

The Cottontail

Jennie, her older brother Link, and her friend Vanessa got off their bikes. Usually the ride down the dusty desert road held no surprises. But today a movement in the desert grass **startled** them.

"Be quiet!" whispered Link. They looked into the grass and saw a little gray cottontail rabbit, dragging its left hind leg. The **lonely** cottontail looked very small and afraid. There were no other rabbits nearby.

"He must have escaped from a coyote!" said Jennie. Her voice sounded **upset** and worried. "We have to get some help from the animal rescue station right away!"

"Good idea," agreed Link. "I'll keep an eye on the rabbit while you both ride to the station to get help."

The girls quickly rode off. Link watched as the little cottontail tried to hop away. It was clear that its leg was hurting too much to run. Finally, the little rabbit froze in place. It was trying to hide as best it could.

Soon the van from the rescue station arrived. Dr. Joseph, the veterinarian at the animal rescue station, jumped out with his medical bag and a small **cage**. Jennie and Vanessa followed on their bikes. Dr. Joseph gently placed the cottontail in the cage.

"It's a good thing you saw this little fellow," Dr. Joseph said to the kids. "He wouldn't have lasted much longer outside the **shelter** of his burrow. It will probably take a few weeks for his hind leg to heal, but otherwise he looks healthy." Dr. Joseph took the cage and placed it in the van. As he climbed in, he told the kids that they could come to the animal rescue station anytime to visit the rabbit. Then he drove away.

Link, Vanessa, and Jennie visited the cottontail almost every day while his leg healed. Finally Dr. Joseph decided that the rabbit was healed and ready to go back outside. Together, they brought the cottontail back to where they had first seen it. Dr. Joseph set the cage on the ground and Jennie opened it. They all gave a cheer as the cottontail hopped out and leaped back to its desert home.

COMPREHENSION Why do Jennie, Link, and Vanessa ask Dr. Joseph for help? What words help you understand why the injured cottontail is in danger?

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Days 1 and 2

"The Cottontail," Vol. 1, pp. 54–55

A Desert Observatory

It's nighttime in the Sonoran Desert. The dark sky above is filled with bright stars and planets, and the **universe** looks big and endless. Many people are sleeping, but there is one place where everyone is awake. This place is called Kitt Peak.

Kitt Peak is a mountain in the desert. On this mountain is an observatory. An observatory is a place where scientists go to study **space**. Have you ever seen the moon at night? The moon is in space. But there is more than just the moon in space. Planets, stars, and galaxies are also in space. Even our own planet, Earth, is in space. Up in space, Earth travels on its **orbit**, or path, around the sun. Earth also spins. This spinning, or **rotation**, causes night and day. Did you know all of that about our planet?

Many people wonder how scientists study space. One way they do it is by using special tools called telescopes. Telescopes make faraway objects in space look larger and clearer. At the observatory on Kitt Peak, there are more than twenty-five telescopes that scientists can use.

The observatory on Kitt Peak is more than fifty miles away from any city. Why is the observatory so far away? There are two good reasons.

First, Kitt Peak has clear night skies with few clouds or storms. This is because it is located in a desert. A clear night sky makes it easier for scientists to see into space.

Second, the desert is very dark at night. Scientists can see better when it is dark outside. If Kitt Peak were closer to a city, all the city lights from streets and buildings would make it harder to see objects in the night sky.

Over five hundred scientists visit Kitt Peak each year to study space. This type of science is called **astronomy**. Maybe someday you will visit Kitt Peak and study outer space!

COMPREHENSION What words about space did you learn from this selection? Do you think space is big and wonderful? Why or why not?

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Days 3 and 4

"A Desert Observatory," Vol. 1, pp. 56–57

Assessment

Pretest/Posttest Administration p. 75

Pretest/Posttest Blackline Masters pp. 118–119

Day 1

Introduce Meanings

Assess To assess what word meanings children already know, copy and distribute the **Pretest/Posttest** on pages 118–119. Use page 75 to administer the test.

Explain Write each oral vocabulary word below on the board. Read it aloud. Offer an explanation and a brief example for each word.

Words About Animal Rescues

cage *n.* a see-through box for an animal to live in or be carried around in *Sandy's chore is to clean her bird's cage.*

lonely *adj.* alone and sad *Marshall felt lonely when none of his friends could come out to play.*

shelter *n.* a place that is warm, dry, and safe *A rabbit can dig a hole in the ground to make a shelter to live in.*

startled *adj.* surprised *The cat was startled when Mom turned on the vacuum cleaner.*

upset *adj.* unhappy *Ladawn was upset when her brother broke her toy.*

Discuss Guide children to see the relationship between each word and the category. Ask questions such as these: **How do you think a rabbit would feel if it didn't have a shelter to live in? What might make a rabbit feel startled?**

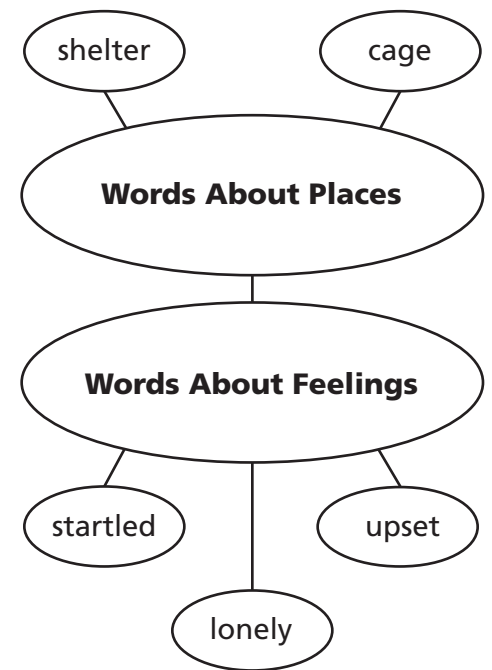
Read Aloud Explain that you will read aloud a story about an injured rabbit that is rescued. Then read aloud "The Cottontail." Discuss the Comprehension questions.

Day 2

Categorize and Classify

Reread and Explain Reread "The Cottontail." At the end of each sentence that includes an oral vocabulary word, stop and repeat the explanation of the word. Then reread the sentence.

Use a Graphic Organizer Use the graphic organizer and the questions below to reinforce understanding of the relationship between each word and the category.



1. What two words describe how you might feel if you had no one to play with? (**lonely, upset**)
2. If you suddenly heard a loud noise, you might feel _____. (**startled**)
3. If your cat wants to come into the house when it starts to rain, it is looking for _____. (**shelter**)



Day 3

Introduce Meanings

Explain Write each oral vocabulary word below on the board. Read it aloud. Offer an explanation and a brief example for each word.

Words About Outer Space

astronomy *n.* the study of things in space *If you study astronomy, you can learn about planets and stars.*

orbit *n.* the way something travels around a planet or a star *Astronomers study Earth's orbit around the sun.*

rotation *n.* turning around *Eli tried to count every rotation of his bike tires, but they moved too fast.*

space *n.* the area that holds all the stars and planets *Astronauts travel into space to learn more about other planets and things around Earth.*

universe *n.* the name for everything in the world and everything in outer space *Did you know that Earth, the Moon, and all the planets and stars are part of the universe?*

Discuss Guide children to see the relationship between each word and the category. Discuss with them what they already know about outer space. Talk about which of these words they have heard before today.

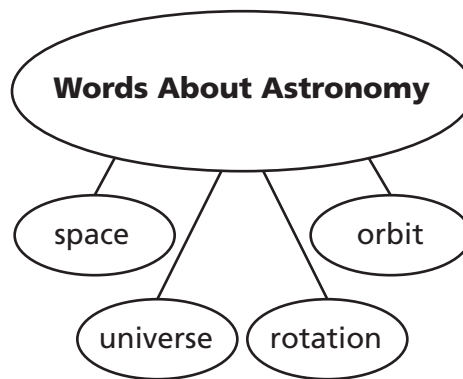
Read Aloud Explain that you will read aloud a story about a place where people study outer space. Then read aloud "A Desert Observatory." Discuss the Comprehension questions.

Day 4

Categorize and Classify

Reread and Explain Reread "A Desert Observatory." At the end of each sentence that includes an oral vocabulary word, stop and repeat the explanation of the word. Then reread the sentence.

Use a Graphic Organizer Use the graphic organizer and the questions below to reinforce understanding of the relationship between each word and the category.



1. If you study the stars and planets, you are studying _____. (**astronomy**)
2. Name two words that have to do with turning around. (**rotation, orbit**)
3. No matter if you are in outer space or here on Earth, you are still part of the _____. (**universe**)

Day 5

Deepen Understanding

Review Repeat explanations for all oral vocabulary words. Use the definitions and examples from Day 1 and Day 3.

Guide Partner Activities Have partners work together to complete each of the activities below. Circulate and listen to partners as they work. Provide corrective feedback.

Examples Tell a partner about a time when you felt **lonely** or **upset**. Describe what made you feel this way. Then tell about a time when you felt **startled**.

Describe Imagine that you and a partner are traveling on a rocket ship into outer space. Describe your trip. Include these words: **rotation, universe, astronomy**.

Draw Draw a picture of Earth and the sun. Show the path of Earth's **orbit** around the sun. Show your picture to a partner.

Role-Play Pretend you are a veterinarian, or a doctor who cares for animals. Explain to a nervous pet owner how a new pet should be taken care of. Use the following words: **shelter, cage**.

Assess To assess what word meanings children have learned, copy and distribute the **Pretest/Posttest** on pages 118–119. Use page 75 to administer the test. Compare scores with Day 1 assessment.