3-5 READING

PART 3

Suggested Remote Learning Activities

Expect great things.
Grandpa’s Rock Kit

by Donna Foley
illustrated by Burgandy Beam
Vocabulary

attic
board
chores
customers
label
spare
stamps

Word count: 422

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.
Grandpa’s Rock Kit

by Donna Foley
illustrated by Burgandy Beam
Every Saturday Danny and Tina helped their mother with chores around the house. One Saturday she had them climb into the attic.

Then Mom said, “Today we’ll clean boxes out of here. It will be fun. Not every box is labeled. You never know what you’ll find.”
Danny found a big, heavy box.

“I think this box is heavy because it has some of Grandpa’s rocks,” Mom said as they unpacked the box.
“Grandpa collected rocks and stamps when he was your age,” Mom said. “Later on, he made rock kits that customers bought. I bet we’ll find a spare kit in this box. It looks like a board.”

“Here it is,” Danny said, lifting up the kit. “Grandpa must have known a lot about rocks.”

A rock kit contains many different kinds of rocks.
“I’ll share with you some of what Grandpa told me,” Mom said. “Earth has three layers. The core is at Earth’s center. The middle layer is called the mantle. The crust is the thin outer layer. It has three kinds of rocks.”
“Igneous rock is the most common rock. It is made by heat. Magma is hot melted rock in the upper mantle and crust of Earth. Sometimes magma pushes to the surface through a volcano. It flows out as lava. Cooled lava is igneous rock,” Mom said.
“Granite is igneous rock. Granite is usually gray. It can have tiny white and black crystals. Some granite has pink crystals,” Mom said as she held up a rock for Tina to see.
“Another rock is sedimentary rock. Sandstone is sedimentary rock. Rivers carry sand to lakes and seas. Layers of sand settle to the bottom. The top layers of sand press down on the bottom layers. This pressing turns sand into sandstone.” Mom said.
“Limestone is sedimentary rock too. It is made from sea animals’ skeletons. Sometimes you can see the skeletons in the rock. Limestone is often white. It can be pink, tan, or other colors too.”
Mom picked up another rock from the kit. “The third kind of rock is metamorphic rock. Heat and pressure change some rocks into metamorphic rocks. Marble is metamorphic. It has changed from limestone. Marble is usually white. It may have swirls of color in it.”
“Grandpa’s rocks are really neat. Are there more?” Tina asked, looking at a piece of marble.

“Hmm,” Mom said, “I think his entire collection is probably in one of these boxes. Why don’t you guys try to find it?”

“That sounds great! Then you can tell us more about rocks!” Danny and Tina exclaimed.
1. Reread pages 11 and 12. Find one fact and one opinion on those pages. Write the sentences that tell the fact and the opinion in a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
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<td>Opinion</td>
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2. Look at the limestone on page 10. What inference can you make about the area where that piece of limestone came from? What do you think the area was like over many years’ time? How does that help you understand rocks?

3. Show that you know what an attic is by using the word in a sentence.

4. Magma is found inside Earth. Look at the drawing of Earth’s layers on pages 6–7 and reread the text. Which layer is magma found in?
Rescuing Whales

by Marianne Lenihan
Vocabulary

anxiously
bay
blizzard
channel
chip
melodies
supplies
surrounded
symphonies

Word count: 554
Whales are sea mammals. Many people like whales for the melodies of their songs. Whale songs have been called symphonies. Usually, whales swim the seas easily. But sometimes they get stuck in shallow water or grounded on a beach. This is known as being stranded or beached.
When a whale is stranded, its body weight presses on its heart and lungs. The whale can have a hard time breathing. Also, the whale’s body temperature can become very high without the cooling seawater. Its skin can dry out, crack, and become sore.

Here’s how people help stranded whales: The whales are surrounded by volunteers and scientists. They pour cold water and chipped ice on the whales to keep them cool. The scientists use their supplies to do medical tests on the whales.
Sometimes all that stranded whales need is to be kept cool and calm until the tide rises. Then the rescuers herd the whales into a group and push them out into deeper water. If the whales find a deep channel of water, they are able to swim out to the open sea.

Scientists do not fully understand why whales strand. One idea is that the lead whale becomes sick and swims off course. Then the other whales in the pod follow. Another thought is that harsh weather, such as blizzards and hurricanes, may upset the whales’ sense of direction.
In 1986, at Eastham, Massachusetts, three young pilot whales stranded. They had come into a shallow bay. Scientists were called to help. A crowd waited anxiously on the beach until they arrived. The scientists checked the whales. They decided to take them to an aquarium for care.

The young whales were placed on stretchers. Then, front-end loaders lifted each whale into a truck. Only the front-end loaders could move the heavy whales. One by one, the three whales were lifted and placed gently into the truck.
At the aquarium a crane moved the whales out of the truck and into a tank. It took the young whales a few days to get used to aquarium life. They were fed small fish stuffed with vitamins and medicines.

This journal shows what happened on the day the whales were ready to be returned to sea!

**WHALE RESCUE JOURNAL**

**8:00 A.M.** Most of the water is drained from the aquarium tank.

**9:00 A.M.** The whales are lifted out of the tank on stretchers.

**10:00 A.M.** The stretchers are lifted by cranes into a truck.

**11:00 A.M.** The truck drives the whales to a large ship.

**2:00 P.M.** The whales are loaded onto the ship.

**4:00 P.M.** The ship sets sail for deep ocean waters.

**6:00 P.M.** The scientists on the ship search for a pod of whales.

**7:00 P.M.** A pod of whales is spotted. Scientists fit each whale with a special radio tag to help track the whale.

**8:30 P.M.** The stretchers are lifted by a crane. The whales are lowered into a special cage next to the ship.

**12:00 A.M.** The whales have gotten used to the ocean water again. The cage is opened. The whales swim out to meet their new pod. Everyone cheers!
Whales know when they’re in trouble. Usually, they cooperate with their human rescuers. Although some whale rescues are not successful, many whales have been returned safely to their ocean home!

1. How might the rescue of dolphins be similar to the rescue of whales?

2. You read about the whale rescue journal on pages 10 and 11. How is the journal organized? How do you know? What does the author tell about first?

3. Rescuers surrounded the stranded whales. What other word or words mean almost the same as surrounded? Write your answer(s) in a chart like the one below.

<table>
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<th>Surrounded</th>
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4. In the journal on page 11, how long after the ship sets sail do the scientists spot a pod of whales?