OVERVIEW

God gives children a profound sense of wonder about the world and how it works. They are discovering that words are all around them—in books, at the supermarket, and in their homes. They play with language, which is an important step in learning to read. They are beginning to use larger number sets and to understand longer and shorter periods of time. They are ready to expand their world beyond their immediate surroundings. God’s Big WORLD exposes early readers to a range of new information, building their personal library of facts and concepts.

EACH SECTION INCLUDES:

• Three stories
• Teaching tips
• Easy-reading words and sentences
• Photo slide show
• Skill-building fun puzzles and activities

RECOMMENDED PACING:

• God’s Big WORLD is organized into sets of eight weekly lessons that detach from the magazine as separate four-page lessons.
• Each lesson includes three short stories plus a skill-building activity.
• The stories have an easy-reading component for the student to practice reading, as well as a background teaching tip.

EXAMPLE LESSONS:

Lesson #1: Home, Neighborhood, Community, the World. Perhaps your children have learned about their community this year. To stretch their understanding a bit, you might have them ask relatives or friends who live in different places to send newspaper or magazine articles or pictures of their communities. Talk with the children about the similarities and differences between those places and the place where you live. Another idea, which could stretch through the summer and beyond, is to let your child find a pen pal from another community or country. Think about a child in a missionary family your church supports. The Internet has many sites that might be helpful to you, as well. “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)
Lesson #2: Backyard Olympics. Were you hoping to spend time as a family watching the Summer Olympics? Have your own competitions right in your backyard. You'll find many ideas on the Internet, including this one from Pinterest. Set up a table. Gather a stack of plastic party cups that you have labeled for scoring. Place the cups in three to five rows, with the lowest numbers at the front and highest numbers at the back. Set out a bucket of Ping-Pong balls. Each player gets 30 seconds to toss as many balls as possible into the cups. The child with the highest score wins.

Lesson #3: Orange Treats. Elephants may not like oranges. But most of us do. Try this recipe from Martha Stewart for dried orange slices. They are great for garnishing cool summer drinks or baked goods. You will need 1/4 cup of powdered sugar for every one navel orange you use. "Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Line a baking sheet with a nonstick baking mat. Top with orange slices in a single layer, and generously dust with sugar. Bake until the peels are dry and the flesh is translucent, about 2 1/2 hours." Find a recipe for "Orange Creamsicle Truffles" at https://www.cookingclassy.com/orange-creamsicle-truffles.

Lesson #4: Salty Ocean Art. What plants and fish live deep in the ocean? Let your children imagine. Then have them put their thoughts on paper with this art project (https://buggyandbuddy.com/ocean-art-project-for-kids-using-watercolor-and-salt).

Lesson #5: Pancake Geography. Take a look at how pancakes are made in other countries around the world. Make this a geography and a tasting lesson! According to www.bettycrocker.com, the very first written record of warm pancakes was found in the writings of a poet in Greece about 600 B.C. Present-day Greek tiganites are not made with eggs or milk. They are fluffy and are served with honey, walnuts, and cinnamon. Crepes are the French pancake and pfannkuchen are served in Germany. Injera batter from Ethiopia is made with a grain called teff and fermented before cooking. The pancake is spongy. Ripe bananas and tapioca flour are all that is needed for kabalagala (kabs) in Uganda. You will find pikelets, thick mini-pancakes topped with jam or whipped cream and eaten cold, in Australia and New Zealand. China’s cong you bing pancakes are made with dough, not batter, and served with soy or garlic sauce. You'd better try these for dinner!

Lesson #6: Garden Scavenger Hunt. KidsGardening.org has a fun idea for your young gardeners to practice their observation skills. Create a list of items often seen in the garden and surrounding area: Leaves, birds, insects, rocks, etc. Younger children would do well if
your list uses pictures instead of words. Give each child a list attached to a clipboard and a pencil or crayons and then go out searching. Have them hunt with their eyes if you are in a public space. Otherwise, you might let them collect non-living items on the list. See https://kidsgardening.org/scavenger-hunt-garden for ideas.

Lesson #7: Other Interesting African Animals. Ask your children what animals they think live in Africa, besides guerezas. Lions, rhinos, and zebras are some they might mention. See what you can learn about these African natives: Greater kudu, grey crowned crane, African civet, Beisa oryx, African wild dog, Lelwel hartebeest, Somali ostrich, dwarf mongoose, and klipspringer. Job 12:10 reminds us that in God’s hand “is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”

Lesson #8: Ten-Minute Writing. If your children love to write, or if some are reluctant writers, this idea might help them maintain and improve their writing skills over the summer. Set aside ten minutes during which everyone—including you—will write for ten minutes, no more, no less. (Seeing your crossed-out words and corrections will reassure them that writing is not easy for anyone.) Use the tiny dinosaur discovery for this week’s topic: “Trapped in Amber!” or “Found At Last!” or any other ideas you come up with. Decorated notebooks and some impressive pencils also might help everyone to get started on a good note. “My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king.” (Psalm 45:1)

In addition to the print magazine, use the God’s Big WORLD website at: godsbigworld.wng.org