reservation, which my dad always makes months ahead of time.

Another great part about Trace Lake State Park is its twenty-five miles of trails. My mom encourages my sister and I to do a lot of hiking. Even though hiking isn't my favorite activity, I don't mind. The trails wander through dense hardwood forests and dank swamps. From all my years of scouting, I know the names of most of the wildlife and vegetation common to the area. Because the trails go into remote areas, I always make sure an adult comes with me and my friends when I hike.
An important scouting principle is to remember to be courteous and exercise safety while hiking. It is always better to hike with a group of friends and carry a cell phone and flashlight to use in case of an emergency. When we hike at the park, we always pace ourselves so that we can finish the hike before it is dark outside. We are also extra careful not to bother the animals or vegetation. If we take food, we always remember to carry all garbage back to the cabin for appropriate disposal.
Coach Jenny

Some things don't turn out the way you would expect. My first day as a swim coach is a good example of this. I learned a big lesson that day, which is that I have a lot to learn, especially when it comes to coaching kids.

For several years, I swam with teams guided by coaches. The coach I most admired was Jan MacDonald. I admired her for her kindness, her enthusiasm and her wisdom. I especially loved her ability to inspire me to achieve more than I could've ever done on my own. I wanted to be like her, which naturally led to my wanting to be a swim coach.

Coach Mac said that her job was to create the right conditions for learning and to keep her athletes motivated. As I watched her coach, I began to see all of her various roles. Coach Mac was a teacher, friend, mentor, demonstrator, advisor, supporter, cheerleader, counselor, and organizer.

When I became a teenager, Coach Mac let me help her coach children during the summers. I
was “Coach Jenny” to the girls and boys. This made me feel proud and humble at the same time.

During these practices, Coach Mac would point out to me how important it is to communicate well with swimmers of all ages. “Never talk down to a swimmer, regardless of his or her age,” she told me. Coach Mac was an expert at maintaining authority without seeming bossy. All the swimmers respected her.

One day Coach Mac needed me to lead the kids’ workout because she’d caught the flu. In a weak voice, she dictated the morning’s workout to me over the phone. She told me, before hanging up, that she had absolute confidence in my skills and that I’d do a fine job.

Well, in spite of Coach Mac’s confidence, I didn’t do such a great job. One of the boys stubbed his toe and cried so loudly that it frightened some of the other swimmers. Then, when it was time to begin the workout, the swimmers scattered like marbles around the pool deck. I finally had to blow my whistle loudly to get them to pay attention.
After that, I asked them to practice kicking in the water. Several of them protested and refused, something they never did when Coach Mac was leading the workout. And for the final insult, just when the kids were actually doing what I asked of them, it began to rain. I had to hustle everyone out of the pool.

I was so exhausted after this that I had to go home and take a nap. Obviously, it takes time to become a good swim coach, or even a passable one. I already had a lot of respect for Coach Mac, but after this experience, I have even more.
Park Rangers

The National Park System was founded to make sure that the most beautiful land in the U.S. would be preserved for the use of park visitors. The government created parks open to the public on land with mountain ranges, wild rivers, forests, and other natural features. However, this was only the first step in making a park system.

The park workers built roads and trails so that people could easily travel through the wild land. They needed to make sure that the animals as well as the vegetation living within the parks were protected. One way to do this was by teaching visitors about the land and the creatures that lived there. Park rangers were hired to do this job. Rangers are women and men who work in the National Parks, far away from towns and cities. Many live in or near the park where they work to avoid a lengthy commute.

Rangers dress in uniforms to help visitors find them. Helping people learn more about the National Parks is one of the rangers' primary duties. Rangers also police and protect the parks.
They enforce the speed limits on the roads that go through the parks and assign camping spots to visitors who want to stay the night. They even make certain that the visitors know how to control their campfires. If a forest fire does start, park rangers help keep the fire from getting bigger. If a person is sick or injured in the park, rangers perform first aid.

Park rangers love the land where they work. Many of them studied wildlife biology in college. This helps them teach visitors about the park's plants and animals. Rangers lead nature walks around many parks. They tell visitors the names of plants, fungi, and animals that they find along the trail.

Visitors can learn about the park's history from park rangers. The rangers often share stories about people who lived there many years ago. Rangers may also be able to show visitors ancient dwellings, tools, or pottery.

Many visitors' centers have exhibits that tell people about the natural features that are found.
in the park. These centers often show photos of the plants and animals that live there. Most people go to the visitors’ center when they first arrive at the park. The rangers are in charge of these centers.

Park rangers do their best to help visitors enjoy the land that was preserved for them. They believe that they must teach the visitors how delicate the parks are. Their goal is to help people see how the many pieces of the National Parks all fit together. This helps visitors feel a greater sense of responsibility when enjoying these fragile areas.
Old Mill State Park

Over a hundred years ago, the Larson family settled in what is now the state of Minnesota.

Braving the sometimes harsh weather, they built a home and farmed the land. After some time had passed, they realized that they needed a mill where they could grind wheat into flour. They built a flour mill near a river. The flowing water provided power for the mill. Later, a flood destroyed the Larsons' flour mill, and they were forced to build another one. This mill was powered by the wind. Even later, the family built a mill powered by steam.

Today, visitors to Old Mill State Park can see the same steam-powered mill that the Larson family used so many years ago. In fact, staff members at the park fire up the steam engine once a year so people can watch the mill in operation. This feature attracts many people, especially those who are interested in how people lived long ago. These visitors usually want to see the nearby log cabin as well.

People who love nature also enjoy visiting Old Mill State Park. Many visitors try to arrange
their travels to be at the park between Memorial Day and Labor Day. This is when special programs on topics about nature are offered. They learn about the trees and plants that grow in the park as well as how to protect the environment. These visitors keep a lookout for animals. They know that they may see large animals, such as moose and deer, and smaller species, such as beavers, raccoons, and jackrabbits. During the spring and summer, these visitors enjoy the splash of color that the wildflowers provide along the hiking trails.

Old Mill State Park is popular with people who love bird-watching, too. Over one hundred species of birds live in the park. Birders especially enjoy seeing red-tailed hawks, owls, and eagles. During the spring and fall, they can see migrating species, such as warblers and finches.

Old Mill State Park is also a place where people bring their families for fun. Children splash in the cool water of the lake and tramp across the swinging bridge. Meanwhile, their
parents fix delicious picnic lunches in the shade of the tall trees. In the summer months, they hike on mountain trails and paddle canoes in the lake. In the winter months, they ski on the many cross-country trails that the park offers.

Many of the visitors to Old Mill State Park come to the park just to relax. These visitors often stop by the Middle River. They may decide to take a hike along the river, or a dip in the nearby swimming area. However, they may be content to just sit nearby and listen to the calming sound of the water rushing over the spillway.
Faster Than Sound

Have you ever heard a loud “boom” sound as an airplane flies overhead? What you heard was the sound of the plane breaking the sound barrier. A sonic boom is an explosive sound made when an airplane travels faster than the speed of sound. How does this work and what does a pilot named Chuck Yeager have to do with the sound barrier?

First, let's return to the airplane in the sky. As the plane moves through the air, it pushes air molecules out of the way. This microscopic process creates waves, which consist of compressed and uncompressed air. They spread out from the plane in all directions. This process is similar to the ripples that you make when you toss a pebble in a pond.

Imagine the airplane getting faster and faster, until it surpasses the speed of sound. At this point, the air pressure waves build up in front of the plane and compress, or squeeze together, to form shock waves. The process is easier to understand if you picture the waves that build up at the front of a fast-moving boat.
The shock waves move away from the plane, toward the ground. You hear the boom because of a change in pressure when the shock wave reaches your eardrums. The larger the aircraft is, the louder and stronger the shock waves are.

What does Chuck Yeager have to do with this? Chuck was the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound. He was trained as a fighter pilot and later became a test pilot. He was selected for the flight because of his superb flying skills, his calmness under pressure, and his ability to recognize and handle aircraft problems during flight.

The plane in which he broke the sound barrier was designed for maximum speed and had a rocket engine. Because of its limited fuel, it was carried to a flying altitude in the belly of another aircraft and dropped into the sky.

Years later Chuck trained U.S. military astronaut candidates. He remained the top test pilot for the military for many years, flying more than three hundred new types.
of aircraft. He had some close calls, including losing control of one airplane that spun, tumbled, and flipped for fifty seconds before Chuck could land it safely. On another flight, he bailed out of a plane and was injured when the plane exploded.

Chuck is one of the most decorated pilots of all time. He has received the two highest honors that can be given to any person in the United States: the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Fifty years after he made his historic flight, Chuck made his last flight as a consulting test pilot. He flew an F-15 fighter, and, yes, he broke the sound barrier.
John Hancock

Have you ever practiced signing your name in different ways? Some people say that when you write your name, you are signing your John Hancock. The real John Hancock lived many years ago during the colonial period and he was the first person to sign the United States Declaration of Independence. This was the document that declared the independence of the thirteen American colonies from Britain's rule. Today, people know of John Hancock because of this signature, but he was also very important in the early years of the United States.

When John Hancock was a boy, his mother sent him to live with his wealthy uncle in Boston. John's uncle sent him to college and taught him to be a merchant. When John was old enough to work, he became a clerk for his uncle. He soon inherited his uncle's business and later went into politics.

The Declaration of Independence was the colonists' way of telling the King of England that they were ready to rule themselves. The colonists did not feel that the King's rules were
fair. For example, the Stamp Act and the Sugar Act placed high taxes on basic supplies that people used every day. The Stamp Act made people pay a fee for all public and legal documents. The Sugar Act made people pay an extra fee for sugar. The colonists had not voted for these taxes. They had not elected the leaders who did. Because they had to live with these rules, they believed that the British did not consider their needs.

The leaders of the colonies met at the Second Continental Congress and decided to break away from England's rule. Their meeting lasted for months. When it was over, the Declaration of Independence had been written. While the meeting was going on, the first battles in the American Revolution began. Hancock's name stands out on the Declaration of Independence because he wrote big, bold letters. Some people joke that he did this because he wanted the King of England to be able to read it from across the sea without his reading glasses.

Today, John Hancock is known as a man who played an important role in the
founding of his nation. As president of the Second Continental Congress, he appointed George Washington to be the commander in chief of the colonial army. Several years later he became governor of Massachusetts. He led his state in its support of the United States Constitution. He later worked to establish a navy for the new nation.

You might not be surprised if you saw the large letters that John Hancock used when he signed the Declaration of Independence. They reflect the boldness of a man who was a valuable leader for his nation.
Using a Special Gift

Born in American Fork, Utah, was a girl with a special gift. Even when she was young, people noticed that this redheaded child was very special. She could express her ideas well, and people listened when she spoke. It was no surprise to many people in her hometown when Reva Beck Bosone became the first woman ever elected as a judge in the state. By the time she had become the first woman from Utah elected to Congress, most people around the state had heard about her skills as a speaker. In fact, many of them went to great lengths just to hear her speeches.

When Reva was young, she thought about becoming an actor. She thought that a career in theater would be a way that she could use her special talent. However, after some thought, she decided to become a teacher instead. After she finished college, she taught high school for several years before starting law school.

As a lawyer, Reva devoted her life to helping people. In fact, she once said, “If
you want to serve the people, go where the laws are made.” She began her career in 23
law when she opened a law office with her husband. A year later, she won a highly publicized 26
case and decided to run for a seat in the state legislature. At that time, she was the mother of a 28
young child. Because she wanted to meet people in person, she walked through neighborhoods 30
knocking on doors. She had to carry her daughter with her. Many people who welcomed her 32
enjoyed hearing about the changes she hoped to bring about for Utah. They also enjoyed 34
meeting and playing with her daughter.

Reva won the election and served for four years. In this position, and later when she 37
became a judge, she had to learn to fight for her views. She supported efforts to 40
establish programs that would help people in need. She also worked to help women win more public 42
offices. Many people were against her ideas. Some of these opponents believed that, because 44
she was a woman, she would back down under pressure. However, instead of giving in to her foes, 46
she insisted that her views be considered. This fighting spirit helped her win her seat in the United States House of Representatives.

Reva was elected to Congress and she served two terms. During her time there, she became the first woman to serve on the Interior Committee. Her skillful ability to express her ideas continued to help her make a difference in people's lives. When her term in Congress ended, she went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, where she again made history by becoming the highest-ranking woman in her department.
A lot has changed since the first baseball game between rival teams was played. That first game took place almost two hundred years ago! At a baseball field in New Jersey, two New York City teams faced another. The New York Nine defeated the New York Knicks by the one-sided score of twenty-three to one. That first game might not have been much of a contest. Over the next fifty years, this new sport grew into the game many people think of as America's pastime.

There are many important firsts in baseball history. Here are some important ones. In the mid eighteenth hundreds, it was first decided that all baseball games were to last nine innings. Prior to this rule, the first team to reach twenty-one runs was the winner. Imagine how long those games must have been! Years later, umpires were first instructed to call pitches sailing out of the strike zone as “balls.” Nine years after that, a batter hit the first bunt. This new type of hit gave both pitchers and infielders something else to watch for. Then, in 1867, a baseball player...
shocked the baseball world by throwing the first recorded curveball. Now the batters had something new to anticipate.

Baseball's first superstar was Cy Young, a pitcher and winner of the first World Series. The Ohio native won five hundred and eleven games as a professional baseball player. That's more than any pitcher in history, by almost one hundred games! Years later he was the first modern pitcher to pitch a perfect game, something only fourteen pitchers have done since. Once he went twenty-four innings without giving up a hit. No other pitcher in the history of the game has come close to this mark.

Cy Young set the standard for Major League pitchers, and now the greatest pitching honor bears his name. The Cy Young Award is an award that goes to the best pitcher every year. This award is different from the Most Valuable Player, or MVP, award. The MVP award is given to baseball's most valuable player overall.
People have always disagreed about which player is most valuable. Baseball, like many other sports, has two sides, offense and defense. The offense scores points. The defense side tries to prevent the offense from scoring points. So which players are more important? Is it the players who score the points or the players who keep the other teams from scoring?

Baseball fans like seeing home runs and stolen bases. As a result, the MVP award was most often given to players who were great hitters. After a while, though, the rule-makers decided that pitchers were being unfairly overlooked in the voting. They created an award that would go only to the best pitcher every year. It is fitting that the award was named for Cy Young, the best pitcher in baseball history.
The Secrets of a Lion's Roar

In the darkness, a lion sniffs the night air. It purses its lips, thrusts out its chin, and roars. The deafening noise can be heard by humans from up to five miles away. The sound probably sends shivers up their spines! However, the lion is not roaring for them. Who is the lion roaring to, and what is its message? Researchers are working to unlock the secrets of the lion's roar.

Lions live in prides, or groups, that usually consist of three to ten adult females, their offspring, and two or three adult males. However, the pride members do not always stay near each other. They often scatter throughout their home territory, which can stretch for several miles. The lions may split up into smaller groups for days or weeks at a time, and some may even spend periods in solitude.

The roaring lion is most likely just checking in with its pride members, as though it were saying, “Here I am, everything is okay!” In addition, the roar serves as a warning to lions from neighboring prides. Each pride keeps to its own territory, so the lions roar to tell
strangers to keep their distance.

Pride members roar to one another at night when the air is still. For female lions, hearing the roar of one of their male pride mates assures them that all is well. In contrast, the roar of a male stranger causes them either to snarl in response or to gather up their cubs and run away. Upon hearing the roar of a female stranger, females often confidently prepare to chase the stranger off.

Using recordings of the roars of female lions, researchers have discovered that female lions can tell how many strangers are roaring and whether they outnumber them. When a single female heard the recording of a single female stranger, she almost never approached the speaker. She did not want to face the stranger alone. When a pair of females heard the same recording, they approached the speaker about half the time. When a group of three females heard it, they approached the speaker nearly every time. They were confident that the three of
them could chase away the lone lion. When a pair of females heard a recording of a pair of female strangers, they reacted the same way the single lion did to the single roar. The lions were judging whether they outnumbered the roaring strangers.

Through this experiment and others similar to it, researchers have proven that lions can determine whether a roar comes from a male or female and whether the roaring lion is a friend or a stranger. They can also determine whether they outnumber a group of roaring lions. However, researchers still have much to learn about these fierce and fascinating felines.
John Grisham

More than twenty years ago, John Grisham decided that he would like to write a novel. He wanted to base it on his experiences as a lawyer in the southern United States. However, before he could begin writing, he had to resolve an important dilemma. How could he write a book and also continue working to support his family? He finally decided that he would write for two hours each morning, before his work in the courtroom started. After three years, Grisham finally finished his first book.

When Grisham decided to publish the book, he faced a problem. No one seemed to want to publish a book written by an unknown writer. In fact, twenty-nine publishers turned him down before he finally found one that would accept his story. This publisher was a small company without a large sales force. Because Grisham wanted people to read his book, he went to bookstores himself and asked the owners to buy his book. Many owners turned him away, but others were very helpful. Today, Grisham is one of the most well-known authors in
the nation, and he still remembers these people. Whenever he publishes a new book, he has book signings at their stores.

Grisham began work on a second novel the day after he finished his first book. His second book, “The Firm,” brought him better luck. It became the bestselling novel of the year. It was even made into a movie. The money he made from the sale of his book allowed him to quit his law practice and become a full-time writer. Since then, he has written one book a year and has been called the bestselling writer of the nineties.

When Grisham was a boy, his mother believed that children should spend their time playing and reading rather than watching television. As a result, the family did not own a television, and Grisham learned to love reading. One of his high school English teachers also encouraged this interest. In her classes, Grisham learned about literature and especially enjoyed reading the works of American writers.
Even though he loved to read as a **child**, Grisham didn't dream of becoming a **writer** when he grew up. Instead, he **dreamed** of becoming a baseball player. When he **was** in his **twenties**, he realized he **didn't** have the talent to play baseball as a **professional**. Yet it wasn't until he had **completed** law school that he decided to **try** his hand at writing. Today, when **Grisham** **speaks** to young people, he advises them **not** to decide on a career too **early**.

When Grisham is not writing novels, he **likes** to help other people. He has **traveled** with a **church group** to help **people** in South America. He also does work for the Little League. In **fact**, some Little League players have their games on the **six** baseball fields that Grisham built on his **property**.
Curious, Ari examined the device, which resembled a stopwatch. His teacher, Ms. Jefferson, had just distributed them to the whole class and called them “pedometers.” Ari had heard of them before, but never seen one. He knew it must be related to Fitness Month. They had been talking about the importance of getting enough exercise. Ari looked up to see Ms. Jefferson writing something on the whiteboard. It said, “Walk to California.”

“We're going to start a class project in connection with Fitness Month,” Ms. Jefferson said. “For the rest of the year, your assignment is to wear these pedometers wherever you go. They'll count how many steps you take, and can convert that into distance traveled. Every day, we'll calculate how far we traveled as a class, and each week we'll mark that distance on the map. The goal is to see how long it takes us, working as a group, to get from here in Connecticut to California.”

Ari was interested. He wondered how far he walked in a day. He doubted it was very...
far. He thought, “I bet all together we don't walk more than a few miles a day. How could we possibly get all the way to California by the end of the year?”

Ms. Jefferson showed them how to attach and work their pedometers. Then they were divided into groups, each with a yardstick, and sent outside to measure their stride length, or how far they went in a single step. Ari's group decided to have each person walk a distance of fifty feet and count how many steps it took. Then Ms. Jefferson showed them how to enter their stride lengths into the pedometer. Now it would be able to tell them how far they traveled.

In the following days, Ari and his classmates reported every morning how far they had walked since the previous day. Ari was amazed at how far they walked. He had found that he averaged over a mile a day just by himself, and that with a little effort he could walk over two. Together, the class was walking over fifty miles every day. Ari marveled to see the line on the map inch slowly toward California. As the students started getting used to walking more,
the **daily** totals began to increase. Ari was **going** for walks with his dad around the **block** every evening, and he often went for **long** walks in the afternoon as well. He **felt** great.

Finally, about a month and a **half** after the great walk had begun, Ms. Jefferson **put** a **dot** just over the border into California. Their **journey** was complete. Ari and his classmates **all** celebrated what they had achieved, beginning with just a few steps.
The Electrician

It was sharing time at school. During sharing time, the teacher would write a question on the chalkboard, and the class would then talk about possible answers. The question for the day was, “Who are the people in our community that we depend on most for support?”

Ms. Martinez turned to her class of fourth-grade students and said, “Think of someone who does a job that you cannot do yourself. Then explain what that person does and the importance of his or her work. Who will volunteer to answer first?”

Maria had her hand up in a flash. “My stepdad is the master electrician for our school district,” she said. “He takes care of problems with electricity in all our schools and in the district offices. We couldn't get by without the help we get from electricians like him.”

Then Maria explained how electricians help others. “They connect and repair electrical wires so electricity can make things work in our schools and homes. Of course, we need electricity for lights, but we need it for appliances and other things, too. We need it for the ovens in the
lunch room, and the people in the office use electricity to ring the bells and to speak over the public address system. At home, electricity lets us talk on the phone, use the washing machine, and listen to music on the stereo. Working with electricity can be dangerous, so electricians must have a lot of special training.”

Ms. Martinez encouraged others to join the discussion. Everyone shared ways electricians had helped them at home or at school. One student recalled a problem that arose when the school got new computers. Everyone was excited about using them, but there weren’t enough outlets to plug in all the computers. Electricians ran new wires into the computer room. They installed an outlet for each computer. Soon students were busy making good use of all the new computers.

Another student recalled a time when the air conditioner at his home quit working. An electrician found that there was not enough power for the air conditioner to work properly.
She installed new wiring and a bigger circuit breaker, and then she double-checked all her work.

Electricians have to be very careful. If there is even one small mistake, the wires might get too hot and start a fire.

As sharing time came to an end, the whole class agreed that a community needs the help of electricians. These workers make sure that people have safe and effective ways of using electricity. Maria felt proud of her step-dad, and was glad Ms. Martinez had brought up the topic. “Teachers are pretty important, too,” she thought.