

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE

A cyclist enjoys the view from a rock ledge near Delores, Colorado.

Warm Up

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. When you travel, what kinds of activities do you like to do?
2. What places in the world would you most like to visit? Why?
3. What is the most adventurous trip you have been on?

Before You Read

A. **Scan.** Look at the map and read the information below. Answer these questions.

1. Where did the two friends travel from and to? How did they travel?
2. How far did they travel? How long did the journey take?

B. **Discussion.** Why do you think they wanted to make this trip?

CYCLING THE AMERICAS

In 2005, Gregg Bleakney, with his friend Brooks Allen, began an amazing two-year cycling adventure.

Route 

Starting point: Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

End point: Ushuaia, Argentina

Total distance: 30,500 kilometers
(19,000 miles)

Source: National Geographic Maps

FINISH

Ushuaia, Argentina

START

Prudhoe Bay, AL

San Francisco, CA

Mexico City, Mexico

Panama City, Panama

La Paz, Bolivia

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

- 1 Many people dream of going on a great travel adventure.
Most of us keep dreaming; others make it happen.

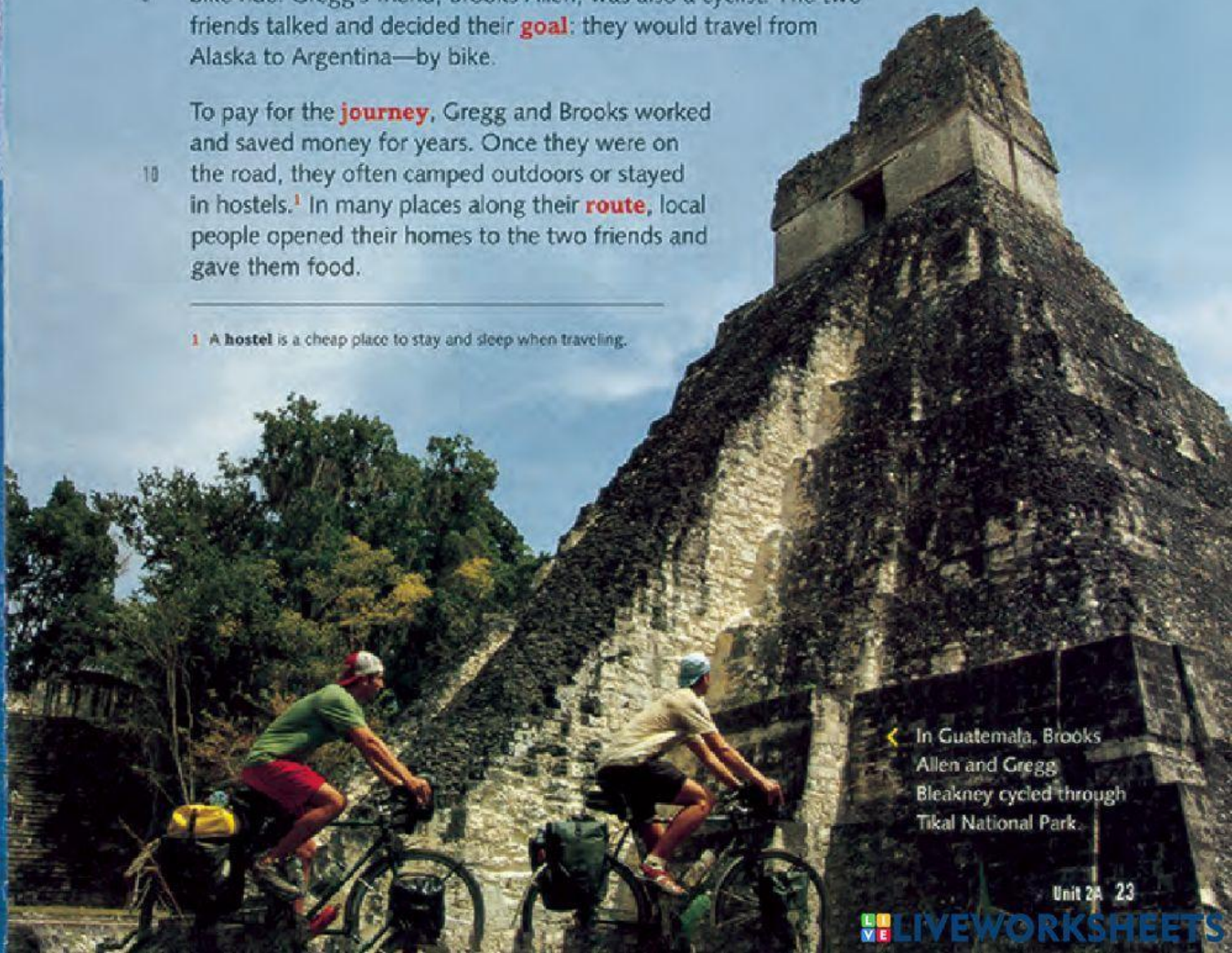
Gregg Bleakney's dream was to travel the Americas from top to bottom.
He got the idea after he finished a 1,600-kilometer (1,000-mile)

- 5 bike ride. Gregg's friend, Brooks Allen, was also a cyclist. The two
friends talked and decided their **goal**: they would travel from
Alaska to Argentina—by bike.

To pay for the **journey**, Gregg and Brooks worked
and saved money for years. Once they were on

- 10 the road, they often camped outdoors or stayed
in hostels.¹ In many places along their **route**, local
people opened their homes to the two friends and
gave them food.

¹ A **hostel** is a cheap place to stay and sleep when traveling.

A photograph showing two cyclists, Brooks Allen and Gregg Bleakney, riding their bikes past a large, ancient stone pyramid in Guatemala. The pyramid is covered in moss and vines. The cyclists are wearing helmets and carrying gear on their bikes. The sky is blue with some clouds.

< In Guatemala, Brooks
Allen and Gregg
Bleakney cycled through
Tikal National Park.

Lessons from the Road

- 15 During their trip, Gregg and Brooks cycled through deserts, rainforests, and mountains. They visited **modern** cities and explored **ancient** ruins² such as Tikal in Guatemala. In many places, they met other cyclists from all over the world.

- 20 In May 2007—two years, twelve countries, and over 30,500 km (19,000 miles) later—Gregg **eventually** reached Ushuaia, Argentina, at the tip of South America. (Near Guatemala, Brooks had to return to the U.S. and Gregg continued without him.)

- Gregg and Brooks kept a **record** of their adventures in an online blog. The trip taught both men a lot about traveling. Here is some of
25 Gregg's **advice**:

Travel light. The less baggage you have, the less you'll worry about.

Be flexible. Don't plan everything. Then you'll be more **relaxed** and happy, even when there are **challenges** along the way.

- 30 **Be polite.** As one traveller told Gregg, "Always remember that nobody wants to fight, cheat, or rob³ a nice guy."

² The **ruins** of something are the parts that remain after it is damaged or weakened.

³ If someone **robs** you, they take money or property from you.

✓ End of the Road: Ushuaia, Argentina—the world's southernmost city



Reading Comprehension

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

Gist

1. What could be another title for the reading?
- Cycling from Alaska to Argentina
 - The Southernmost City in the World
 - Things to Do and See in America
 - Argentina: The Land of Adventure

Detail

2. Which sentence about the trip is NOT true?
- To pay for the trip, they saved money and traveled cheaply on the road.
 - Only Gregg made the complete trip from Alaska to Argentina.
 - During their trip, Gregg and Brooks met people from all over the world.
 - In Guatemala, Gregg got sick and went back to the U.S.

Reference

3. In line 13, *them* means _____.
- the local people
 - Gregg and Brooks
 - other cyclists
 - their friends

Sequencing

4. What happened after Brooks returned to the U.S.?
- Gregg went on a 1,600 kilometer bike ride.
 - Gregg continued to the south of Argentina.
 - Gregg traveled through Mexico City.
 - Gregg visited Tikal National Park.

Vocabulary

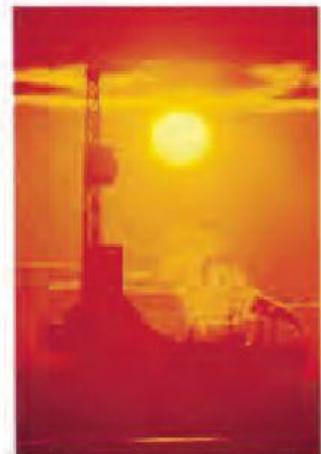
5. In line 26, what does *baggage* mean?
- things you take on a trip
 - places you visit on a trip
 - plans you make for a trip
 - reasons for going on a trip

Paraphrase

6. What does Gregg mean by "*Be flexible*" in line 27?
- Be ready to change easily.
 - Be careful when you travel.
 - Plan the details of your trip
 - Choose an easy way to travel.

Inference

7. Which statement would Gregg most likely agree with?
- In other countries, only stay in hotels or with people you know.
 - Plan every part of your trip. Then you'll be happier.
 - When abroad, learn how to say "thank you" in the local language.
 - Bring a lot of things on your trip so you don't have to buy anything.



Did You Know?

In Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, the sun does not set from mid-May through mid-July.

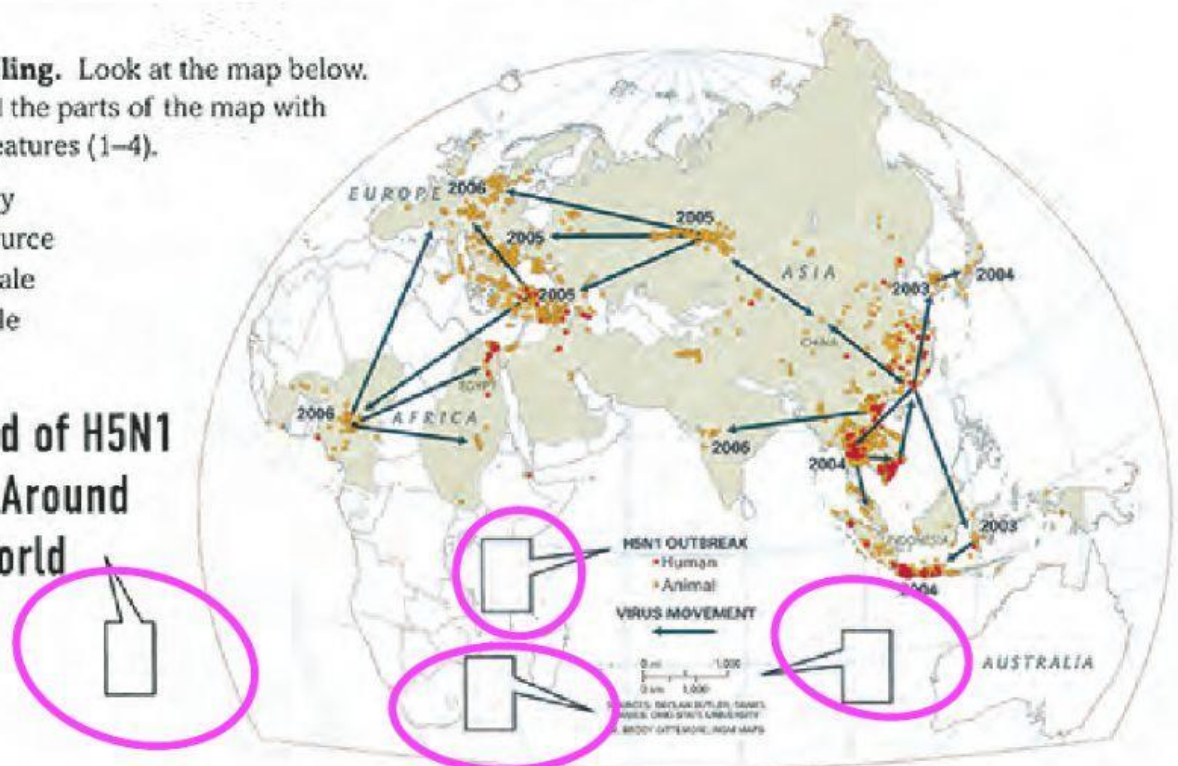
Understanding Maps

Like other visuals, maps can help you better understand a text. Most maps have a **title**, a **scale** (to show distance in real life), a **key** or **legend** (a guide of symbols used), and a **source** (where the information comes from). A map may also include a **compass** (to show where north is). Also look for how colors are used.

A. Labeling. Look at the map below. Label the parts of the map with the features (1–4).

1. key
2. source
3. scale
4. title

Spread of H5N1 Virus Around the World



B. Completion. What does the map above show? Circle the correct word in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. The H5N1 virus, or "bird flu," started in (**Asia** / **Africa**) in 2003.
2. The virus moved (**east** / **west**) in 2005.
3. There are (**fewer** / **more**) human H5N1 cases than animal H5N1 cases.
4. The virus traveled the farthest in (**2004** / **2005**).

Critical Thinking From the map on page 22, which parts of the journey do you think were the most challenging for the cyclists? Why?

Vocabulary Practice

A. Words in Context. Complete each sentence with the correct answer (a or b).

1. If something is **ancient**, it is very _____.
a. expensive b. old
2. Which of these is a **modern** invention?
a. the cell phone b. paper
3. A **record** of an event will help you _____ it.
a. change b. remember
4. If something is a **challenge**, it is _____ to do.
a. difficult b. easy

B. Completion. Complete the information using words from the box.

advice eventually goals journey relax route

Every year, many people make mistakes when they go hiking. Here's some 1. _____ that can help you stay safe:

Before you start your 2. _____, leave a map showing the 3. _____ that you are planning to take. If something goes wrong (for example, if you get lost or hurt), you should "S.T.O.P." This means:

Stop: try to 4. _____ and stay calm.

Think about your situation.

Observe: look around and notice where you are.

Plan what to do next: decide on one or two simple 5. _____.

It's also important to stay in one place. Someone will 6. _____ look for you.

Usage **Record** is a noun; the stress is on the first syllable: **record**. **Record** is also a verb; the stress is on the second syllable: **record**.



☞ A lost hiker plans a new route



Before You Read

A. Discussion. Read the caption. Then answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think extreme sports and activities are popular?
2. What is the most extreme sport or activity you have tried?

B. Predict. Look at the title and headings on the next page. What do you think these activities are like? Check your ideas as you read.

^ Vanuatu is a popular tourist spot in the South Pacific, where tourists can enjoy a variety of extreme sports and activities. One of the most popular activities is volcano trekking at Mount Yasur (pictured above).