

Unit 1 Working Together

One summer day, a group of spiders met some ants. They all wanted to rest under one tree. “We challenge you to a soccer match,” said the spiders. “The winners get the tree.” The spiders were bigger than the ants. They also had some star players on their team. The spiders were sure to win. “We can win if we work together as a team. Join or die!” cried the ants. The spiders started fighting over the ball. But the ants managed to take the ball all the way to the goal! They ended up winning the game by working as a team.

Unit 2 Into the Future

In the basement of a building, Jim found a strange silver door. A sign on the door said “Time Machine.” Jim opened it and entered a small room. The door closed behind him. Then everything started spinning around faster and faster! When the spinning stopped, Jim opened the door and looked around. He saw flying cars, talking machines, and robots doing homework. This was the future! Things looked great, but something was missing — his family. Jim missed his parents. He missed his dog. Jim realized there was no place like home, so he decided to return to his own time.

Unit 3 A Clever Son

John stole some jewelry. He went to prison, but the police couldn’t find the jewelry. John’s old mother visited him in prison. She said, “It’s spring, and I wish I could plant my garden. I’m too old and weak to dig up the old plants.” The next day, John wrote a letter to his mom. It said, “Don’t dig in the garden because I buried the jewelry there.” Of course, the police read the letter. They dug up the whole garden but found nothing. John was happy. Because of him, the police were a big help to his mom.

Unit 4 Inside Royalty

Many people know of Queen Elizabeth II. She became queen in 1952 after the death of her father. This means she has been queen for more than sixty years —a very long time! The Queen lives in Buckingham Palace in London. She is the head of the country. She is also the head of the church. Each year, a lot of visitors and tourists from all around the world come to see the Queen. She asks world leaders to visit and talk with her. If you ever get the chance to meet the Queen, bow and say “Your Majesty.”

Unit 5 Tiger Trouble

Baby tigers are very cute. That is why some people want to own one. Today, there are about 5,000 pet tigers in the US. But there are only 3,200 tigers in the wild in Asia! People with pet tigers usually keep them in their backyards. This is a bad idea. Keep in mind that tigers are huge animals. They need big homes. They need a lot of room to run, play, and hunt. Tigers can also be dangerous. An angry tiger can attack and hurt a person. People really need to think twice about keeping tigers as pets.

Unit 6 A Meat-Eating Plant

A Venus flytrap looks like a mouth. The hairs on it look like teeth! When the plant snaps shut, these hairs trap whatever is inside. They can trap flies, other insects, and even small frogs! After it traps its meal, the plant takes ten days to digest it. Then it opens again to trap its next meal. People can grow these plants at home. Some people even feed them by hand. The plants require two or three living or dead insects each month. But people shouldn't feed these plants meat from the store. That kind of meat can kill the plants.

Unit 7 Time for Tea

In the 1600s, British people ate food just twice a day. Anna, the Duchess of Bedford, always became hungry between meals. She began to drink tea and eat food during the day.

Anna began to invite her friends. Everyone began to enjoy teatime. This is how the tradition of teatime started. Today, there are two kinds of teatime: low tea and high tea. “Low tea” is also called “afternoon tea.” Usually thin sandwiches, scones, and tea are served for low tea. “High tea” is later. A hot dish, thick sandwiches, fresh scones, cakes, and tea are served for high tea.

Unit 8 A Water Problem

Ryan Hreljac studied Africa. He learned that some countries in Africa have water trouble. There isn't enough clean and safe water in these places. Wells can provide safe water. But they're expensive to build. Ryan started to do chores at home to save money. At age 7, Ryan paid to set up his first well. But he wanted to donate money for more wells. So Ryan told his friends about the need for clean water. Since then, he and his friends have done a lot. They have raised a lot of money. They have built more than 900 wells!

Unit 9 From Rags to Riches

One day, a rich gentleman set out on a journey. He had lots of gold and silver coins. He wanted to give them to a kind person. The gentleman dressed as a poor and hungry old man. Then he went from house to house knocking on doors. People turned him away. Finally, he came to a poor young lady's door. She said, “I have just made bread with my last drop of oil. Help yourself.” Surprised, the gentleman said, “No one else gave me anything. But you gave me everything you have.” All his gold and silver coins became hers.

Unit 10 The Perfect Friend

Our cat, Lucy, had kittens, but one kitten wasn't healthy. The animal doctor helped her, but the kitten had only three legs after that. We named the kitten with three legs Ginger. When we started giving the kittens away, a man came and picked out Ginger. He said, “This kitten is so perfect!” I asked why he preferred a cat with three legs. The man said,

“It’s for my daughter. She is by our car outside.” I followed the man outside. His daughter was in a wheelchair. The man said, “My daughter will understand Ginger well. And Ginger will understand her, too.”

Unit 11 A Good Trick

An old puma saw that a young wolf was approaching. The wolf looked like it might attack him. So the puma sat down, licked his lips, and said very loudly, “That was such a delicious wolf! I must find myself another one to eat!” The wolf quickly changed his mind, turned, and ran away. A red bird saw this happen. She knew the puma was tricking the wolf, so she flew after the wolf and told him the truth. They returned together. Seeing them, the puma said loudly, “Where is my bird friend? Oh, I forgot. She went to find me another wolf.”

Unit 12 Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle was built long ago. Some parts of the castle date back to 1100 CE. At that time, the castle was made of wood. At first, it was built as a fortress. It protected the city and its people from foreign attacks. From the castle, guards could watch two important places for danger: the Thames River and Windsor Forest. Today, Windsor Castle is the largest and oldest castle with people still living in it. Windsor Castle has 1,000 rooms, and more than 500 people live and work in the castle. One of those people is the Queen of England.

Unit 13 Free to Learn

What if someone said you couldn’t go to school? Malala Yousafzai loved to go to school and learn. But a group in Pakistan didn’t want girls to study. Malala felt sad and angry. She started writing about the lives of girls and women in her country. She spoke about why girls should be able to go to school. The group threatened and attacked her. But Malala did not stop speaking out. She taught people around the world about the problem. In the end,

more girls in Pakistan got the chance to study. No wonder this brave girl won the Nobel Peace Prize!

Unit 14 Sea Life

Have you ever had the chance to swim in the ocean? How was it? Was it cold or warm? Cold water is necessary for many things living in the ocean. Plankton are tiny sea animals and plants. Many bigger sea animals, like small tuna and whales, eat plankton. Cold water suits plankton fine. They die if the water temperature is too high. As the plankton disappear, the bigger animals have less and less food. Maybe you are more comfortable in warm ocean water. But in cold ocean water, sea animals are better off. Then they have enough to eat.

Unit 15 The Golden Gate Bridge?

The Golden Gate Bridge is located in San Francisco. It is on the east side of the city. However, the bridge is not golden. It doesn't even have a fancy gate! Then how come it has that name? It is named for Golden Gate Strait, the water beneath the bridge. What color is this bridge? In fact, it is a certain color of orange called international orange. Most bridges are black or gray. The designer of the Golden Gate Bridge didn't like that idea. He said this special bridge needed a special color. So he made that special orange color.

Unit 16 Being a Friend to Others

Christian Bucks wanted to help his classmates. Some of them were lonely, and some of them were bullied by other kids. Christian searched for a way to help them make friends. Then he heard of an idea used at a school in Germany. It was called "Buddy Benches." The benches help students make friends. It's simple! Lonely or upset students sit on the benches. Others can see them, and then they can come and talk together. The students were excited about it. Do you think this idea could help kids at your school? Does it give

you any ideas of your own?