A World of Robots

Many years, people have told stories about robots that can do jobs of humans. These machines can help us live better or can see such robots in movies.

Movie robots were shown in a film made in 1924. In the movie, a robot was made to free humans from mundane tasks. Sometimes, like friends. Is a world of robots just a dream?

Robots today can do repetitive tasks without the risks of accidents, place food in boxes, and even build products faster than people. Robots today can do many of the tasks that are dangerous for people. Robots can take on jobs such as blocking the flow of hot water that can enter into a volcano to collect rock samples. They can also help navigate deep underwater places and very cold places.

For example, a robot works on the planet Mars. What will scientists do if they find fresh water in the future?

Scientists do not know how to handle different objects around them. A book cannot break easily, but an egg can. They will have to learn to handle different objects with care.

Robots will not be able to do this. They cannot think like people. They will recognize human emotion and respond to it. They will also be able to talk on the telephone, and write. With robots like these, our lives will be like those in science fiction movies of the past.

Robots today are made of sensors that help them to see and feel. They can also use sensors that help them to hear and taste.

A robot for many people is a type of machine that can help us live better lives.

In the future, robots work in many ways. The future will be a world of robots.

We believe that robots have only just begun. Scientists had to make the computer sensors help robots do things around them. The sensors feel things. Now, robots can do things over and over again without making a mistake. They can do many things.

Name ____________________________

A World of Robots

Answer the questions.

1. What helps a robot “see” or “feel” things?
   A. samples
   B. dreams
   C. sensors
   D. fingers

Write T for true or F for false.

2. ________ Robots can get tired doing their jobs.

3. ________ Scientists made a robot that walks into volcanoes.

4. ________ Robots have computer chips that work like brains.

5. List three things that robots may be able to do in the future.

6. Circle the verbs.
   a. paint
   b. real
   c. task
   d. robot
   e. learn
   f. build
   g. movie
   h. crawl

7. Choose two words from the sentence.

   _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
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Introduction

Providing all students access to high quality, nonfiction text is essential to Common Core State Standards mastery. This book contains exactly what teachers are looking for: high-interest nonfiction passages, each written at three different reading levels, followed by a shared set of text-dependent comprehension questions and a writing prompt to build content knowledge. Both general academic and domain-specific vocabulary words are reinforced at the end of each passage for further comprehension support. The standards listed on each page provide an easy reference tool for lesson planning, and the Common Core Alignment Chart on page 3 allows you to target or remediate specific skills.

The book is comprised of 15 stories that are written at three levels:
• Below level (one dot beside the page number): 1 to 1.5 levels below grade level
• On level (two dots beside the page number): 0 to .5 levels below grade level
• Advanced (three dots beside the page number): 1 to 2 levels above grade level

Which students will not enjoy reading about an egg-laying mammal or a man who cooked eggs on a tightrope over Niagara Falls or a place where a person’s breath freezes into ice crystals? This book will quickly become the go-to resource for differentiated nonfiction reading practice in your classroom!
## How to Use This Alignment Chart

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts are a shared set of expectations for each grade level in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. They define what students should understand and be able to do. This chart presents the standards that are covered in this book.

Use this chart to plan your instruction, practice, or remediation of a specific standard. To do this, first choose your targeted standard; then, find the pages listed on the chart that correlate to the standard you are teaching. Finally, assign the reading pages and follow-up questions to practice the skill.

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| **Reading Standards: Foundational Skills** | |
| Phonics and Word Recognition | 3.RF.3 | 19, 23, 43, 47, 59 |

| **Writing Standards** | |

| **Language Standards** | |
| Knowledge of Language | 3.L.3 | 7 |

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People first thought the platypus was a joke. They thought someone had put a duck’s bill on a beaver’s body! They saw other odd things. The animal had webbed feet. It had short legs like a lizard’s. It had two layers of fur. It had a spur on each of its back leg. What kind of animal was this?

The platypus lives in Australia. It is a mammal that lays eggs. It lives under the ground. It spends a lot of time in water. A platypus goes in the water many times in an hour to get food. Its webbed feet and flat tail help it swim. It catches worms, snails, and shrimp. It carries food in its cheeks. The platypus does not have teeth. It has little pads inside its bill that grind its food.

This animal is furry and brown. It is about the size of a house cat. It lives about as long as a cat too. Its babies are called puggles. The puggles hatch out of eggs. The mother platypus feeds them milk. The babies live in a burrow. Platypuses make burrows on the banks of rivers or streams.

Only the male platypus has spurs. It uses its spurs like a stingers. It can sting other animals in a fight. An animal can die from the sting. Humans do not die from the sting. They can get very sick. People learned to leave this odd animal alone!

**spur:** a sharp spine
**mammal:** an animal that feeds milk to its young
**burrow:** a nest in the ground
When people in England first saw a stuffed platypus, they thought it was a joke. They thought someone had put a duck’s bill on a beaver’s body! Then, they saw other strange things. The platypus had webbed feet. It had short legs like a lizard’s. It had two layers of fur. And, it had a spur on each of its back leg. What kind of animal was this?

The platypus lives in Australia. It is one of the strangest animals in the world. For one thing, it lays eggs, even though it is a mammal. It lives underground, but it spends a lot of time in the water. A platypus dives in the water up to 80 times an hour to get food. Its webbed feet and flat tail help it swim. It catches worms, snails, and shrimp. It carries food in its cheeks until it is ready to eat. The platypus does not have teeth. It has little pads inside its bill that grind its food.

This furry brown animal is about the size of a house cat. It lives about as long as a cat too—10 to 17 years. Its babies are called puggles. They hatch out of their eggs. The mother platypus feeds them milk. The babies live in a burrow that is built with long tunnels for doorways. Platypuses make burrows on the banks of rivers or streams. This lets them hunt for food easily.

Only the male platypus has spurs that it uses like stingers. It uses its spurs in fighting. When another animal is stung, it can die. Humans do not die from the sting of a platypus. But, they do get very sick. The poison in a spur causes great pain. People in Australia learned to leave this odd animal alone!

spur: a sharp spine
mammal: an animal that feeds milk to its young
burrow: a nest in the ground
When people in England first saw a stuffed platypus, they thought it was a joke. They thought someone had glued a duck’s bill on a beaver’s body! Then, they noticed other strange features. The platypus had webbed feet and short legs like a lizard’s. It had two layers of fur. It had **spurs** on each of its back leg. What kind of animal was this?

The platypus lives in Australia. It is one of the strangest animals in the world. For one thing, it lays eggs, even though it is a **mammal**. It lives underground, but it spends a lot of time in the water. A platypus dives in the water up to 80 times an hour to get food. Its webbed feet and flat tail help it swim. It catches worms, snails, and shrimp. It carries food in pouches in its cheeks until it is ready to eat. The platypus does not have teeth. It has little pads inside its bill that grind its food.

This furry brown animal is about the size of a house cat. It lives about as long as a cat too—10 to 17 years. Its babies, called puggles, hatch from eggs and then the mother platypus feeds them milk. The babies live in a **burrow** that is built with long tunnels for doorways. Platypuses make burrows on the banks of rivers or streams. This lets them hunt for food easily.

Only the male platypus has spurs that it uses like stingers. It uses the spur in fighting or in defense. When another animal is stung, it can die. Humans do not die from the sting of a platypus. But, they do get very sick. The poison in a spur causes great pain that no medicine can make better. Settlers in Australia quickly learned to leave this funny-looking animal alone.

**spur**: a sharp spine  
**mammal**: an animal that feeds milk to its young  
**burrow**: a nest in the ground
The Egg-Laying Mammal

Answer the questions.

1. Read the following sentence from the story and answer the question.
   
   Platypuses make burrows on the banks of rivers or streams.

   Which definition of the word banks matches the way it is used in the story?
   
   A. places to keep money  
   B. sets of cards used in games  
   C. groups of clouds  
   D. sloped grounds on the edge of a body of water

2. What is a puggle? Write your answer in a complete sentence.

3. Which of the following is not a feature of the platypus?
   
   A. a bill like a duck’s  
   B. a body like a beaver’s  
   C. paws like a dog’s  
   D. short legs like a lizard’s

4. Which of the following behaviors is not typical of a mammal?
   
   A. swimming in water  
   B. laying eggs  
   C. fighting other animals  
   D. digging holes

5. Complete the sentence.
   
   It has ______________________  ______________________ inside its ______________________ that grind its ______________________.

6. Which sentence shows commas used correctly?
   
   A. It catches, worms snails and shrimp.  
   B. It catches worms, snails and, shrimp.  
   C. It catches worms snails, and shrimp.  
   D. It catches worms, snails, and shrimp.

7. Read this sentence.
   
   I saw a platypus at the zoo.

   Rewrite the sentence to make it more exciting. Add details and adjectives.

8. When people first saw the platypus, they thought it was a joke. On another sheet of paper, write about a time you saw something that you thought was a joke. Choose words carefully to make the story interesting and even funny.
Answer Key

Page 7
1. D; 2. A puggle is a baby platypus. 3. C; 4. B; 5. It has little pads inside its bill that grind its food. 6. D; 7. Answers will vary. 8. Answers will vary.

Page 11
1. C; 2. B; 3. D; 4. 10 feet (3.05 m); 5. 3 feet (91.44 cm); 6. frog-jumping; 7. Answers will vary.

Page 15

Page 19
1. disapprove, to not approve of something; 2. disable, to make unusable; 3. disagree, to not agree; 4. disobey, to not obey; 5. The Marfa lights get their name from the town in which they are seen. 6. A; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T; 11. lights from boats; 12. Answers will vary.

Page 23
1. C; 2. Answers will vary but may include: Airplanes today are not circular with domed ceilings and portholes. 3. C; 4. plumber, knife, island, debt, wrap, climb, hoe, castle; 5. C; 6. C; 7. Answers will vary.

Page 27

Page 31
1. C; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. Answers will vary but may include: cook, talk on the phone, learn new things, listen to people, know when people are happy or sad, do chores; 6. paint, learn, build, crawl, walk; 7. Answers will vary. 8. Answers will vary.

Page 35

Page 39
1. A; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. C; 6. poor, sickly, small; 7. C; 8. Answers will vary but may include: Wilma’s mother took care of her when she was sick. Wilma’s brothers and sisters made sure she kept on her braces. 9. Answers will vary.

Page 43

Page 47
1. C; 2. D; 3. happiness, the state of being happy, darkness, the state of being dark, loneliness, the state of being lonely, illness, the state of being ill; 4. 1840; 5. laws; 6. nine days; 7. Answers will vary.

Page 51

Page 55
1. A; 2. D; 3. Some tourists even like to read books as they float on top of the water. 4. C; 5. circled words: ahead, ready bread; underlined words: peach, pea, eagle, treat, leap, meat; 6. Answers will vary.

Page 59
1. A; 2. D; 3. Some tourists even like to read books as they float on top of the water. 4. C; 5. circled words: ahead, ready bread; underlined words: peach, pea, eagle, treat, leap, meat; 6. Answers will vary.

Page 63
1. colder, coldest, darker, darkest, easier, easiest. 2. D; 3. Answers will vary but should include the temperature. 4. difficult, frigid, dark; 5. B; 6. C; 7. Answers will vary.