

Decodable Reader

# Our Life/ Our World

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## Unit 4

# Our Life/ Our World



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# The Thumb's-Up Rain Forest





It is morning in the rain forest. Fran Frog rests in a tree. "I know this rain forest is the very best place to be," Fran says. "I give it a thumbs up!"

"Do my pals like this scene, too?" asks Fran.



Fran asks Bob Bat.

"I like this rain forest. I can hang on this tree limb and sleep all day. I can fly in the sky at night. My mom and dad grew up here, too," says Bob. "This place is just right for me."





Fran asks Abe Ape.

Abe says, "Not a thing is wrong here. I can climb trees and get good food to eat. My friends are very helpful. No one is rude. I will make a sign that says this rain forest is great."



Fran asks Pat Parrot.

"This forest has many bright colors. I see gold, red, and green under a blue sky," says Pat. "And I hear wrens making beautiful music. I don't dislike a thing here."





Fran asks April Ant.

April says, "I roam all through this forest. I go from up high to down below. I can smell the fresh scent of flowers on my way. I like all the places in this huge rain forest."



Fran asks Sam Sloth.

"This forest can get hot, but I don't mind the heat. I just go very slowly," says Sam. "I am glad there aren't any gnats to bug me. This place is a great home for me."





Fran clings to a branch with sticky toes. "I knew it! My friends like this place as much as I do. We have lots of food to eat and many colorful things to see. This is a thumbs-up rain forest!"



# Acadia Scenes



Maine's Acadia has the sea and high rocky mountains. But that's not all. Acadia has scenes packed with wildlife.



In this scene, an osprey floats in sea breezes. An osprey makes a nest high in a tree or on top of a pole. Osprey like being up high!

An osprey has a knack for fishing. When it spots a fish, it dives and grabs a meal.

To make a lodge, beavers cut down trees. How do they cut trees? They don't use knives! Their long teeth gnash tree branches and twigs. Mud is added to the limbs and branches. The lodge is so packed that it can't be wrecked.

Beavers get dry, eat, and sleep in the lodge. It keeps them safe as well.





Whales swim in the sea close to Acadia. To see them, take a boat from a dock. At sea, you can watch them play, feed, and swim. It is a thrill to see a whale!

Carlos Davila/Photographer's Choice/Getty Images;  
(inset) Radius Images/Getty Images Plus/Getty Images



# Shirl and Her Tern





My dad knows a lot about birds. Each Saturday we find a spot on Burns Beach to watch them. I like wrens and terns the best. When terns swirl in the sky, it's quite a scene. I would sign up to watch them all day!

Waves churn and gnats cluster  
on the beach where the terns feed.  
In fall, we feel sad when the terns  
fly away.

By last week, we thought the  
last tern had flown away. Then, from  
the reeds, there was a weak chirp.







We turned toward the sound. We moved the reeds and found a tern in the dirt. Something was wrong. The tern was hurt. It didn't stir a bit.

Dad called Fern. She works as an animal doctor. Fern said to bring the bird to the vet building on First Street.

We found a box and used a piece of an old shirt to make a bed. We put the bird in the bed and fed it some crumbs. Then we climbed in the car and drove to see Fern. As we drove, I urged the tern to get well.





Fern checked my tern. She saw a cut under its wing. Fern got medicine. She rubbed it on the cut to kill germs.

Today I got good news. My tern is fine! In the spring, it will be with the rest of the terns when they return.



# Dogs Work!



Fotosearch/Getty Images

Some dogs can work in many places. Their jobs are very special.



## City Dogs

This dog, Ginger, has a job in the big city today. She watches and lets the man know when he can step off the curb or turn right. She keeps the man safe.

This dog, Buck, works in the city, too. Buck can smell things that police cannot. He can find you if you are lost. He can catch robbers that run away.



# Country Dogs

This dog, Spur, is the first dog on the right. Spur works in cold, snowy places in the country. Today he pulls a sled with five other dogs. Spur uses a great deal of force as he works, and the sled moves quickly.

Zero Creatives/Getty Images





This dog with black and white fur is named Spot. She works in the country. Spot's owner raises a lot of sheep. Spot herds the sheep so they go the right way and don't get lost. Her job is important. She can do what her owner can't!

# More Fun Than a Hat!





When it turns cold outside, how can people keep their ears warm? Pulling on a wool hat works and fixes the problem.

Before wool hats were made, people wrapped long wool scarves around their ears.





Chester Greenwood lived where the winter winds roar. Chester wore a wool scarf, but it was itchy. His bulky scarf made ice-skating a chore.

One day Chester's ears got so sore they hurt. So Chester made a plan and got to work.



Chester thought of a way that was certain to keep his ears warm. He got a bit of beaver fur, black velvet, and thin metal strips.

Chester gave these things to his grandma. She stitched them together. These were the first earmuffs!



Chester's earmuffs worked. Still, Chester thought they could be better.

A short time later, Chester made changes to his earmuffs. The new earmuffs were easy to carry and weren't heavy. They fit just right.

Soon everyone wanted earmuffs. They started a bit of an uproar.



Chester was just 15 when he came up with this worthwhile plan! In his lifetime he made more useful things.

It was long ago that Chester made the first earmuffs. But in the place where he was born, they still have a party on his birthday.



# Just For Fun!



hadynyah/Getty Images

Kids born in India do many things for fun. They are like kids all over the world.



These kids are playing ball together. They don't have a grassy place or a park to play. They play outside on the stone street. Kids throw and try to hit the ball to score!



Kids in India like to have even more fun and fly kites from the top of large buildings. Kites soar in the blue sky. The kites are painted in bright colors.

Flying kites is a big sport in India. Kids try to get the kites to stay up the longest and highest. Kids respect the best kite flyer.



These kids like Holi. This is day when people party in the streets. This mom is tossing powder as her kids pass by.

The powder sticks to shirts, shorts, faces, and skirts. Everyone gets color all over them. The kids can pretend that they are like moving art!



# Cheer Up, Dot





Dot went inside the house.

"What happened, dear?" asked Mrs. Deer.

"The big kids named me Spots!" Dot said, with tears dropping from her big, sad eyes. Then more tears fell.

This made Mrs. Deer sort of sad.



Mrs. Deer said, "Cheer up, Dot. Each young deer has spots. Here's a tip, dear. Spots can be useful"

So Dot went outside to play again. The deer were bored, so they started a game of Hide and Seek. Fay was It.





Doe stood behind a tree near Fay, but her tail stuck out. Fay found her.

Ray hid behind a bush, but his big horns soared up. Fay found him, too.

Dot lay in the grass. Fay could not spot her, and neither could Doe.



At last, Fay gave up. "Where is Dot? Come here, Dot. You win!" All the deer cheered.

"Here I am!" said Dot, standing up right near them. "I am not gone. I win because of my spots! I like spots!"





Fay said, "Let's wait a year. You will be older and bigger. And you will not have spots. Then we will play again and see who wins at Hide and Seek!"

Dot said, "In a year I may not have spots, but I will be much smarter. I bet I will still win!"

# Deer, Steers, and Ibex



Many animals have horns. In this photo story, we will find out about three animals.



# Deer

Here are two deer. The bigger deer with horns is a buck. The deer on the right has no horns because it is a young deer.

Deer eat leaves and grass. Deer can turn up in people's yards. You can peer at deer, but don't get too close. Deer will run away quite fast!





# Steers

A steer has horns. A man rides this steer, but the steer will try to get the man off. The steer jumps, bucks, and jerks. Neither wants to give up. People cheer when the man is thrown off.

You can see steers at rodeos. You can see them on farms, too.



## Ibex

Here is an ibex. This animal has big, long horns that curve. The ibex can climb up and down on rocks. It can move quickly. Ibex are shy, so not a lot of people can lay eyes on them.

Ibex stay with their herd. They mainly eat grasses and bushes. They spend a lot of time grazing and eating food.

# Watching and Hearing Animals



You can hear or see a lot of  
animals, big and small.



Spring peepers are the size of a paper clip. But they are so tiny that your eyes might not see them.

You might hear them if you are near a wet place. You might hear peepers from your own backyard!



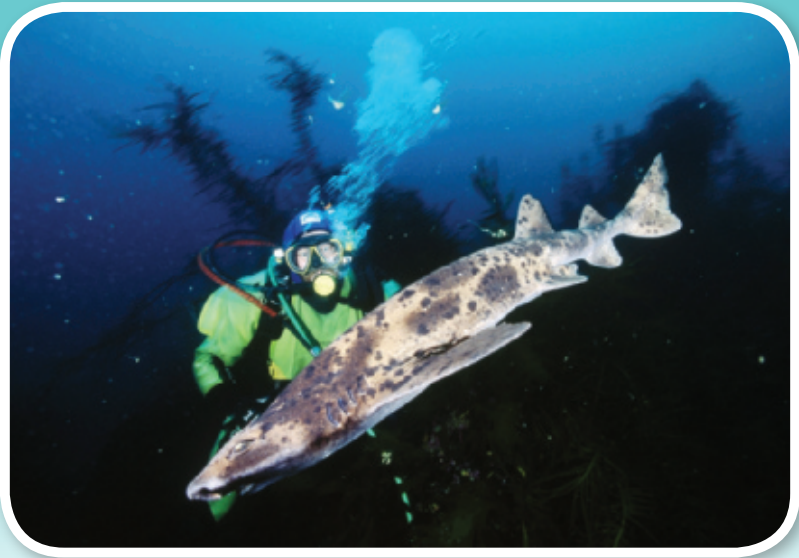


Each year when spring comes, the males sing songs at dusk or nighttime. Peepers sound like tiny bells ringing when they sing together, “Peep, peep, peep!”

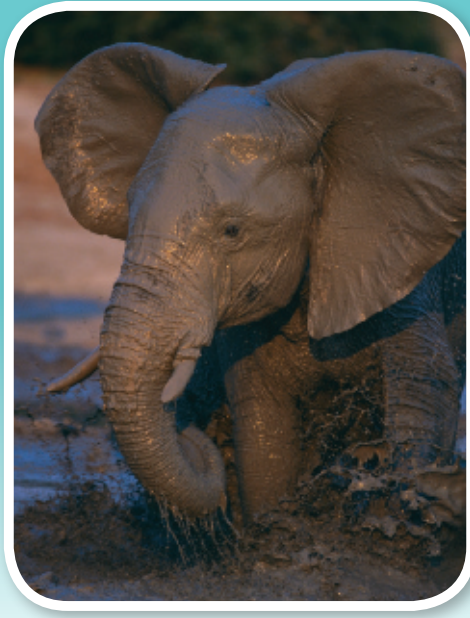


If you spot a fin sticking up on the top of the seawater, it might be a shark.

To see sharks up close, these divers stood inside the cage and watched sharks swim near them. The divers had no fear. The cage kept them safe.



Most sharks can't make sounds. But there is one shark that barks! If a net catches this shark, it feels fear. Then it takes in air. When the air blows out of the shark, it makes a barking sound.



Huge elephants can make a high scream that can hurt your ears. They can make low, roaring sounds, too.

Elephants like getting wet and dirty. They smear dirt and mud over their skin. Hearing and watching elephants is fun!



# From the Rear of the Shed



Jodie had not yet seen a big  
moose, and she wanted to!



Jodie got some peanut butter. She smeared a dab on a stake. She dug a hole and stuck the stake in the hole at the rear of the shed.

She said, "I know that a moose will eat that peanut butter!"



Jodie had a swimming pool in her backyard. The water was clear and clean.

Then one day, Jodie glanced in the backyard. A big moose came out from behind the shed. Then its baby came out and stood at the edge.



The big moose watched nearby while its baby got in the water. The baby moose had no fear. She played and played.

“Yes!” Jodie yelled. “The moose came to my house!”



# *The Caring King's Fair Wish*



Once upon a time, a king lived in a palace. Here the king had a garden filled with rare roses. The king shared his life with his child, Martha.

The king was a fine man. He cared about his people. He had all he could wish for. But still, he wished he had more.







One day the king was in his garden. He was startled there by a man wearing a cloak.

"Why are you here? Where are you going?" asked the king. "Here's my hand. Talk to me."

"I was getting fresh air as I walked among the roses," said the man. "I felt ill and had to rest."



The king took care of the man. When the man felt well, he went home. Soon the man came back.

"I can grant wishes," he said. "To repay you, I will grant you a wish."

"I want all that I touch to turn to gold!" said the king.

"That's a fair wish," said the man.



The king began to touch things.  
Soon he had gold chairs, gold stairs,  
gold rugs, and gold deer!

When he held a pear or a rose,  
it turned to gold and lost its smell.

At lunch the king's food turned  
to gold. Scared, the king started to  
weep big tears.



Martha ran to him. As he patted her hair, she turned to gold!

"Oh, dear. I am sorry," wailed the king. "Now I know that happiness can't be bought with gold."

The man knew how to cheer up the king. He undid the king's wish. And the king was never greedy again.





# A Bear in the Forest



Lynn\_Bystrom/Getty Images

There is a black bear that stands in the forest among the trees. A bear can smell the air with its nose to find food or a mate.



This is a mama bear, and she takes care of her cubs. Her cubs will stay with her for two years.

Never go near a bear and her cubs, because she will get mad. Do not try to touch her cubs. A bear that is mad is dangerous.





Bears eat grasses, berries, and bugs. Black bears can catch and eat fish, too. Black bears need a lot of space to get things to eat. Black bears roam from 15 to 80 square miles each day.

Never feed a bear. You will be sorry you did! A bear that wants your lunch is dangerous, too.



In winter, a bear sleeps inside its lair, or den, where it can be warm and safe. It does not eat or drink. A sleeping bear rarely wakes up. But if it hears you, it might get up. So take care near a bear's den!

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**Silent Letters;** *wr*\*: wrens, wrong; *kn*\*: knew, know; *gn*\*: gnats, sign; *mb*\*: climb, limb, thumbs; *sc*: scene, scent

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

below, colors, don't, down, eat, many, morning, sleep, through, very

**Review:** all, any, are, beautiful, do, flowers, food, for, friends, give, good, have, here, says, there, to, too, under

**Story Words:** forest, hear, parrot

**Acadia Scenes**

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**Silent Letters;** *wr*\*: wrecked; *kn*\*: knock, knives; *gn*\*: gnash; *mb*\*: limbs; *sc*: scene(s)

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

sleep, eat, don't, down

**Review:** or, of, the, their, to, you

**Story Words:** Acadia, osprey, beavers, mountains

Week 2 Shirl and Her Tern

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** *er*\*: cluster, Fern, germs, her, tern(s), under; *ir*\*: bird(s), chirp, dirt, First, Shirl, shirt, stir, swirl; *ur*\*: Burns, churn, hurt, return, turned, urged; *or*\*: doctor, works

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

animal, away, building, found, from, Saturday, thought, today, toward, watch

**Review:** about, all, fall, good, moved, said, sound, there, they, to, was, where, would

**Story Words:** called, car, medicine, something

**Dogs Work!**

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** *er*\*: herds, Ginger; *ir*\*: first; *ur*\*: turn, curb, Spur; *or*\*: or, work(s)

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

away, today, watch

**Review:** are, country, do, don't, of, many, moves, other, pulls, some, special, their, they, too, very, you, what

**Story Words:** police

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** **or**\*: born, short;  
**ore**\*: before, chore, more, sore, wore;  
**oar**\*: uproar; **ar**\*: party, scarf, scarves,  
 started

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

ago, carry, certain, everyone,  
 heavy, outside, people, problem,  
 together, warm  
**Review:** around, could, how,  
 lived, of, one, pulling, their, to,  
 was, were, where  
**Story Words:** earmuffs, ears, wool

**Just For Fun!**

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** **or**\*: born, shorts,  
 sport, for; **oar**\*: soar; **ore**\*: score; **ar**\*:  
 park, party, art

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

everyone, outside, people,  
 together  
**Review:** all, are, ball, buildings,  
 don't, do, have, many, they, to  
**Story Words:** powder, India,  
 color, Holi

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** **eer**\*: cheer, cheered,  
 deer; **ere**\*: here, here's; **ear**\*: dear, near,  
 tears, year

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

again, behind, eyes, gone,  
 happened, house, inside,  
 neither, stood, young  
**Review:** all, because, come,  
 could, from, found, have, of,  
 outside, said, to, was, were,  
 what, where, who, you  
**Story Words:** soared, bored

**Deer, Steers, and Ibex**

**DECODABLE WORDS**

**Target Phonics Elements**

**r-Controlled Vowels;** **eer**\*: deer, peer,  
 steer, cheer; **ere**\*: here

**HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS**

eyes, neither, young  
**Review:** about, animal, are,  
 because, don't, down, of, off, to,  
 have, long, many, move, people,  
 their, too, two, you  
**Story Words:** ibex, rodeos



## Watching and Hearing Animals

WORD COUNT: 205

### DECODABLE WORDS

#### Target Phonics Elements

**r-Controlled vowels, ear\*:** ears, fear, hear, near, smear, year

### HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

eyes, inside, stood

**Review:** animals, are, of, one, small, sounds, their, there, together, too, your

**Story Words:** air, elephants

## From the Rear of the Shed

WORD COUNT: 133

### DECODABLE WORDS

#### Target Phonics Elements

**r-Controlled vowels, ear\*:** nearby, smeared, fear, rear, clear

### HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

behind, house, stood

**Review:** from, of, out, one, was, water, said, some, to

**Story Words:** pool, moose

## Week 5 The Caring King's Fair Wish

WORD COUNT: 276

### DECODABLE WORDS

#### Target Phonics Elements

**r-Controlled vowel; air\*:** air, chairs, fair, hair, stairs; **are\*:** care, cared, rare, scared, shared; **ear\*:** pear, wearing; **ere:** there, where

### HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

among, bought, knew, never, once, soon, sorry, talk, touch, upon

**Review:** about, again, all, are, could, food, for, how, lived, of, now, one, people, said, to, took, was, you

**Story Words:** happiness, palace, walked

## A Bear in the Forest

WORD COUNT: 154

### DECODABLE WORDS

#### Target Phonics Elements

**r-Controlled vowels; air\*:** lair; there; **are\*:** rarely, care, square; **ear\*:** bear; **ere:** where

### HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

among, never, sorry, touch

**Review:** because, does, of, to, too, two, you, your

**Story Words:** forest, berries, dangerous

## HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

### Grade K

answer	give	place	year	down	light
any	gone	poor	young	early	like
around	good	pretty	your	eat	little
away	great	pull		eight	live
be	green	push	<b>Grade 2</b>	either	long
been	grow	put	about	even	look
before	guess	question	after	every	many
began	happy	right	again	everyone	me
better	hard	round	ago	eyes	more
blue	heard	run	all	fall	morning
boy	help	school	almost	family	move
brother	her	should	also	far	my
brought	how	small	America	few	neither
build	instead	so	among	field	never
busy	into	some	and	find	new
buy	jump	soon	animal	first	now
by	knew	start	another	five	number
call	know	sure	any	flower	of
carry	large	surprise	apart	food	off
caught	laugh	their	are	for	often
children	learn	then	around	found	old
climb	listen	there	away	friends	on
color	live	they	baby	from	once
come	love	thought	ball	funny	one
could	make	three	beautiful	girl	only
day	many	through	because	give	open
does	money	today	before	go	or
done	month	together	began	goes	orange
door	more	tomorrow	begin	gone	other
down	mother	too	behind	good	our
early	move	toward	below	great	out
eat	near	two	better	green	outside
eight	new	under	bird	group	over
enough	no	up	blue	grow	part
every	none	upon	both	happened	people
eyes	not	very	bought	has	picture
fall	nothing	use	boy	have	places
father	now	walk	building	he	play
favorite	of	want	buy	hear	problem
few	oh	warm	by	heavy	pull
find	old	water	carry	help	put
flew	once	way	certain	here	ready
food	one	were	change	house	right
found	only	what	cheer	how	said
four	or	who	climbed	hundred	Saturday
friend	other	why	cold	hurt	saw
from	our	woman	colors	idea	says
front	out	wonder	come	inside	school
full	over	work	could	into	second
fun	people	would	country	isn't	see
girl	picture	write	didn't	knew	seven
			do	know	she
			don't	learn	should
			done	leaves	show

### Grade 1

about	found	only	what	who	could	country	didn't	do	don't	done
above	four	or	why	woman	wonder	work	would	write		
after	friend	other	our	out	over	people	picture			
again	from	our	out	over	people	picture				
ago	front	out	over	people	picture					
all	full	over	people	picture						
animal	fun	people	picture							
another	girl	picture								

sky	started	those	touch	upon	were	work
sleep	stood	thought	toward	very	what	world
small	straight	three	try	walk	where	would
some	talk	through	turned	want	which	year
soon	the	to	two	warm	who	yellow
sorry	their	today	under	was	why	yes
sounds	there	together	under-	wash	without	you
special	they	too	stands	watch	won	young
start	this	took	until	water	won't	your

#### DECODING SKILLS TAUGHT TO DATE

short *a*, *i*; -s, -es (plural nouns); Short *e*, *o*, *u*; -s, -es (inflectional endings); two-letter blends: *r*-blends, *s*-blends, *t*-blends, *l*-blends; closed syllables; short *a*, long *a*: *a\_e*; -ed, -ing (inflectional endings); short *i*, long *i*: *i\_e*; possessives; short *o*, long *o*: *o\_e*; short *u*, long *u*: *u\_e*; -ed, -ing (w/ doubling final consonants; drop final *e*); CVCe syllables; soft *c* and *g*: *dge*, *ge*, *lge*, *nge*, *rge*; prefixes *re-*, *un-*, *dis-*; consonant digraphs *ch*, -*tch*, *sh*, *ph*, *th*, *ng*, *wh*; suffixes -*ful*, -*less*; three-letter blends: *scr*, *spr*, *str*, *thr*, *spl*, *shr*; compound words; long *a*: *a*, *ai*, *ay*, *ea*, *ei*, *eigh*, *ey*; contractions with 's, 're, 'll, 've; long *i*: *i*, *y*, *igh*, *ie*; open syllables; long *o*: *o*, *oa*, *ow*, *oe*; contractions with *not*; long *e*: *e*, *ee*, *ea*, *ie*, *y*, *ey*, *e\_e*; -s, -es (change *y* to *i*); long *u*: *u\_e*, *ew*, *ue*, *u*; comparative endings -*er*, -*est*; silent letters *wr*, *kn*, *gn*, *mb*, *sc*; prefixes/suffixes; *r*-controlled vowels: *er*, *ir*, *ur*, *or*; inflectional endings; *r*-controlled vowels: *or*, *ore*, *oar*, *ar*; plurals (irregular); *r*-controlled vowels: *eer*, *ere*, *ear*; abbreviations; *r*-controlled vowels: *are*, *air*, *ear*, *ere*; *r*-controlled vowel syllables