

CONTENTS

◆ Introduction	4
UNIT 1 Animals in the News	5
LESSON	
1 Bring Back the Grizzlies	6
2 Eagles Back from the Brink	12
3 Penguins at Risk	18
4 The Great White Shark	24
◆ Unit 1 Review	30
UNIT 2 Sports Spectaculars	31
LESSON	
1 The Immortal Babe Ruth	32
2 The History of Tennis	38
3 The Olympics	44
4 The Iditarod	50
◆ Unit 2 Review	56
UNIT 3 Inventors and Inventions	57
LESSON	
1 The Process of Invention	58
2 The Safety Pin	64
3 Two Inventive Minds	70
4 Tales of Two Inventions	76
◆ Unit 3 Review	82
UNIT 4 Historic American Places	83
LESSON	
1 Cahokia: The Mound Builders	84
2 Old House and Monticello: Presidents' Homes	90
3 Virginia City: Boom Town, Ghost Town	96
4 Civil War Sites: A Nation Torn	102
◆ Unit 4 Review	108
◆ Glossary of Reading Terms	109
◆ Teacher's Notes and Answer Key	112

PREVIEW

ANIMALS IN THE NEWS

LESSON 1: **Bring Back the Grizzlies**LESSON 2: **Eagles Back from the Brink**LESSON 3: **Penguins at Risk**LESSON 4: **The Great White Shark**

When you complete this unit, you will be able to answer questions like these:

- *Why does the great white shark never stop swimming?*
- *How can you tell the difference between a bald eagle and a vulture?*
- *What recent disaster threatened an entire species of penguins?*
- *How many square miles does a grizzly bear need for “roaming room”?*

PRETEST

Write **T** or **F** to show whether you think each statement is *true* or *false*.

1. _____ A pesticide called DDT was banned because it damaged the eggs of some birds.
2. _____ In the past 200 years, the grizzly bear population in the western United States has decreased 98 percent.
3. _____ Great white sharks almost never lift their heads out of the water.
4. _____ Penguins lost their ability to fly millions of years ago.
5. _____ Oil spills from big ships can usually be cleaned up in a day or two.
6. _____ Scientists think the great white shark doesn't enjoy the taste of human flesh.

BRING BACK THE GRIZZLIES**Before reading . . .**

The Bitterroot National Forest in Idaho is historic “grizzly country.” But not even one grizzly bear has been sighted there in 70 years. This lesson presents arguments for and against restoring the grizzly to its former home.



Since 1975, the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) has been on the federal government’s list of threatened species. “Without the grizzly,” one official said, “we’ve got a watered-down ecosystem.” So the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a plan to bring the grizzly back to the mountains of Eastern Idaho and Western Montana. This plan stalled in 2001 and remains in limbo.

The plan was to introduce five bears to the Bitterroot Mountains each year for five consecutive years. Wildlife experts point out that the grizzly has a slow reproductive cycle. They say it would take more than 100 years to reach the projected goal of 280 bears in the Bitterroot range.

Federal biologists say the Bitterroots provide an ideal habitat for the grizzlies. Its vast range provides plenty of room for the bears—each of which needs up to 600 square miles in which to roam. And the area is well-stocked with the foods that comprise 90 percent of a bear’s diet. These foods include tubers, wild truffles, glacier lilies, wild berries, ants, and grubs.

Certain safeguards were built into the plan. Only bears having no history of conflict with humans would be transplanted into Idaho. And each bear would be tagged and equipped with a radio tracking device. This would make it easier for wildlife management officials to monitor the bears’ movements.

A DWINDLING POPULATION

In 1806, explorers Lewis and Clark estimated that some 50,000 grizzlies roamed the western United States. Then came the trappers, hunters, ranchers, and homesteaders. Now, there are more than 500 bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem. There are another 500 or so in Glacier National Park in Montana. And about 50,000 grizzlies are thought to live in Alaska and Canada.

The grizzly reintroduction plan was not a sure thing, however. It had to first be approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. And then \$2 million was needed to fund the first five years of the program. Finally, since the bears were not endangered, the federal government needed the approval Idaho and Montana.

Keep the Grizzlies Out!

The grizzly's return to Idaho was blocked by public protest, private lawsuits, and direct government intervention. Many elected officials in Idaho joined ranchers in opposing the proposal.

“Bears spend 99.9 percent of their time staying away from humans,” said the coordinator of the bear recovery plan. “And if bears do see a human, all they want is to get away.” Yet even so, he admitted that *some* “nuisance incidents” would be likely to occur with the bears’ return. Such incidents, he estimated, could average 37 a year—with the grizzlies killing about six cattle and 25 sheep annually.

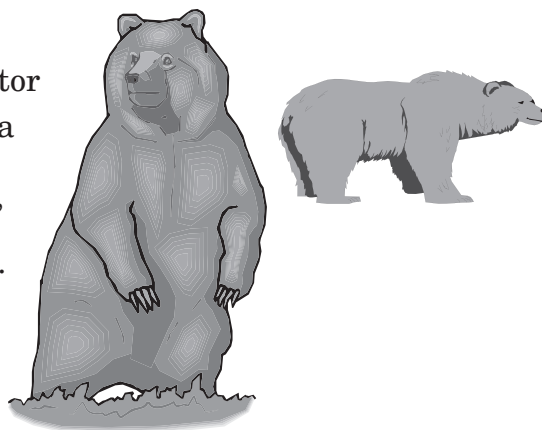
Many residents of central Idaho worried about the threat to human safety. Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne reacted to the plan in no uncertain terms. “This is perhaps the first federal land-management action in history likely to result in the injury or death of members of the public.”

Some environmentalists argued against the plan as well. They said it *didn't go far enough* to protect the grizzlies. If they had their way, the status of the grizzly would be upgraded from “threatened” to “endangered.” Under that designation, the grizzly would have automatic protection under the Endangered Species Act.

However, on March 22, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the grizzlies in Yellowstone represented a recovered population and no longer met the definition of threatened or endangered. The bears’ threatened status throughout the United States is being reviewed.

WHY THE BITTERROOTS?

The proposed relocation site is a 5,785-square-mile area in the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This land is in east-central Idaho and adjacent Montana. It is the largest remaining expanse of federal land in the lower 48 states. And it is also one of only six places in the United States suitable for grizzlies.



COMPREHENSION

Use proper names from the reading to answer the questions. Don't forget that proper names must be capitalized!

1. What federal agency proposed the bear relocation plan?

2. Which two 19th century explorers saw thousands of grizzly bears in the western United States?

3. What federal act protects animals in danger of extinction?

4. In which two states is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness located?

5. What two national parks in the lower 48 states are still “home” to grizzly bears?

FACT OR OPINION?

Write **F** or **O** to show whether each statement is a *fact* or an *opinion*.

1. ____ The U.S. Secretary of the Interior should be more concerned about polar bears than grizzly bears.
2. ____ In the past 200 years, about 48,000 grizzlies have disappeared from the lower 48 states.
3. ____ It is cruel to force a grizzly to wear a radio tracking device.
4. ____ There might still be a few undiscovered grizzlies living in Idaho's wilderness.
5. ____ If vegetables comprise 90 percent of a grizzly's diet, the rest of its diet must include meat, fish, and insects.