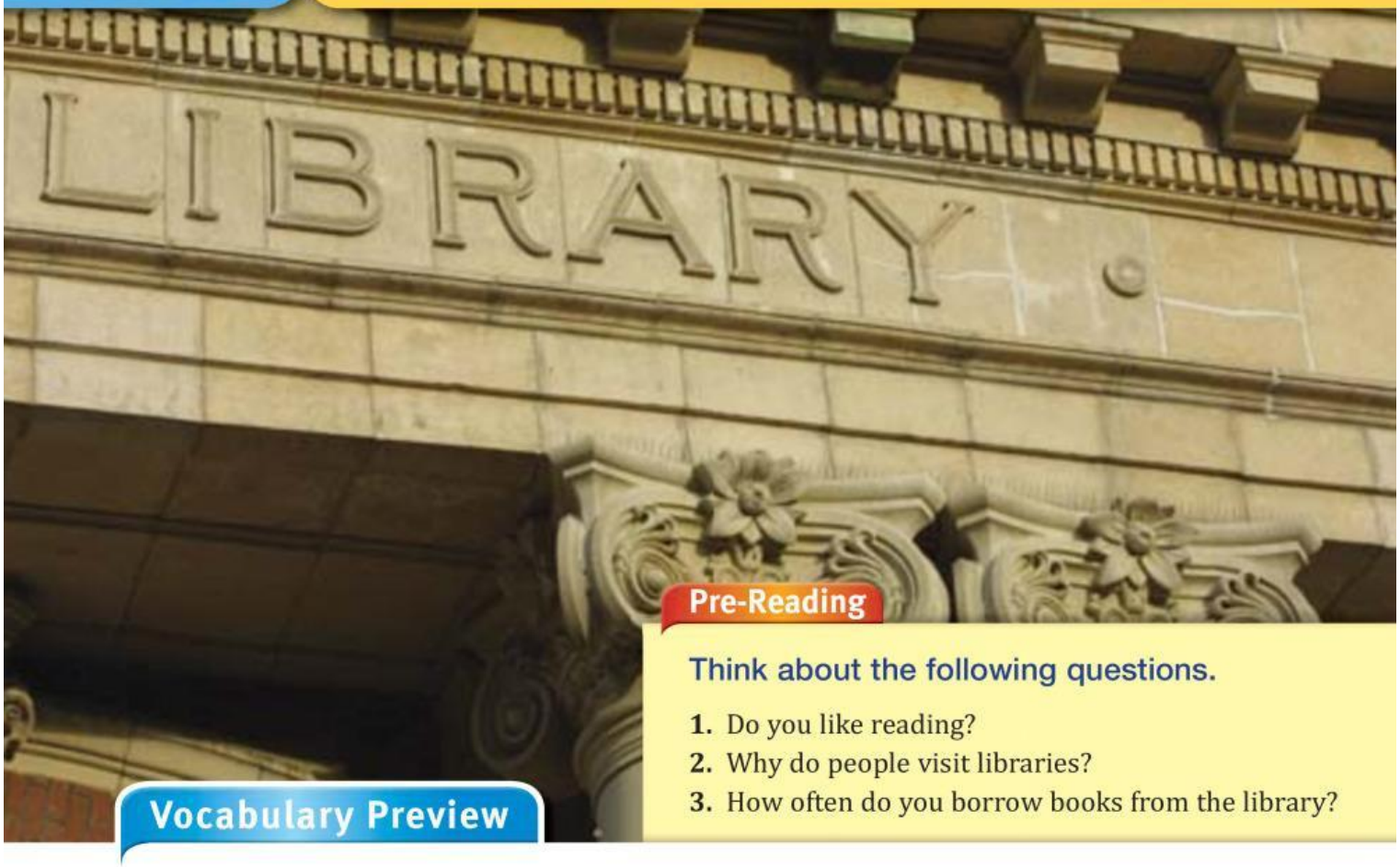
10 Desert Delivery



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Do you like reading?
2. Why do people visit libraries?
3. How often do you borrow books from the library?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. making bigger	d. lack; not enough
b. extra	e. nearby; neighborhood
c. attempt to do something	f. attract

1. ___ Do you have any <u>spare</u> money you can lend me?
2. ___ Let's go to our <u>local</u> store to get that. I don't want to go too far.
3. ___ There is a <u>shortage</u> of books at our library. There are only 100 books available.
4. ___ Make an <u>effort</u>! Do your best!
5. ___ That company wants to <u>entice</u> more people to come into their store.
6. ___ Everyone loves that restaurant, so they are <u>expanding</u> their menu.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Desert Delivery

Track 19

These days it is easy for most of us to get a hold of the latest books or magazines. We can go to bookstores, order them through the Internet, or borrow them from the local library. Now imagine having to walk miles and miles through a hot sandy desert just to borrow a book. This is the reality for people living in the **villages** of the Garissa region of Kenya in East Africa.

In 1996, **librarian** Wycliffe Oluoch used to spend each day waiting for people to come to borrow some of the 24,000 books in his library in Garissa. The library had no shortage of books, but people weren't coming to read them. It was too much effort to walk through the desert just to borrow books. Oluoch racked his brain for ways to entice people into the library. After a lot of thought, he hit upon a great idea. If people wouldn't come to the library, then he would have to take the library to them. Oluoch **strapped** boxes of books onto the backs of camels, and created the **Mobile** Camel Library.

Starting with three camels in 1996, but more recently expanding the service to six camels, the Mobile Camel Library serves over one million people. Twice a month, the camel library can be seen carrying books all around the Garissa region. These hard-working animals need little water and can carry up to 500 pounds of books across the sands. A librarian, a library **assistant**, a **herdsman,** and a **lookout** all travel with the camels. The lookout helps protect the books from thieves.



The children of Garissa love the camel library and appreciate Oluoch's effort. Eleven-year-old Mohamud Mohamed reads his library books carefully and always returns them on time. He knows the Garissa library **punishes** people for losing books, just like any other library. However, the punishment is very **stiff** compared to that of other libraries. If a village loses a book, the camel library stops visiting.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 334 words

4 *village*: a very small town
6 *librarian*: a person who works in a library
12 *strap*: to tie down; to attach in place by rope
12 *mobile*: capable of moving or being moved easily
18 *assistant*: a helper
19 *herdsman*: a shepherd; a person who takes care of a herd of animals
19 *lookout*: a guard
26 *punish*: to make one suffer for some error
28 *stiff*: very strong or rigid

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?

a. Wycliffe Oluoch is a smart man.
b. A mobile camel library was invented.
c. Lookouts are necessary because of thieves.
d. Camels can carry up to 500 pounds.

2. Who travels with the Mobile Camel Library?

a. People who work in the library
b. People who take care of the camels
c. People who guard the books
d. All of the above

3. Why do you think people did not visit the library in Garissa?

a. It was too difficult to walk there.
b. People in Garissa didn't like reading.
c. There were too few books.
d. People didn't like the camels.

4. What makes camels good animals to carry books in the desert?

a. They travel well together.
b. The children love the camels.
c. They are strong and don't need much water.
d. The camels carry books twice a month.

5. Which of the following best describes the meaning of "punish" in the reading?

a. Make someone feel pain
b. Send someone to a small place
c. Take away something good
d. Treat someone badly

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **get a hold of (something)** [to take or get (something), like by one's hand]
  I want to buy Stephen Hawking's new book, but I can't get a hold of it anywhere.
- **rack one's brain** [to think very hard or for a long time]
  We've been racking our brains all day, trying to think of a good birthday gift for our mother.
- **hit upon/on an idea** [to suddenly think of a good plan]
  Sue hit on an idea for enticing more people to come into the store.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. It is difficult to _____ watermelons in the winter.

2. Dad _____ for a gift for Mom's birthday.

3. I really had to _____ to remember his telephone number.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases.

mobile	**hit on**	**shortage**
camels	**librarian**	**effort**

1 _____ Wycliffe Oluoch had a problem. Although he had no 2 _____ of books, people didn't make the 3 _____ to borrow them. Walking across the hot sandy desert was too hard. So, Wycliffe Oluoch 4 _____ an idea. Instead of people coming to him, he would go to them with the 5 _____ Camel Library. Six 6 _____ travel around Garissa, Kenya twice a month, carrying around 500 pounds of books each. People love this new mobile library!



Listening

A Mobile Library

Track 20

Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

1. Who thinks the Mobile Camel Library is a great idea?

a. The man
b. The woman
c. Neither of them
d. Both of them

2. Why do they have mobile libraries in England?

a. Because England doesn't have many books
b. Because books are very expensive in England
c. Because some people don't have cars
d. Because the weather is bad in England

3. Where do you think the man probably lived when he was a child?

a. In a big city
b. In the countryside
c. In Kenya
d. Near a library

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. How many books do you usually read for fun in a year?
2. What was the last book you read?
3. What kinds of books do you like reading?

Grammar

-*ing*: Gerund or Participle?

A gerund functions as a subject, a complement, or an object in a sentence, whereas an *-ing* participle functions as an adjective to describe a noun or introduces a participle construction.

Now imagine (to have / having) to walk miles and miles through a hot sandy desert just to borrow a book.

This is the reality for people (to living / living) in the villages of the Garissa region of Kenya in East Africa.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

My Favorite Book

(1) What is your favorite book? **(2)** Who was it written by? **(3)** What kind of book is it? **(4)** What is the story about? **(5)** How does it end?

Example

My favorite book is The Return of the King. It was written by J.R.R. Tolkien. It is a fantasy novel. The story is about Frodo and his friends fighting the evil Sauron. In the end, Sauron dies and everybody is happy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. What do you like to do in your _____ time?
a. local b. reality c. spare d. latest

2. There is no _____ of people interested in the *Harry Potter* books.
a. effort b. process c. shortage d. improvement

3. We want to _____ our office, so we are moving to a bigger building.
a. expand b. fill out c. work d. invent

4. Because the glass was so delicate, he unwrapped the paper around it very _____.
a. carefully b. harmfully c. easily d. stiff

5. The _____ of getting a library card is quite simple.
a. month b. process c. mile d. culture

6. The criminal got a _____ punishment of thirty years in jail!
a. light b. sandy c. stiff d. hard-working

7. What is the _____ time in Australia? Here in Canada, it is 7:00 p.m.
a. great b. local c. spare d. stiff

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. Many cities use trucks in their _____ library services.
a. mobile b. mobilize c. mobilization

9. _____ the boxes from the truck, so we can unload them.
a. Strap b. Unstrap c. Strapless

10. The smell of that perfume is very _____.
a. entice b. enticing c. enticingly

LIVEWORKSHEETS