

STUDYSYNC® PRESENTS

SYNC BLASTS™

A CROSS-CURRICULAR, INQUIRY-BASED SOLUTION READING AND WRITING FOR 6-12 SCIENCE

SyncBlasts™ provides reading and writing assignments that present science and current event topics relevant to students' lives and their world. Providing a variety of rich multimedia—including Preview Videos, connections to case studies, Explainer Videos, and The Point News Show—SyncBlasts is a smart way to engage students. New reading and writing assignments are published weekly. Each SyncBlast challenges students to:

- ✓ Build vital research, writing, and critical thinking skills while providing an easy entry point for peer review.
- ✓ Develop informed opinions on high-interest topics of cultural significance.
- ✓ Express their opinions succinctly, in a familiar format.
- ✓ Participate in thoughtful discussions with an authentic audience of peers.

Supporting student inquiry and deep discussions, SyncBlasts includes videos with peers modeling academic conversations about case studies, research, and current events.

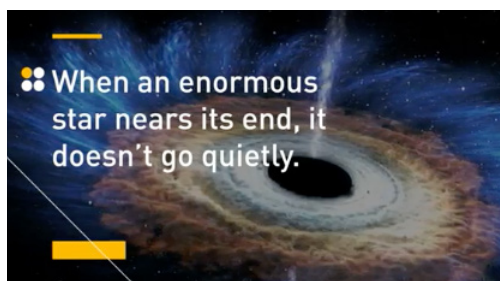
HOW IT WORKS

Teachers visit content channels to select and assign SyncBlasts—short reading and writing assignments that inspire students to think critically about high-interest topics. Students explore a robust platform of multimedia content to learn about the topic and then complete assignments within our engaging social media-like platform.



PREVIEW VIDEOS

Designed like movie trailers, Preview videos set the stage and provide background information for what is to come. Use these videos as an introduction to the subject and revisit for a big-picture view.



EXPLAINER VIDEOS

Short, fact-based videos focus on explaining an idea in a simple and compelling manner. Clear, concise language is paired with visuals, quickly teaching a concept prior to a deeper dive or discussion.



THE POINT NEWS SHOW

These videos get to the point with news and global issues. Students watch and become engaged with newscasts produced with peer-aged students.



CASE STUDIES

Many SyncBlasts are centered on a particular event, discovery, or issue and include research links to news, articles, and scientific studies that help students make connections between science and everyday life.

ANATOMY OF A BLAST

SyncBlast topics include supporting background articles written at three Lexile®-levels that make content accessible to all learners. The content is standards-aligned with content channels growing regularly with new articles and media.

Driving Question

HIGH PRIORITY
What makes the redwoods worth protecting?

SyncBlast article

Meet Hyperion, the world's tallest tree, with its massive trunk stretching skyward and ancient, gnarled branches overseeing bygone eras – a giant among giants. So, it might be hard to believe that something this big, this historic is practically invisible.

Hyperion's home is in a remote area of Redwood National Park, a 133,000-acre preserve that houses some of the other tallest, oldest trees in the world. Beyond that, however, Hyperion's precise location remains a mystery, as ecologists and conservationists want to protect the 600-year-old tree. "We're one of those places that we have around the world that everyone thinks is precious enough, important enough, rare enough, that we need to protect it for the future," says Candace Tinkler, the park's chief of interpretation and education.

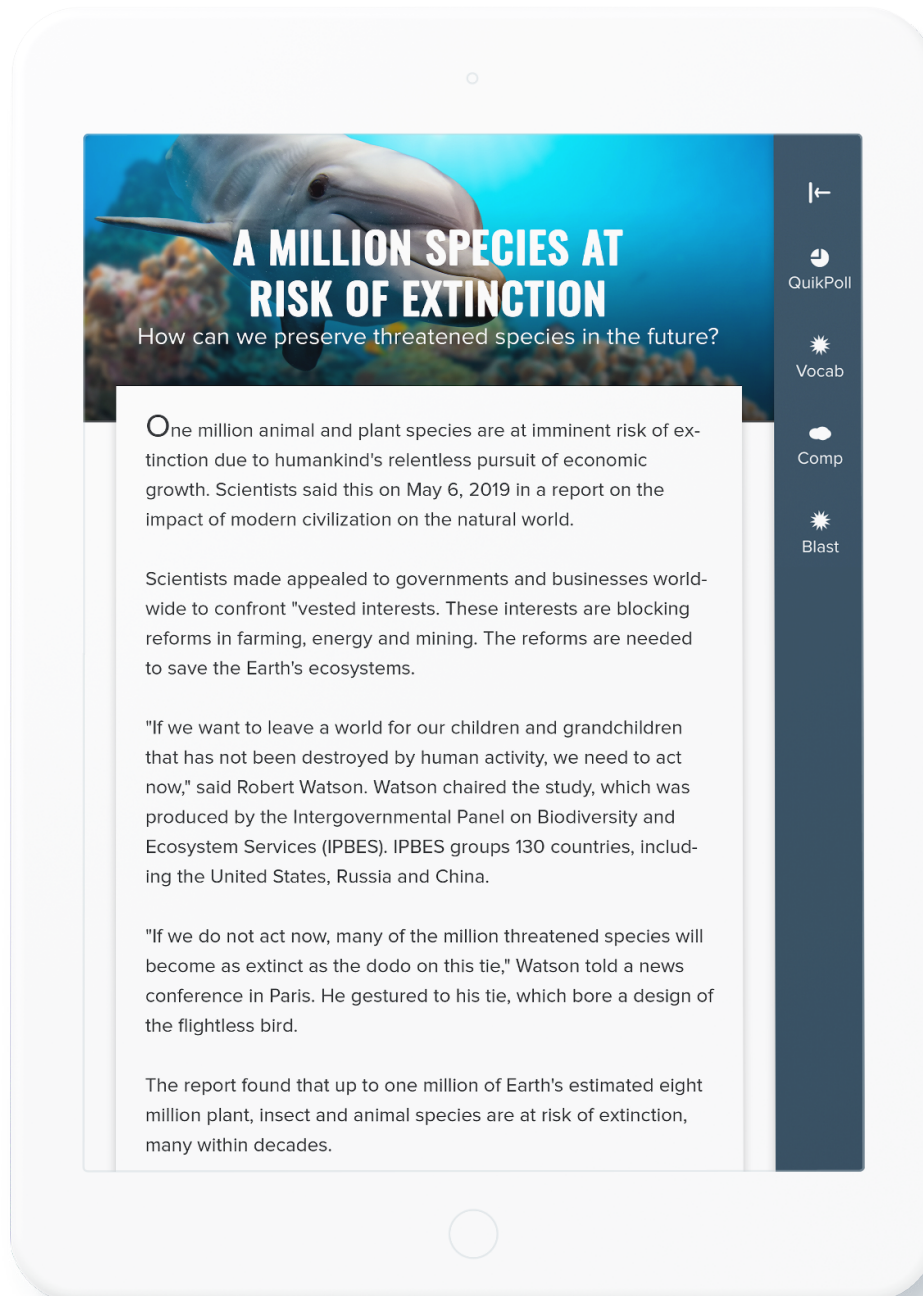
Park visitors aren't always conscientious when they step into the realm of these woody ancients. Some etch their names into trees, damaging their protective bark, and others cut or snap off bits of the trees as souvenirs. As a result, environmentalists are determined to keep Hyperion hidden. At 379 feet and four inches tall, Hyperion is more than twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty. It was initially discovered by hikers Chris Atkins and Michael Taylor in 2006, and its official height was confirmed by Humboldt State University ecologist Stephen Sillett. So how do you go about measuring a tree that dwarfs all others? For this, science kept it

←
QuikPoll
Vocab
Comp
Blast

Great extension activities such as reading comprehension questions, an interactive poll, and more

CURRENT EVENTS CHANNEL FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

SyncBlasts that connect students to current events and the latest news.



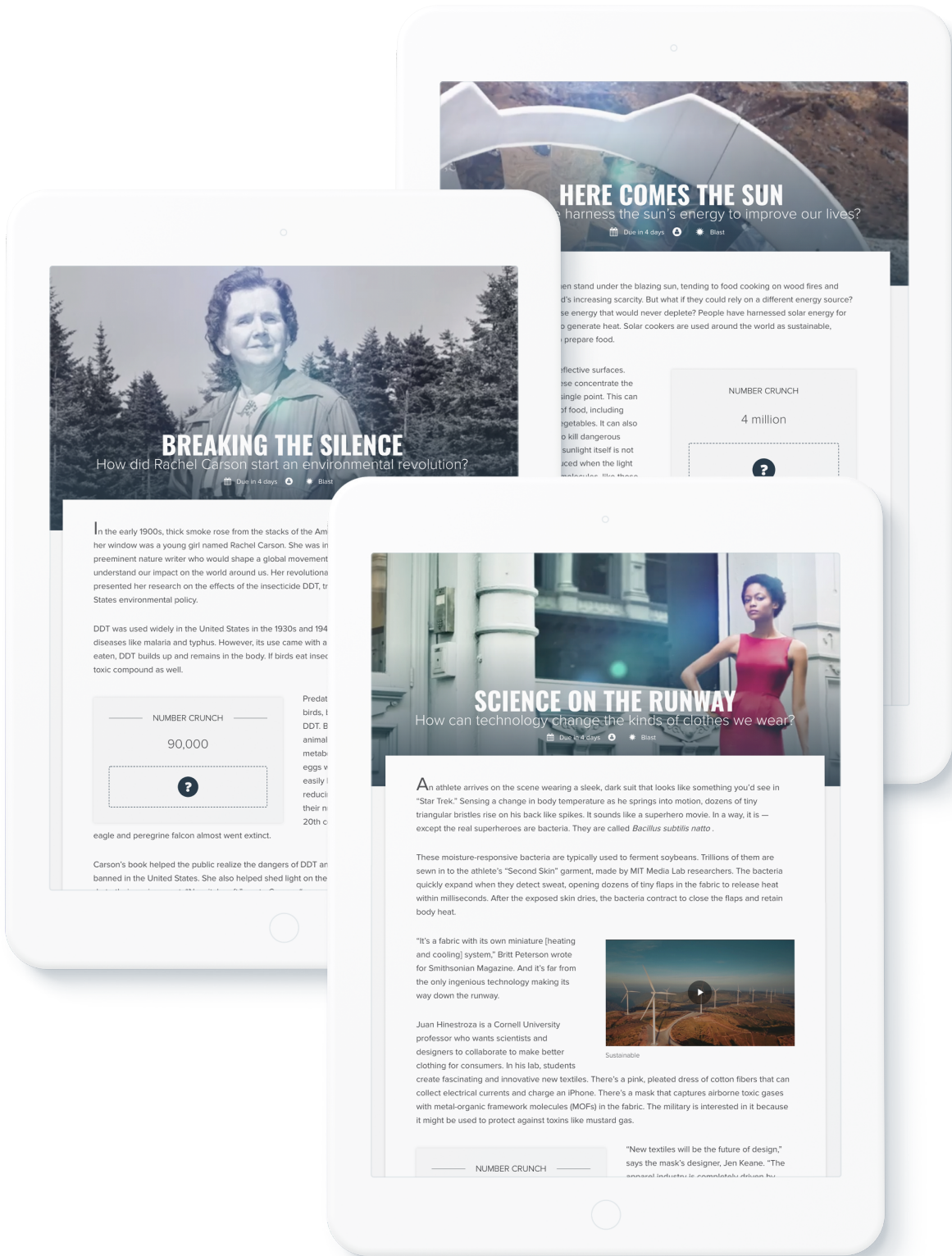
SCIENCE CHANNELS

Teachers can visit the Science Channels to view SyncBlast topics relevant to their classroom study. New content is added regularly throughout the lifetime of your subscription.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

SYNCBLAST ARTICLES



HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

SYNCBLAST ARTICLES

