

Unit 01 The Statue of Liberty

A BIG GIFT Track 01

The Statue of Liberty may be one of the biggest presents in history! In 1886, France gave the United States a huge statue. It is a woman holding a torch high in the air. The torch is a **symbol** of freedom. The gift was given to remember the important friendship between the two countries. One hundred years earlier, France had helped America in its war for freedom from Britain.

A French sculptor was chosen to **design** the statue. It was a very difficult job because of its size. He decided to make her skin out of thin copper sheets. Then he would attach them to a metal frame. He asked an **engineer** to design and build the huge frame. That engineer's name was Gustave Eiffel. He would later build the famous Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

The statue was too big to fit on a ship. So it was **reduced** to 350 pieces and taken to America in many separate boxes. The builders chose a small island in New York Harbor as the place to put the statue. The statue was a gift. However, the US needed to build a **base** for her to stand on.

People from all over America sent money to help build it. The base was finished in the spring of 1886. They began to put the pieces of the statue together. When the statue was finished, it was the tallest structure in America. She stands over forty-six meters high. Just one of her fingers is 2.4 meters long!

The statue faces the ocean to welcome ships as they sail into New York. Each year, thousands of visitors come to the island to see her. They can even climb the 354 steps up into her crown and look out the windows! She is a symbol of freedom for people all over the world. After all, it's in her name. The word "liberty" means freedom.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 02

1. An engineer (made) the metal (frame).
2. It was reduced to 350 pieces and (taken) to America.
3. The statue (faces) the ocean to welcome ships.

DIALOG A Symbol of Strength Track 03

- B) Sara, we can't decide on a name for our soccer team. We want something that will be a symbol of strength and power.
- G) OK. What about a dangerous animal? Like a tiger or a bear?
- B) No, sorry. We don't want any animal names.
- G) What about a strong fighter? How about "the Ninjas"?
- B) Good idea. But another team already has that name. And "the Knights," too.
- G) Oh, too bad. Hmm. How about something from nature? Hey! I have got it—"Lightning"!
- B) Wow! That's a great idea. Lightning is a symbol of both power and speed! It's perfect!

Unit 02 The Iditarod Race

GO HUSKIES! Track 04

It's a cold March day in Nome, Alaska. People are standing in the snow to watch the end of a race. They are not waiting for skiers. The amazing athletes that will cross the finish line are dogs!

It's the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Teams from all over the world come to compete. Each team is made up of a human driver, called the musher, and up to twelve dogs. The dogs work together to pull a sled. The sled carries food, a tent, and other supplies. Why bring a tent? Because this race lasts for more than a week! The racers must travel over 1,800 kilometers to the finish line. It is the longest dogsled race in the world.

People have been using dogsled in Alaska for over one hundred years. During the cold winters, ice and snow kept ships and planes from bringing supplies. Dogsleds were the only way to deliver food, mail, and other necessary things.

In 1925, during a terrible winter, brave dogs and mushers helped to bring medicine to sick children in Nome. The first Iditarod race was held over thirty years ago. It was done to remember that very special event.

The Iditarod is a very difficult race. Along the way, dogs must pull the sled over steep, snowy hills, and across icy rivers. They often have to race in snowstorms and temperatures as low as -30°C . The dogs need to wear special boots that protect their feet. The dogs' thick fur keeps them warm. They can sleep comfortably outside in the snow. Actually, the mushers must watch their dogs closely. They can easily get too hot from running. The teams usually race for six hours and then rest for another six hours.

The sled dogs need a lot of food to keep running. In a single day, they can eat over ten thousand calories. How much is ten thousand calories? That's the same as you eating twenty hamburgers!

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 05

1. (Teams) from all over the world come to (compete).
2. The amazing (athletes) that will cross the finish line are dogs!
3. The sled (carries) food, a tent, and other supplies.

DIALOG Animal Show Track 06

W) Hi, Max. Are you going to the Summer Farm Festival?

M) No. Not this time.

W) I thought you enjoyed the festival.

M) I used to. But I don't anymore. I don't like those pig races, for example.

W) I love watching the little kids riding those pigs. They look so cute wearing those colorful hats and ribbons!

M) That's not fun. It's cruel!

W) But I've seen you eat pork. Isn't that bad?

M) I think animals are important for food. But we shouldn't use them for entertainment.

Unit 03 Balloon Man

BALLOON MAN Track 07

In 2009, there was a movie called *Up*. It was about an old man who used thousands of balloons to lift his house up into the sky and fly to South America. It was a fun and interesting movie, but it's not a new idea.

Over the years, several people have tried to build their own homemade **aircrafts** using balloons. An American man from Oregon named Kent Couch tried it in 2001. He tied 105 large balloons to a big chair. Then he filled the balloons with helium, a gas that is lighter than air. To keep his chair from flying up too high, he had bags filled with water attached to the chair. These bags acted as weights. If he wanted to go up, he just let some water out of the bags. Mr. Couch also carried a small knife with him. If he wanted to go down, he just popped a balloon.

Couch took along a cell phone, a radio, and other **equipment** to help him fly. He also had a video camera to record the flight. Couch flew for nine hours in his homemade aircraft. At times, he reached heights of almost four thousand meters!

It was his **goal** to fly to the next state, Idaho. However, **dangerous** weather forced him to land quickly in a field. He was all right, but the strong winds blew his aircraft away along with the camera. Mr. Couch was very **disappointed** because he thought that no one would believe him without seeing the video. However, one year later, the video camera and the other equipment were found by a farmer. They were about thirteen miles away from where Couch had landed.

So, what made Kent Couch do such a crazy thing? According to him, it was a dream from childhood. He always wondered what it would be like to sit on a cloud.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 08

1. Dangerous weather (forced) him to land in a (field).
2. He had bags (filled) with water attached to the chair.
3. The camera was found by a (farmer).

DIALOG *Vertigo* Track 09

- W) Bob, what are you doing for Christmas vacation?
 M) I'm going to visit my grandparents. How about you, Tina?
 W) I'm going skiing in Canada. Flying will be the best part of the trip, though!
 M) Oh, I hate to fly.
 W) Don't you get excited when the plane gets ready to take off?
 M) Oh, no. That's the worst part!
 W) How do you feel when you are in a tall building?
 M) I don't like it. I get a funny feeling in my stomach.
 W) A-ha, you aren't afraid of flying. You're really afraid of high places.

Unit 04 Single-Gender Classrooms

BOYS AND GIRLS IN SCHOOL Track 10

In American schools, almost every classroom is a mix of boys and girls. However, it was not always this way. In the past, schools did not teach girls subjects like science and math. In 1972, a law called Title IX was made in America. It gave girls an equal chance at education. Since then, boys and girls have been taught together.

Recently, though, some schools are **reconsidering** separating classes. This is different than in the past, however. Girls still learn the same subjects as boys. They just study without boys in the classroom. Why? Well, scientists know that boys and girls learn differently.

They also behave differently in the classroom. Boys are louder and more **confident**. They like to talk and show what they know. **In general**, girls are quieter. They prefer to listen and think carefully before they give their answers. When boys and girls are together, the boys can be too **dominant**. Also, boys and girls can **bother** each other. Instead of thinking about the lesson, they think about each other. In a separated classroom, they behave better and can focus on studying.

Another reason for separated classes is that boys and girls often like different things. For instance, boys prefer stories with action and adventure. In an all-boys English class, the teacher can choose books that will be interesting to boys. This way, they will be more excited about the stories.

Not all the classes are separated—just the main subjects like English, math, science, and social studies. Still, some teachers think that separate education is not good. They worry that boys and girls will not learn how to work well together. Right now, less than six hundred schools are trying separate classrooms. Time will show if it is a good idea or something that should be left in the past.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 11

1. Not all the classes are separate—just the main (subjects).
2. They have fun with the (lesson) and want to (learn) more.
3. The law gave girls an equal chance at (education).

DIALOG **Bad Class** Track 12

- B) You didn't eat dessert. What's the matter?
- G) I didn't have time. In science class, we were working in groups. But the boys in my group just talked about sports. We didn't finish our experiment!
- B) I have heard that girls do better in science class when there are no boys. I have an idea. You should be in a group with just girls.
- G) But that's also a problem. The other girls will just talk about their favorite movie stars.
- B) Hmm, I think the overall problem is that teachers let kids talk too much.
- G) Maybe you're right.

Unit 05 Students Save Town

STUDENTS HELP SAVE THEIR TOWN Track 13

Students usually love it when school is cancelled. Whether it's for a holiday or some other reason, a **day off** school means fun! But in one small American city, students got out of school for a special **reason**—to save their town!

North Dakota is a state in the northern part of the USA. Fargo is the biggest city in North Dakota. It gets a lot of snow in the winter. When spring comes, all that snow melts and fills the rivers and lakes. If this melting happens too fast, the rivers can **flood**. The Red River runs through Fargo. The area around the city is very low and flat. This makes the river move very slowly. It floods every year in the spring. In 2009, the flood was the worst in history. The river was over twelve meters higher than usual!

As the Red River rose higher, people became very afraid. That much water would cause huge problems in the city. The only way to stop this was to build a wall along the river. People made this wall by using bags filled with sand.

Scientists **warned** that Fargo would need over 1 million sandbags in order to stop the water. City workers and other people from Fargo **rushed** to make enough sandbags. They worked for many days and nights. But they couldn't do it alone, and they were running out of time.

City leaders asked for help. So the schools allowed students to take time off from class. They had to ask their parents if it was all right. Over one thousand students joined the sandbag effort. They worked three to four hours each day for two weeks. Thanks to their hard work, Fargo met the goal of 1 million sandbags. They built the wall in time to stop the water. The students helped to save their town!

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 14

1. But in one (small) city, students got out of school for a (special) reason.
2. Students usually love it when school is (cancelled).
3. The river was over twelve meters higher than (usual).

DIALOG A Free Day Track 15

- B) Katy? Why are you calling me so early?
- G) Didn't you hear the news? School is cancelled for today!
- B) Are you kidding?
- G) No. You know that big storm last night? It broke some power lines, so there's no electricity at the school!
- B) This is great! It gives me an extra day to study for that big science test.
- G) Study? Come on, Tim! Let's go to the movie theater downtown.
- B) You don't understand. I was really worried about this test because I wasn't ready for it. Now I have another chance! This is my lucky day!
- G) OK, I'll find someone else to go to a movie with. Good luck!

Unit 06 Thumbelina

A RECORD-BREAKING HORSE Track 16

She may never win a race, but she has already set a record. She's Thumbelina, the smallest horse in the world. She's just 44.5 centimeters tall and weighs only 30 kilograms. She was born in America on Goose Creek Farm. It's not a surprise that she is smaller than a typical horse. After all, Goose Creek Farm has many **miniature** horses.

However, when she was born, Thumbelina only weighed about four kilograms. That's the same as a human baby! The owners were worried that she would not live. But Thumbelina continued to eat and get stronger. The owners knew that she was going to be a very special horse.

Thumbelina is a miniature horse. But her extra-tiny size is because of a **condition** called **dwarfism**. This can happen to other animals and humans, too. Thumbelina's legs are very short and a little bit **crooked**. She often has to wear special **braces** to help her walk and run.

Still, Thumbelina loves to play with the other animals! However, even the other miniature horses on the farm are about three times larger than she is. So she has chosen some friends that are more her size—the farm dogs. According to her owners, Thumbelina spends most of her day playing with the farm dogs. She even prefers to sleep with them in the doghouse!

Thumbelina brings a lot of joy to the owners of Goose Creek Farm. She is also bringing big smiles to boys and girls all over the country. Thumbelina travels around the United States and visits children's hospitals. She loves bringing happiness to sick and sad children. As she travels, she helps raise money for children in need. Her owners hope to reach a goal of \$1 million.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 17

1. She may never win a race, but she has (already) set a (record).
2. But Thumbelina (continued) to eat and get stronger.
3. Thumbelina's legs are very short and a little bit (crooked).

DIALOG A New Pet Track 18

- G) Did you hear? Sara's got a new Chihuahua.
B) Not a toy dog! They're so silly!
G) What do you mean? They're really cute.
B) A dog should guard the house. How could that tiny thing scare people?
G) Well, I think a dog should be a good friend.
B) I like big, strong dogs. Like Billy's dog, Rex. No bad guys would get past Rex.
G) But Billy never plays with Rex. That dog is just tied up in the yard all day. That doesn't sound like a good pet.

Unit 07 E-Waste

WHAT TO DO WITH E-WASTE Track 19

Every day, millions of people use electronics like computers and cell phones. They are an important part of our lives. But they do not last forever. When they break or become too old, people often just throw them out. It is called electronic waste, or e-waste. And it is becoming a big problem.

In America, people throw away over 20 million tons of e-waste every year. Unfortunately, that is not the end of the story. A lot of this e-waste is shipped overseas to countries like China and India. Why would they want someone else's trash? Electronics are often made with small amounts of gold, copper, and other expensive materials. Workers take apart the electronics to get these materials.

However, electronics also contain materials that can be bad for people's health. Usually there is a safe way to recycle these materials. But some countries do not have strong rules about how to work with e-waste. Often, the old electronics are just left in big piles outside. When it rains, unhealthy materials wash away into the ground. Then they can get into the water that people drink. Sometimes the piles of old computers are just burned. This can cause the bad materials to get into the air.

Some people feel that the best solution is to stop throwing away our electronics. Broken computers can be fixed. Even if a computer is old, it can still be useful to someone. Alex Lin is a teenager from America. He started a small company called WIN. The company fixes old and broken computers and gives them to people who need them. In 2004, WIN sent computers to students in Sri Lanka. Their school was destroyed by the huge Asian tsunami. Now they have computers again.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 20

1. (Electronics) are often made with small amounts of gold, (copper), and other expensive materials.
2. However, electronics also (contain) materials that can be bad for people's health.
3. (Often), the old electronics are just left in big piles outside.

DIALOG A New Toy Track 21

- B) I want to go shopping for a new X-pod.
 G) Didn't you just get an X-pod?
 B) But that's the X-pod 1. I want the X-pod 2.
 G) I heard those things cost about \$200! What's wrong with the one you have?
 B) Well, nothing really. But the X-pod 2 is better. It's got more memory!
 G) How much memory does your X-pod have now?
 B) I don't know. But more is always better! Besides, the new X-pod 2 comes in great colors. And my friend, Tim, just got one yesterday.
 G) Oh! Now I understand!

Unit 08 *Oasis of the Seas*

AN OCEAN GIANT Track 22

It is one of the most exciting places in the world. You can go surfing, skate on an ice-rink, and watch a 3D movie all in the same day. It's not a city. It's not even on land. It's a ship! It's called the *Oasis of the Seas*, and it's the biggest cruise ship ever built.

The *Oasis* is five times bigger than the *Titanic*. It's 360 meters long and can carry over six thousand passengers. The *Oasis* was built in a shipyard in Finland. However, its home port is in Florida. From there, it will make a regular journey to islands in the Caribbean. It should be no surprise that this big ship has a big price. It cost \$1.4 billion to build. And ticket prices aren't small either. They start at around \$1,600 per person for a seven night cruise.

The *Oasis* is truly like a city on the sea. There are over forty restaurants! It has a shopping mall, a small golf course, and four swimming pools. The main pool is the deepest ever put in a ship. At night, it is used for a water show with high divers. The *Oasis* is also the first cruise ship to have a living park. It has over twelve thousand plants and more than fifty large trees.

You might think that such a huge ship would be difficult to steer. However, the *Oasis* was designed to be very easy to operate. Most ships have large propellers at the back. But the *Oasis* has four special propellers on the sides that help it turn. In fact, the whole ship can turn in a circle like a top. Despite its huge size, it actually uses less energy than other, smaller ships. It gets power from the sun to run many of its lights.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 23

1. It should be no (surprise) that this big ship has a big (price).
2. At (night), it is used for a water show.
3. The *Oasis* has four special propellers on the (sides).

DIALOG *A Perfect Vacation* Track 24

W) Hi, Peter. I am going to Italy this summer. How about you?

M) I'm thinking of going on a cruise. Traveling on the ocean would be exciting.

W) That does not sound like fun to me.

M) What do you mean? Don't you like the ocean?

W) Yes, I love the ocean. But when I travel, I like to explore. I enjoy hiking around the city and going to museums.

M) I don't want to do anything energetic. I just want to lie in the sun and relax.

W) Then maybe a cruise is perfect for you.

Unit 09 *Space Tourism*

AN UNUSUAL HOLIDAY Track 25

If you could take a trip to any place, where would you go? A warm, sunny beach? A famous city? A beautiful mountain? Our world has many wonderful places to see. But what if you could take a trip out of this world? What about a trip into space? It's possible.

The first space **tourist** was an American named Dennis Tito. He flew up on a Russian rocket with two Russian scientists. They flew to the International Space Station. Mr. Tito spent almost eight days on the station. It wasn't a cheap vacation. Tito paid over \$20 million to the **government** of Russia for his chance to be the first tourist in space. Since then, six other people have taken a similar trip.

In 2004, there was a contest called the X-Prize. It was a new race to space. The goal of the contest was to help find a lower-cost way to travel into space. The winner of the X-Prize would get \$10 million.

There were some important **requirements**. First, no government could be a part of the contest. Companies could not use government money to build the spacecraft. Second, the spacecraft had to be large enough to carry three people. Third, the spacecraft had to fly at least one hundred kilometers above the Earth. That is what scientists consider to be the beginning of space. And lastly, the spacecraft had to make two trips within two weeks.

The winner of the prize was *SpaceShip One*. Soon after they won, the company that built *SpaceShip One* announced a new plan. They want to start making regular space flights. They plan to build five new spacecraft. Each one could take up to ten people into space. The ticket price is still expensive: \$200,000. There have not been any flights yet. But so far, over four hundred people have put their names on a waiting list.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 26

1. (Since) then, (six) other people have taken a similar trip.
2. (Soon) after they won, the company that built *SpaceShip One* announced a new plan.
3. There have not been any flights yet. But (so far), over four hundred people have put their names on a waiting list.

DIALOG *Summer Stayover* Track 27

- B) Hi, Jane. What are you doing this summer?
 G) Well, my cousin from Germany is coming to stay.
 B) That sounds fun.
 G) Well, I'm not sure. She plays the flute. But I'll be taking science classes. So I won't be able to study in my room when she's playing.
 B) I see. Well, why don't you just go somewhere else?
 G) I can't because I need to use the computer.
 B) Maybe you should ask your cousin to practice outside. The weather will be warm enough.
 G) Hmm, that sounds like a good idea.

Unit 10 *Bamboo Builds the Future*

AMAZING BAMBOO! Track 28

What do a bicycle, a chair, a house, and a T-shirt have in **common**? They can all be made using bamboo! Bamboo is one of the most amazing plants on earth. It has been used by humans for thousands of years. Bamboo may also be one of the most important plants of the future.

Bamboo is very strong. It can be used in most of the same ways as wood. Many kinds of bamboo are actually harder than wood. People all over the world have built houses with bamboo. Bamboo has other uses as well. It makes strong and beautiful furniture. As the young bamboo plants grow, they can be formed into different shapes like circles and even squares! Clothes made from bamboo are quite soft. They are also very good at stopping bad smells. Some companies are even making bicycles with bamboo instead of metal tubes!

Even though bamboo looks like a tree, it's actually a kind of grass. It's related to plants like corn and rice. Bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world. It can grow about three centimeters per hour! Trees take much longer to grow, of course. It takes twenty years or more for a tree to grow to a useful size. Bamboo reaches its useful size in only three to seven years. Many bamboo plants can grow in the same time as one tree. This makes a bamboo farm more efficient than a tree farm.

The population of the world grows every year. That means that there is more need for materials like wood. But the number of trees is limited. If people used bamboo instead, many trees could be saved. Scientists and inventors are working hard to find other uses for this amazing plant.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 29

1. People all over the world have (built) houses with bamboo.
2. It makes strong and (beautiful) furniture.
3. Some companies are even making (bicycles) with bamboo instead of metal (tubes).

DIALOG *Saving Trees* Track 30

M) I love your new furniture! Where did you get those beautiful chairs and table?

W) I got them from a used furniture store.

M) Used furniture! Why would you want someone's old table?

W) There is nothing wrong with it. If I hadn't told you they were used, would you have guessed?

M) No, probably not.

W) I'm also saving trees. If people stopped buying new furniture all the time, more trees could be saved.

M) I understand. Well, I'm glad that someone didn't just throw away this nice table. In fact, it looks like my grandmother's dining table.

W) Really?

Unit 11 *A Seed Bank*

A SEED BANK Track 31

When people want to protect valuable things like money, they put them in a bank. Plants are very valuable to us. We need them for food, and they help make the air we breathe. Like people and animals, plants can get diseases. These diseases can quickly kill many plants. Scientists worry that some plants could disappear from the earth. They want to keep plants safe for the future. How do you save a plant? By putting its seeds in a bank!

There are many small seed banks around the world. However, they can be easily **damaged**. For example, seed banks in Iraq and Afghanistan were destroyed during war. In the Philippines, a seed bank was damaged by a strong typhoon. Scientists wanted to build a **global** seed bank that everyone could use. It had to be in a place where the seeds were not affected by things like war or bad storms. It would hold extra seeds from the other banks. This way, if the small banks were destroyed, some seeds would still be safe.

After many years of searching, scientists found a **site** for the bank. It was built on a small mountain on a Norwegian island. The main room of the seed bank is located 120 meters inside the mountain. It is connected to the outside by a long tunnel. The entrance to the tunnel is protected by huge doors. They are over one meter thick! The site was chosen because there are very few earthquakes that could damage the bank. The island is very far north and is covered with snow most of the year. It's like a big refrigerator. Seeds last much longer in cool temperatures.

The seed bank opened in February 26, 2008. Since then, it has received over 400,000 **samples**. The bank was designed to hold 45 million seeds. Scientists hope that one day the bank will hold seeds from every plant in the world.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 32

1. The site (was chosen) because there are very few earthquakes.
2. Like people and (animals), plants can get (diseases).
3. However, they can be (easily) challenged.

DIALOG **Special Seeds** Track 33

W) I'm very excited for spring! I'm going to plant some special seeds—my Grandma Nina's purple tomatoes!

M) Purple tomatoes? I've never heard of those.

W) Well, you can't find them in the store. They're a very old kind of tomato. When Nina's grandfather came to America from Russia, he brought the seeds.

M) Do they taste like red tomatoes?

W) I think they taste much better! Grandma used to grow them every year.

M) She doesn't grow them anymore?

W) No, she can't walk very well. She hasn't had a garden in almost fifteen years. I was worried that those tomatoes were gone forever. But she saved some seeds!

M) That's great!

Unit 12 **A Dolphin's Tail**

A DOLPHIN'S TAIL Track 34

In the United States, some fishermen found a baby dolphin caught in a crab trap. A rope from the trap was wrapped very tightly around her tail. They took her to an **aquarium**. The workers there tried to help. Sadly, her tail was too damaged, and it fell off. However, the little dolphin continued to grow strong. The workers at the aquarium named her Winter.

Even though she had no tail, Winter still learned how to swim. Dolphins usually swim by moving their tails up and down. Winter used her front flippers and moved her body side to side. It worked, but the scientists at the aquarium were worried. Winter's unusual swimming might give her back problems in the future. A doctor named Kevin Carroll heard about Winter's story on the radio. Dr. Carroll helps people who have lost parts of their bodies like hands or legs. He gives them artificial parts that look and act like a real hand or leg. Dr. Carroll called the aquarium and asked if he could help.

After examining Winter, the doctor and his team created an artificial tail for her. It was made out of a special kind of rubber. There were some problems. How would it stay on? Also, the artificial tail could make her skin sore. The team decided to use a big sock made of gel. Gel is a soft material that is often found in bicycle seats and shoes. The gel sock stopped the tail from sliding off. It also helped to protect Winter's skin. Now, she can wear the rubber tail all day and stay comfortable.

Winter is now a happy, healthy adult. Thousands of visitors come to see her at the aquarium every year. However, the happy story doesn't end there. Dr. Carroll realized that the gel sock idea could help people as well. The soft gel makes artificial body parts much more comfortable to use.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 35

1. Scientists were (worried) that her unusual (swimming) might give her back problems.
2. It was made out of a special kind of (rubber).
3. The gel sock (stopped) the tail from sliding off.

DIALOG *The New Girl* Track 36

- B) Did you see that new girl in school today?
- G) Yes, and her name is Ginny. She's friendly and funny, too. Her family moved here from California.
- B) She is really beautiful, but it's too bad about her . . . you know. . . .
- G) You mean her artificial leg? She was in a car accident a few years ago.
- B) Oh, that's terrible! I think I would be sad forever if I lost one of my legs.
- G) It hasn't stopped Ginny at all! She's a really good athlete. At her old school, she ran on the track team.
- B) That's amazing!
- G) Ginny said that she wants to join the team here next spring.

Unit 13 *Sleep*

SLEEPING HABITS Track 37

Do you get enough sleep at night? Do you ever feel tired during school? You may not be the only one. According to the National Sleep Foundation, kids aren't getting enough sleep. And it's affecting how they do in school.

Experts say that kids need about ten hours of sleep each night. Your body needs sleep so it can rest for the next day. Animals need sleep to stay healthy. Cats and dogs sleep for about fifteen hours each day!

Sleep is also important for your brain. Just like your body, your brain needs a little vacation every night. Without enough sleep, students can't learn as well. They cannot pay attention, follow directions, or solve problems as well. Also, tired kids act in ways that they usually don't. They can easily get angry with their friends or get in trouble in class.

Scientists at the National Sleep Foundation talked to 1,400 kids. They asked them about their sleeping habits. They found that about seventy percent of kids were not getting enough sleep. The scientists think that soda and television are part of the reason. Drinks like cola, coffee, and tea have caffeine in them. Caffeine makes people stay awake. Kids who had drinks with caffeine got less sleep than other kids. Television is also a problem. When kids watch too much TV, they have to stay up later to finish their homework. Scientists also found that many kids had a TV in their room. These kids often stayed up late to watch a show.

So what can you do to make sure that you get enough sleep? Try not to drink anything with caffeine, especially at night. Sleep experts suggest that you try to go to bed at the same time every night. Don't do anything exciting before you go to bed. For instance, don't watch a scary movie or exercise. Try to do something relaxing, like reading a book or listening to quiet music.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 38

1. Experts say that kids (need) about ten hours of (sleep) each night.
2. The scientists think that soda and television are part of the (reason).
3. Drinks like cola and (tea) make you stay awake.

DIALOG *Red Tooth* Track 39

- G) Did you bring that book?
 B) Oh, no! I completely forgot!
 G) But I need that book to finish my paper for school.
 B) I'm sorry, I'm not thinking clearly. I haven't been sleeping well. I try to go to bed at the same time every night, but I have trouble falling asleep.
 G) What do you do before bed?
 B) I watch my favorite new TV show, *Red Tooth*. It's really scary, but I love it!
 G) I think that's why you can't get to sleep easily. You're too excited after watching TV.

Unit 14 *Trouble with Jellyfish*

TROUBLE WITH JELLYFISH Track 40

Why would a fisherman be upset if his nets were full of fish? If they were jellyfish, he would be! All over the world jellyfish are causing a lot of trouble. Nobody knows exactly why this is happening. However, some scientists say that human actions may be part of the reason.

Even though the word fish is in their name, jellyfish are not really fish at all. For this reason, some scientists prefer the term “jellies.” They are very simple animals with no heart or brain. Their soft bodies are made mostly of water. They do not have bones like we do. Instead, they get their shape from a material called collagen. Collagen is the same thing that makes our ears and noses soft and flexible.

All jellyfish have the ability to sting. They use it to catch food and to protect themselves. A sting from a jelly can be very painful, but most are not harmful to people. However, there are some that can be very dangerous. The box jellyfish can kill a person.

Recently, huge groups of the jellies have been growing around the world. These groups can cover thousands of square kilometers! These large groups of jellies can easily get caught in fishing nets. When they do, they damage the nets and kill the other fish. Some beaches have had to close because there were too many jellyfish in the water.

According to scientists, rising ocean temperatures might be causing this increase in the jellyfish populations. There is another problem. Dangerous kinds of jellies have been found in areas they have never been before. Box jellies from Australia are appearing in faraway places like Hawaii. Experts say that this problem is caused by large ships. They can accidentally carry jellyfish from one part of the world to another.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 41

1. Recently, huge groups of the jellies have been (growing) around the world.
2. Nobody knows exactly why this is (happening).
3. Scientists say (rising) ocean temperatures might be (causing) this increase.

DIALOG *An Ocean Menace* Track 42

- B) Hi, Jane! How was your trip to Coconut Beach?
- G) We had a picnic and played some games. But we couldn't go swimming at all! The lifeguard said there were too many jellyfish!
- B) Too many jellyfish? But we've never had jellyfish at Coconut Beach before. It sounds like a big problem.
- G) Yeah, the beach may have to close until they are gone.
- B) I hope they leave soon. I wonder why they are here.
- G) My dad says that it's because of the new cruise ship port.
- B) Cruise ships are the reason? How?
- G) Well, they can accidentally carry jellies from one place to another.

Unit 15 *Skin Gun*

THE SKIN CELL GUN Track 43

If we stay too long in the sun, our skin can get burned. It can hurt, but it goes away quickly. However, people like firefighters can get badly burned by fire. A scientist has created a new way to help cure burns. His name is Dr. Gerlach. His new machine is called the Skin Cell Gun. It works just like a paint sprayer. But it doesn't spray paint—it sprays new skin!

Your skin is made of tiny, living parts called cells. Skin cells grow very fast. Dr. Gerlach uses these amazing cells in his spray gun. First, he takes healthy skin cells from the patient's body. He combines the cells with water and other special ingredients. Then he sprays the cell mixture onto the burned part of the body.

The usual way to deal with burns is much more difficult. Doctors take a piece of healthy skin from the patient. They stretch this piece to cover the burned area. If the burn is large, doctors have to take many pieces of skin. This is a long and very painful process. When the burned area is too large, doctors have another choice. Other people can give a small part of their skin. In a special laboratory, workers grow these small pieces into larger ones. It can take many weeks to grow the skin.

Dr. Gerlach's skin cell gun solves these problems. He only needs to take a tiny amount of healthy skin to get the cells. The gun can spray a large area. The whole process only takes a few hours. Best of all, burns begin to heal in just a few days. The skin cell gun is still being tested. However, early results are very good.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 44

1. If we (stay) too long in the sun, our (skin) can get burned.
2. Workers grow these (small) pieces into larger ones.
3. The gun can (spray) a large area.

DIALOG A Hot Accident Track 45

W) What happened to your hand?

M) Well, I made spaghetti yesterday. When I was pouring out the hot water into the sink, I burned my hand.

W) Ouch! That really hurts! Did you run cold water over your hand?

M) Yes, I did that for a few minutes. Then I put some honey on it.

W) Honey?

M) Yeah, it makes it feel a lot better. What do you use?

W) I always use aloe. We have a little aloe plant in the kitchen window. Whenever I get a burn, I just break off a leaf and rub it on my skin.

M) Oh, I sometimes use that, too. It's really good for sunburns.

Unit 16 Underground Rescue

UNDERGROUND RESCUE Track 46

In 2010, thirty-three men from Chile came home to their families. They had been gone for over two months. But these men were not returning from another country. They had been trapped seven hundred meters under the ground, fighting to stay alive.

These men are miners. They find gold and other valuable materials under the ground. To get to the gold, miners have to dig long, deep tunnels into the earth. It is dangerous work. In August of 2010, there was an accident. The walls in one of the tunnels collapsed. Thirty-three miners were trapped. There was emergency food: cans of tuna and peaches and some biscuits. However, there was only enough for a few days. The miners realized they were in big trouble. They tried to make the food last a long time. Each day, they only consumed one spoonful of tuna, one biscuit, and a small piece of peach. It was a smart plan because no one could find them for over two weeks.

Rescue workers dug small, deep holes to try to find the miners. Finally, on the eighth try, they found them. All the miners had lost weight but were still healthy. Rescuers sent food and other supplies down the small hole. The miners sent notes to their families. Rescuers began to dig a bigger hole to get the miners out. Digging was difficult. The rock was very hard. Also, they had to be careful not to collapse other tunnels. It took over a month to complete the hole. It was only about the size of a small bike wheel. Rescuers could only bring up one miner at a time. Each trip took about ten minutes. The miners had to wear sunglasses to protect their eyes. They had not seen the sun in sixty-nine days. On October 13, all of the miners were rescued. One week later, the President of Chile gave them special awards.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 47

1. The miners were doing very (dangerous) work.
2. One of the tunnels collapsed, and (thirty)-three (miners) were trapped.
3. There was only enough (emergency) food for three days.

DIALOG *Trapped Drama* Track 48

- W) Did you hear? The two boys were rescued this morning.
M) Isn't that wonderful? They were trapped in that old mine for almost two days!
W) I'm glad they are safe. But I'm also angry with them.
M) Why?
W) They should not have been in there. There is a big fence around it. There is also a warning sign.
M) Well, they made a mistake. But nobody got hurt.
W) No, but firefighters worked hard to save those kids. That cost a lot of money! The boys should pay for the rescue.

Unit 17 *China's Fast Trains*

SPEED UP Track 49

China is a land of big things. It has the most people in the world—1.6 billion. It has some of the largest cities in the world. China has three of the world's longest bridges. And of course, for thousands of years, China has had the longest wall in the world. So it should be no surprise that when it comes to trains, China is going big and fast!

Twenty years ago, the average speed of a train in China was only around fifty kilometers per hour. Many people took the train each day. Trains were becoming very crowded. The government needed to find a solution. They chose high-speed trains. Trains are cleaner than buses and airplanes because they use less **gasoline**.

The Chinese government started a program called Speed Up. China began making a high-speed train system in 1988. Fast trains work best on straight, flat **tracks**. Workers changed some old tracks to save money. They made the old tracks stronger and smoother. This made them safe for faster trains. Recently, they built **brand-new** tracks just for high-speed trains. **Foreign** train experts are helping China to build their high-speed lines. The trains and tracks use parts from all over the world. Engines came from countries like France, Germany, and Japan.

Today, China has the largest system of high-speed trains in the world. It also has some of the fastest trains. The Wugang line is one example. The line connects the middle of China to the coast. It is almost one thousand kilometers long. The trip used to take ten and half hours. Now, it takes less than three hours. On the way, the train travels at 312 kilometers per hour. The Speed Up program is still **going strong**. The government plans to have high-speed trains connecting all the biggest cities in China by 2020.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 50

1. China has the (longest) wall in the world.
2. The (line) connects the middle of China to the coast.
3. Trains are (cleaner) than buses and airplanes because they use less (gasoline).

DIALOG *Off the Rails* Track 51

- G) Are you going to visit your uncle?
 B) Yes, on Friday. And we're taking the train. I'm really excited.
 G) The train? But that's slower than driving.
 B) Not if we take the high-speed train. And my family loves trains.
 G) Isn't it boring?
 B) Not at all. I like to sit and watch the view out the window. My dad and my brother like to play cards. It's more fun than driving.
 G) Aren't train tickets expensive?
 B) A little. But the price of gas is higher.

Unit 18 *Venice*

THE SINKING CITY Track 52

There is no city on earth like Venice, Italy. It has many famous old buildings and beautiful art museums. Every year, over 10 million tourists visit the city. The most **unique** thing about Venice is that instead of streets, it has **canals**. Canals are like rivers that run through the city. There are no cars in Venice. To **get around**, people must walk or use boats called water taxis. The canals add to the beauty of Venice. But they are also part of a big problem.

Venice is located next to the Adriatic Sea. It was built on top of many small islands. These islands are surrounded by a large, saltwater pool called a **lagoon**. The lagoon is mostly separated from the sea. However, water can still get into the lagoon at three places. When there are storms, the level of the Adriatic Sea can rise. When the sea is high, it pushes water into the lagoon. This causes bad flooding in the city. People in Venice call this "acqua alta" or "high water." There is another problem. The islands that the city sits on are slowly sinking. This is making the flooding worse. The seawater is damaging many of the old buildings. Some experts believe that Venice may sink over twenty centimeters in the next fifty years.

However, there is a plan to save Venice. It is called Project MOSE. Workers are building huge **gates** at the three entrances to the sea. These gates can be raised to keep high seawater from entering the city. However, not everyone is happy about the idea. Scientists say that even though the flooding is bad for the city, it is good for the lagoon. The flooding replaces the old water in the lagoon with new, clean sea water. This helps to keep the animals and plants healthy. Some scientists worry that the gates will keep the water dirty. This could hurt fish and plants in the lagoon.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 53

1. Canals are like (rivers) that (run) through the city.
2. The lagoon is mostly (separated) from the sea.
3. These islands are (surrounded) by a large, saltwater pool called a lagoon.

DIALOG *Nowhere Is Perfect* Track 54

- G) Kevin is going to move to Florida! His mother got a new job there.
B) Wow! He is really lucky! It's so cold here in the winter. Kevin will be able to go to the beach every day!
G) It does sound nice for a vacation. But I would not want to live there.
B) Why not?
G) Well, there are many hurricanes in Florida.
B) That's true.
G) And living next to the ocean is dangerous. What happens if there is an earthquake? A tsunami could cause a lot of problems.

Unit 19 *Mosquito Nets*

A FLYING KILLER Track 55

For most of us, mosquitoes are just little insects that bother us in the summer. Mosquito bites can hurt a little and be very **itchy**, but they are not usually dangerous. However, for some people, those tiny insects are a very big problem.

In some parts of the world, mosquitoes can carry a serious **disease**. It's called malaria. Malaria is most common in countries where the weather is usually hot and rainy.

When a malaria-carrying mosquito bites someone, the disease gets into that person's blood. Soon, the person becomes very sick. The disease can get into the brain and kill the person.

There is medicine that can **cure** malaria. However, it can be difficult to get. Even if the medicine is available, many families are too poor to buy it. Malaria kills over 1 million people every year.

Africa is one of the places **hardest** hit by the disease. Children there are especially in danger. Every day, about three thousand children die from malaria in Africa. Many poor families live in simple **huts** with no windows or doors. The mosquitoes that carry malaria are busiest at night. They can easily get inside and bite people. Many people get the disease while they are sleeping.

There is a solution—mosquito nets. The nets have many tiny holes that allow air to get in. However, the mosquitoes cannot get through. When people sleep under nets at night, they are protected from mosquito bites. Each net is big enough for two or three people. There are several organizations that make these nets. They are working hard to give them to as many people as possible. You can help. Giving \$10 can buy a net and maybe save someone's life.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 56

1. The disease (can) get into the (brain) and kill the person.
2. There is (medicine) that can cure malaria.
3. There are several (organizations) that make these nets.

DIALOG *The Lesser of Two Evils* Track 57

W) Do you want to go camping in June?

M) No. There are too many mosquitoes then. We should go before they come out. What about April?

W) It will still be very cold then! I don't want to camp in snow!

M) OK, what about later in the summer? August?

W) No good. That's when those terrible biting flies come out.

M) You're right. Flies are pests all day long. On the other hand, mosquitoes are only a big problem when the sun starts to go down.

W) Then let's go in June!

Unit 20 *City Monkeys*

CITY MONKEYS IN INDIA Track 58

New Delhi is one of the biggest cities in India. It's having big problems with some little visitors. Rhesus monkeys are becoming **pests** in the city. They **roam** the streets and make noise. They break into shops and homes looking for food. Hungry monkeys even attack people and steal their lunches!

As the city grows, people move into the monkeys' **territory** to find living space. When the forests are cut down, the wild monkeys move into the city. There are now over five thousand monkeys living in New Delhi.

Some people have tried using bigger monkeys called langurs. Langurs are enemies of the rhesus monkeys. Shop owners use the langurs like guards. They put them on chains in front of buildings. The langurs **scare off** the smaller rhesus monkeys. However, this solution has problems. The rhesus monkeys do stay away from the shops with langurs. But they don't leave the city. They just move to another area and cause trouble in a new place. Also, chaining wild animals goes against India's wildlife protection laws. It seems that the idea of using langurs is not a good solution.

For now, the city workers are **trapping** and keeping monkeys in cages. Officials try to move the monkeys to forests in nearby states. But most of these places do not want extra monkeys! Even if they could move the monkeys out of the city, there is another problem. Wildlife experts say that the New Delhi monkeys have become used to life in the city. They may not be able to survive in the wild.

It seems that the monkeys are in trouble no matter where they go. New Delhi needs to find a solution that is good for both monkeys and humans.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS Track 59

1. It (seems) that the monkeys are in trouble no (matter) where they go.
2. But (most) of these places do not want extra monkeys!
3. They (may) not be able to survive in the wild.

DIALOG *Bad Dogs* Track 60

M) Sue, look at my garden! It's terrible! There's garbage and flowers everywhere!

W) Oh, no. What happened?

M) Some dogs opened my garbage bags. Then they destroyed my flowers! I will have to put a fence around my flowers.

W) I think there is an easier solution.

M) Please, tell me.

W) Well, it's easy for the dogs to open the bags. You should put the bags in a trash can.

M) Good idea.

W) Yes. And if they can't get any food, they won't come back. Then your flowers will be safe, too.