

Lesson  
**1**

# The Grand Canyon

## New Words

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astonished	bewildered	descend
destination	drab	elegant
immense	initial	plodding
	vivid	

## Activating Knowledge

Ask your students these questions before reading the passages:

- If you could take a trip anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why did you choose that place? What words would you use to describe that place?
- Have you ever heard of the Grand Canyon (or been there or known someone who's been there)? What do you know about it?
- What words would you use to describe the Grand Canyon? (Write these on the board for possible later association with new words.)

After reading the passages, ask your students if they have any further questions about the Grand Canyon. Lead your students in an Internet search for pictures and facts about the Grand Canyon that would answer their questions.

## Materials

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• Reading Passages	Narrative: A Grand Visit .....	8
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	Amazing Facts: About the Grand Canyon .....	9
	Personal Communication: Postcard .....	9
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# Second State Bank

Some look at a poor economy with **despair**. We look at it with **optimism**. In fact, we're giddy about the future! **Invest** your money with us, and you know it will be safe and ready to grow.

Our extensive services include:

- Consumer Loans
- Savings Accounts and Free Checking
- Money Planning Advice



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“Whether you're **destitute** or **prosperous**, you know your cash is safe with us!”

Dear Ms. Icon,

I'm not **destitute**, but I'm definitely not rich. I am very careful about how I spend my money. I am not some **giddy consumer** who needs to have the next best thing, but I do like new technology. When your company's me-pad came out, I had to have it.

I had a lot of **optimism** that the me-pad was going to make my life easier. Instead, it's only caused me **despair**. When I **invest** in something that expensive, I expect the best. Instead, I bought a piece of junk. Within a month, my me-pad would just turn itself off a couple of times a day. It kept happening, so I knew it wasn't a fluke.

I took it in for repairs, but they couldn't find anything wrong. After two months more, the screen went blurry. The people at the store said I would have to pay \$150 to send it back to you for repairs. I proposed that they just exchange it for a new one, but they said no. Now I have a me-pad with a blurry screen that turns itself off whenever it wants. And it will cost me money to get it fixed even though it's only two months old.

What makes me irate is that a **prosperous** company like yours should offer a better quality product. My high opinion of your company has **collapsed**, and I don't think it will ever return. I'm asking you to do the right thing. I'd like to offer you a compromise. Exchange my me-pad for a new one that works and I will not call a lawyer to take you to court.

Sincerely,

*Michael Scowcroft*

Michael Scowcroft

**pollutant**

*noun*

- *definition:* poison, dirt, smog
- *usage tip:* when talking about toxins and poisons put into the environment
- *correct:* Old cars use more gas and produce a lot of **pollutants**.
- *incorrect:* Many plants need **pollutants** to grow greener.

**rudimentary**

*adjective*

- *definition:* simple, basic
- *usage tip:* when talking about simple information, basic skills, or something with few features
- *correct:* A horse and cart is a very **rudimentary** form of transportation.
- *incorrect:* The **rudimentary** computer had advanced functions.

**spacious**

*adjective*

- *definition:* large, roomy
- *usage tip:* when describing a large area with plenty of room to move around or put things
- *correct:* Boxes and chests were stacked high in the **spacious** attic.
- *incorrect:* The **spacious** back seat barely held two adults.

## Making Associations

dilemma	enhance	ecstatic	jostle	leisure
luxurious	passionate	pollutant	rudimentary	spacious

Which word goes best with:

1. someone who helps others because they love doing it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. a simple math problem, like two plus two? \_\_\_\_\_
3. winning a contest and a big prize? \_\_\_\_\_
4. going on a trip with your family? \_\_\_\_\_
5. making improvements to a car's design? \_\_\_\_\_
6. a fancy, expensive car? \_\_\_\_\_
7. the inside of a domed sports stadium? \_\_\_\_\_
8. having to choose only one friend to invite to a movie? \_\_\_\_\_
9. riding a bike with a crooked wheel? \_\_\_\_\_
10. black smoke coming from a factory? \_\_\_\_\_

## Yes or No?

Circle Yes or No to answer each question. Be ready to give reasons for your answer.

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Could a <b>clever</b> person come up with a good <b>strategy</b> ?                                       | Yes | No |
| 2. Can you <b>condense</b> information that is <b>factual</b> ?   | Yes | No |
| 3. Would you <b>diminish</b> information by <b>emphasizing</b> it?  | Yes | No |
| 4. If something is <b>forbidden</b> by parents, would they <b>emphasize</b> why their kids shouldn't do it? | Yes | No |
| 5. Could you <b>entice</b> someone to try something new by <b>emphasizing</b> its good qualities?           | Yes | No |
| 6. Can something that is <b>exclusive</b> be <b>forbidden</b> to everyone?                                  | Yes | No |
| 7. Would it be <b>logical</b> to give <b>factual</b> information to the police about what you saw?          | Yes | No |
| 8. Should you <b>entice</b> someone to do something that is <b>forbidden</b> ?                              | Yes | No |
| 9. Is it <b>logical</b> that kids are <b>forbidden</b> from driving cars?                                   | Yes | No |
| 10. Would a <b>clever strategy</b> have little chance of working?   | Yes | No |
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## In Your Own Words

1. Think of a **clever** person you know. What **clever** things has that person done?
2. If someone was going to **condense** a long story or book for you, would you rather read it or have them tell it to you? Why?
3. What's an activity in the area where you live you'd like to see **diminish**? Why?
4. What's the best way to **emphasize** important information you want to tell people?
5. What food have you never tried and don't think you'd like? What would it take to **entice** you to try it?
6. What's something you could do to be a part of an **exclusive** group of people who have done it?
7. Do you prefer books and movies based on **factual** events or ones that are completely made up?
8. What's something you are **forbidden** to do? Do you agree that it should be **forbidden**? Why?
9. What would be a more **logical** way of scheduling a school day?
10. What's something that's a big problem in your school? If you were asked to form a team to plan a **strategy** for addressing the problem, who would you ask to join? Why did you choose those people?