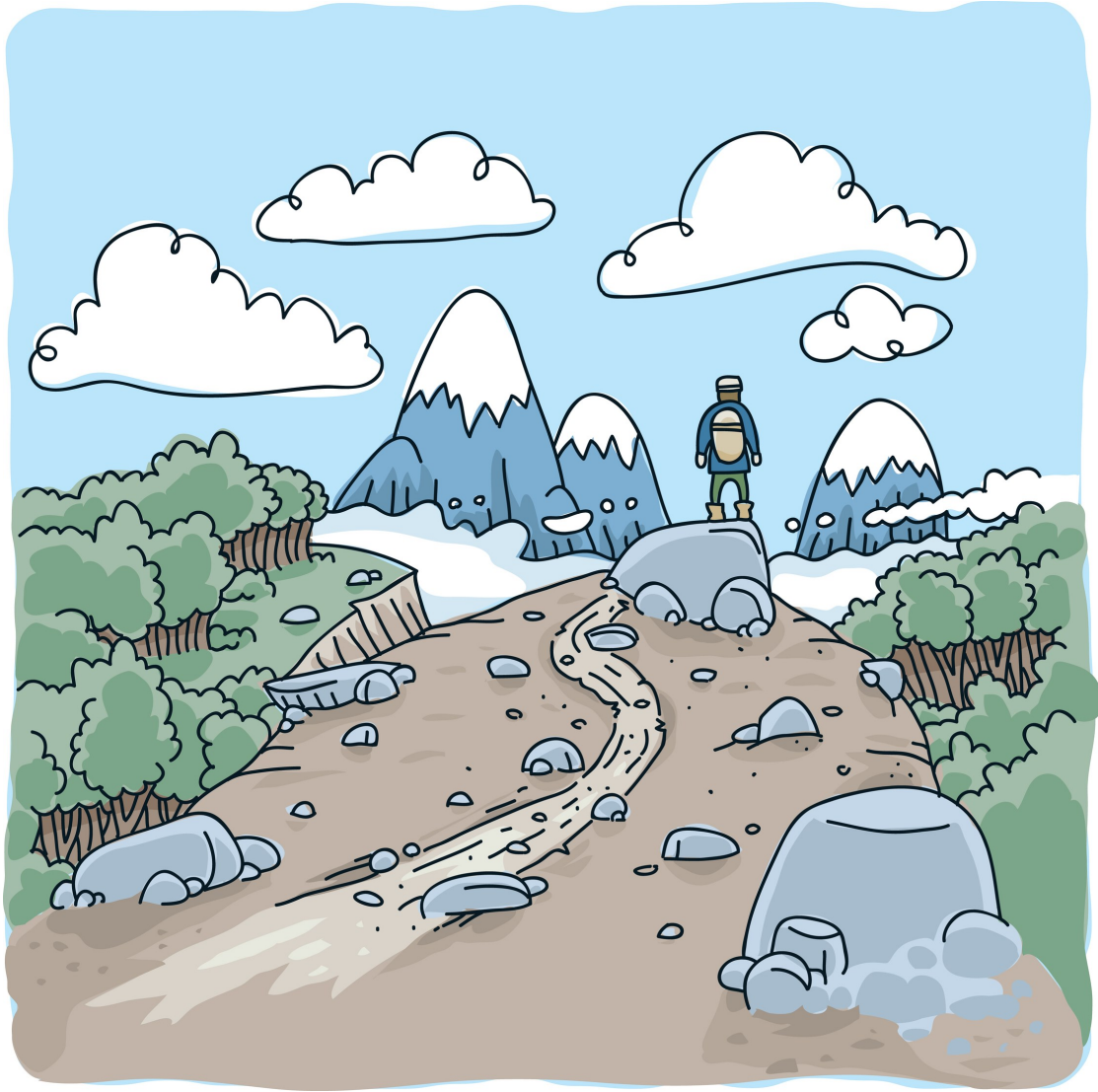


Explorer's Journal



“Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.”

— Edwin Hubble



Explorer's Journal Introduction

For this assignment you will imagine you are an explorer.

You will write a 3 part travel journal about your voyage.

First choose an interesting place that you would like to explore. It should be somewhere fascinating and unusual. Somewhere that not many people know about. Somewhere mysterious and maybe even dangerous.

Here are some ideas: [Things You Won't Believe Actually Exist in Nature](#)



-
- Think of the **character traits** you need as an explorer. This will help you find your “voice”.
 - Write your journal entries as if you were **part of the action yourself**. Focus on one event in each journal entry. (What important things happen? Who does what? Who says what?)
 - Describe using **sensory details**. (What do you see, feel, hear, smell, taste or touch?)
 - Give **factual information**. (The weather, the local people, the animals, the specific location.)
 - Describe the new and unusual experience you have. (Perhaps you sleep in a tent in the rain forest, swim with a dolphin or see trees so tall the tops are hidden by the clouds.)

You are going to imagine these types of experiences, record them in your journal and describe your thoughts and feelings.



Overview of Requirements

- Cover page

- Picture

- Title of project

- Name

1st Journal Entry

- Date
- Introduce yourself and your team
- Explain your mission (Where are you going? What do you want to find? Why are you going there?)
- Transportation (How are you getting there?)
- Equipment (What special things do you need? How will you record your findings?)
- What are you thinking and feeling?
- What time of day are you leaving? What are the weather conditions?

2nd Journal Entry

- Date
- Time of day and weather conditions
- What do you find? What do you see?
- Include factual information
- **Problem** (What went wrong on your journey? How did you react?)
- What are you thinking and feeling?

3rd Journal Entry

- Date
- **Solution** (How did you solve your problem?)
- Summarize your experience (What will you remember most?)
- How did your journey change you as a person/explorer?
- What are you feeling as you go back home? Did you achieve your mission?
- Where do you want to go next?

This is an example of a travel journal

14/05/2013

This is the first time I'm writing in my journal. My name is James Smith and I'm on the journey of my life! It is Day 2 of my expedition to the [Sudd Swamp of Sudan](#) in East Africa. It is the largest protected swamp in the world. I am travelling alone and feel quite scared and nervous but also very excited to learn about the different kinds of plants that grow in the swamp. I do not have much equipment with me because I have to carry whatever I bring. I will be camping with my tent and sleeping bag and I have my notebook and camera to record anything interesting. I have a few clean clothes, some food and water and a small first aid kit just in case! Today I made a wooden raft that will help me travel faster down river to the swamp. I hope it doesn't sink! It's getting late now and I mustn't waste my torch batteries....

16/05/2013

I'm still alive! I'm hot, sticky and smelly...but alive! It's just after noon and I had some rice, boiled carrots and a Snickers bar for energy. I've been out in the swamp for 3 days and I have not seen another person for over a week in total now. It is so peaceful and beautiful, the loudest noise is the sound of birds twittering and some strange far away animal noises. I have seen the largest most colourful flowers and I have collected lots of seed samples. I am really curious to investigate them when I get back home. There is a problem however. Last night the rope on my raft must have come untied because it's floated away! I have no transportation now and I don't know what to do! It doesn't look good because there's no one to help me! Walking to the nearest village will take 6 days. I cannot swim because there are crocodiles in the water. I feel lonely and a little scared but I must try to stay positive. At least it can't get any worse....

19/05/2013

It has been three very interesting days and this is my last day before flying back home. Three days ago, just as I was starting to get really worried, a young man on a bicycle rode past my tent. We were both very surprised and I think a little scared to see each other. It was difficult to communicate but I showed him my plant samples and drew a picture of my old raft in the sand and I think he understood my story. He gave me a ride to his village and told me how to catch a local bus into town. This has been one of the best experiences in my life. I have learned so much about being alone and not giving up. I will miss the peace of Africa but I will be glad to sleep in my own bed and have a nice hot shower! I hope my discovery of new plants will keep the swamp protected. Every time I see a bicycle I think of the young man who saved my life.

Analyse The Text

Journal Entry 1

What factual information is given?

How is James Smith feeling? How do you know?

What equipment does he have?

Journal Entry 2

How does the explorer feel today?

What sensory details are given?

What problem occurred?

Journal Entry 3

How was the problem solved?

How has the explorer changed?

How does he feel as he goes home?

How many days was the total journey?

Past Tense Time Expressions

in the middle of the night

a few minutes later/ a few minutes earlier

during the night

last night

this morning

just before sunrise

yesterday afternoon

after lunch

during the day

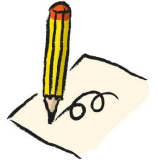
around midnight

hours later

suddenly

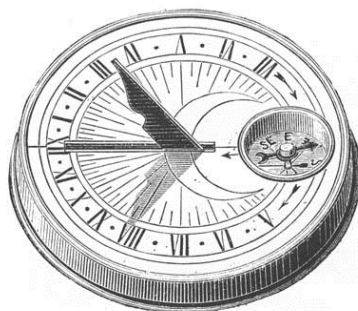


Time Expressions Help Us To Record Daily Events



Use the expressions on the previous page and choose which one best fits the sentence. There is more than one possible correct answer.

1. I got up really early and started walking through the desert.
2., after getting lost, I finally found the right path.
3. I heard some strange noises
4. The desert is boiling hot..... and freezing cold at night.
5. was the worst moment of the whole trip!
6. I had just made it back to the shelter when it began to pour with rain!
7. it looked perfect but then it started to snow!
8., I packed my bag and started walking.
9. I slept so badly
10. It was so quiet, I slept like a baby!



Facing Fears



Think about how hard climbing a mountain would be, how lonely and frightening it would feel to cross thousands of miles of empty oceans and how terrifying it would be to sit strapped inside a rocket and blasted into space. Now think how we can **face our fears**, fight challenges and overcome obstacles just as the famous explorers did.

What are some of the ways we can do this? What would you do?

What are you afraid of?

What is the scariest thing you have ever done?



This space is for your own use. First decide where you are going to explore. Then go to the library and collect some facts and figures about that place. Use this space well!

[illegible]

Internet Research:

Now it is your turn!



Write an explorer's travel journal. Make sure you research the place you are going first and use those interesting details and amazing facts.

First complete the boxes in the graphic organizers for each journal entry.

Graphic Organizers

1st Journal Entry

Date:

Introduce yourself:

Explain your mission: (Where are you going? What do you want to find? Who is going with you?)

Transportation: (How are you getting there?)

Equipment: (What special equipment are you taking? How will you record your findings?)

What are you thinking and feeling?

What time of day are you leaving? What are the weather conditions?

2nd Journal Entry



Date:

What time of day is it? What are the weather conditions?

What did you find? What did you see?

Problem: (What went wrong on your journey?)

What are you thinking and feeling?

3rd Journal Entry



Date:

What time of day is it? What are the weather conditions?

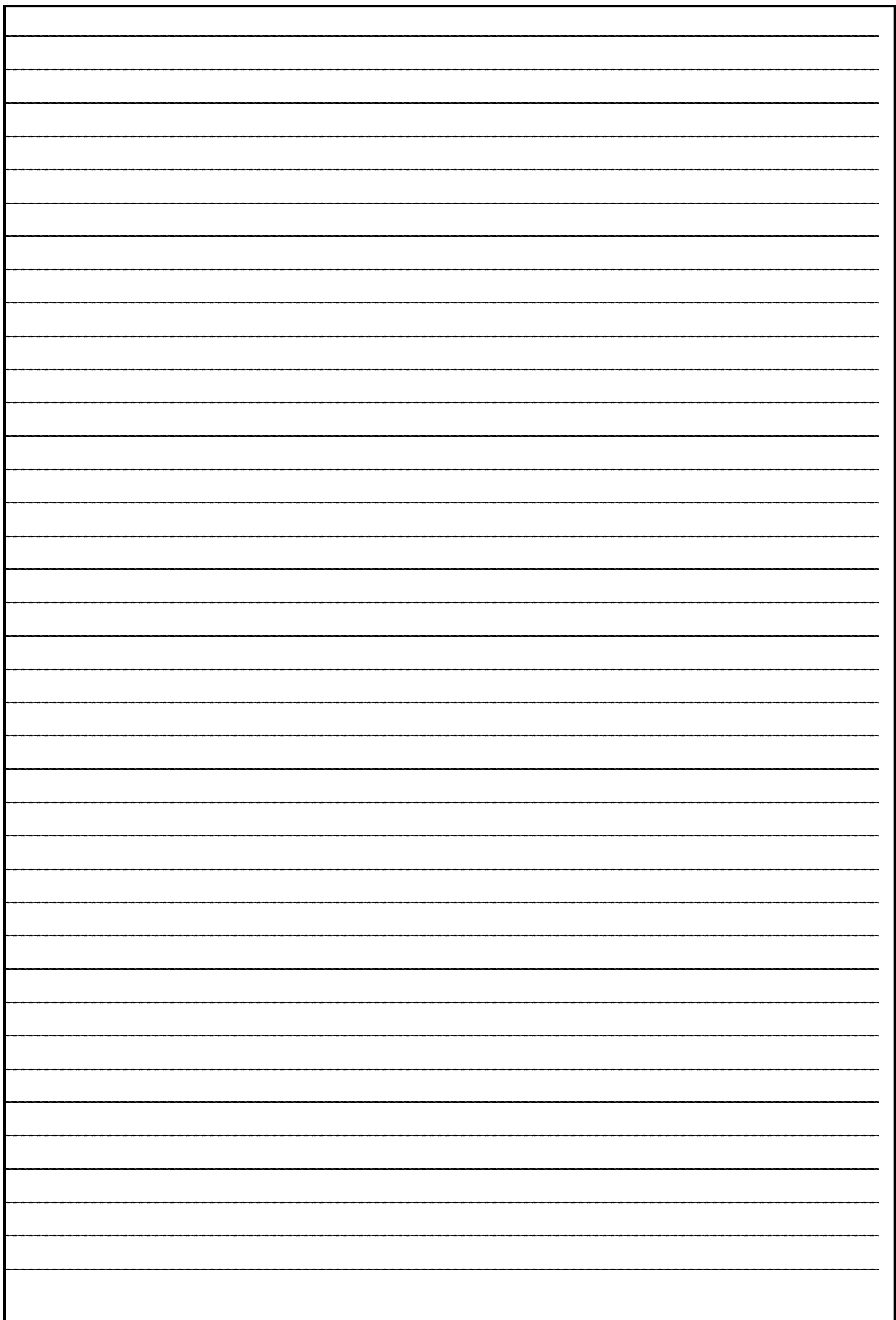
Solution: How did you solve your problem?

Summarize: What will you remember most about your journey?

How did your journey change you as a person/explorer?

What are you feeling as you go back home? Did you achieve your mission? Where do you want to go next?





Checklist and Feedback

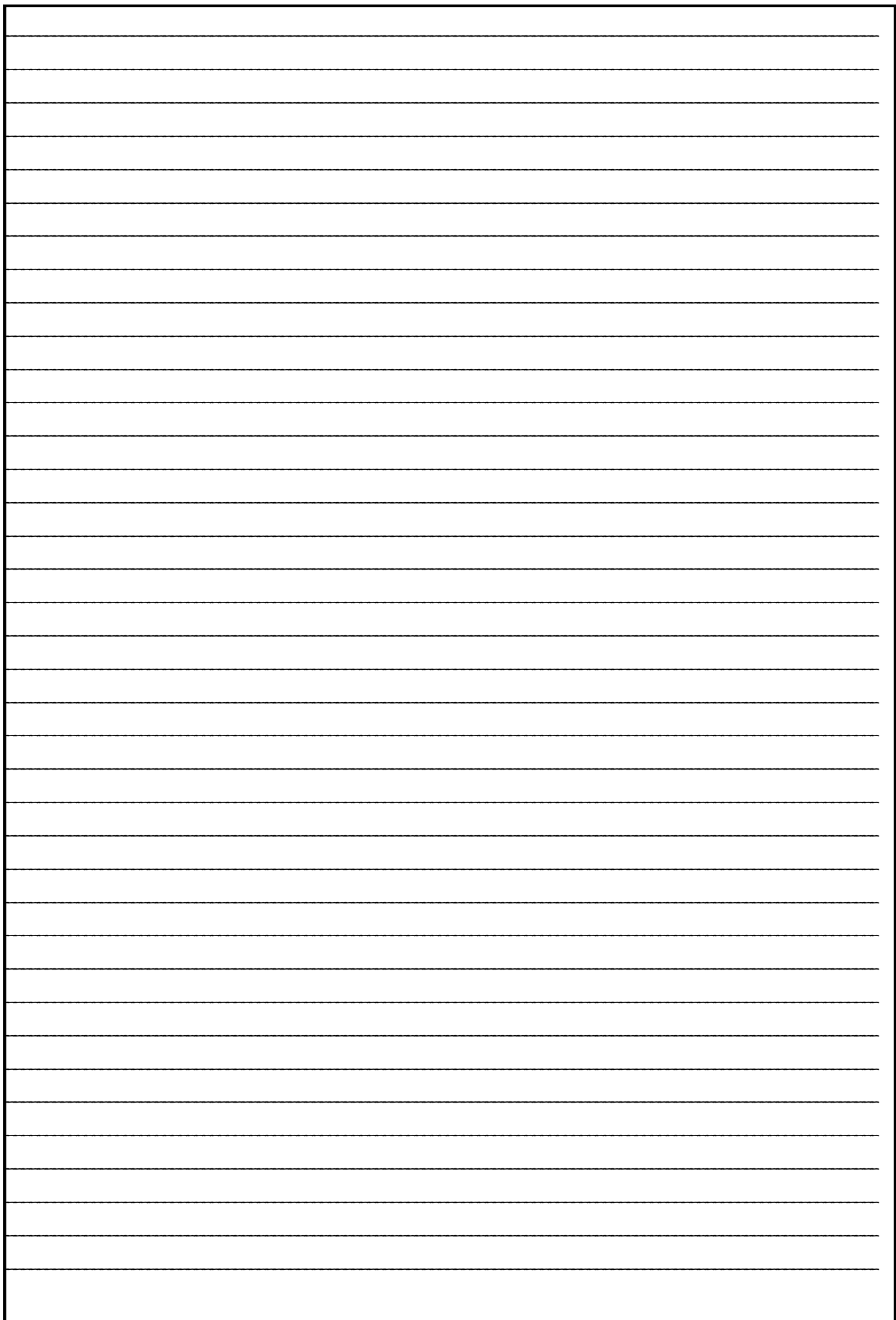
Self-checklist

Answer the following questions about your work



CRITERIA	YES	NO
Did you include the date, time and weather conditions for all three journal entries?		
Did you introduce yourself?		
Did you state where you are going and your missions?		
Did you state who you are taking with you?		
Did you state the transportation you will be using?		
Did you state the equipment you will need?		
Did you state your thoughts and feelings?		
Did you describe what you find and see?		
Did you state your problems and solutions?		
Did you summarize your experiences?		
Did you include how the journey changed you?		
Did you state how you are feeling as you go back home?		
Did you state whether or not you achieved your mission?		
Did you state where you want to go next?		





Checklist and Feedback

Peer Checklist

Answer the following questions about your friend's work

CRITERIA	YES	NO
Does the explorer introduce him/herself?		
Does the explorer state his/her mission clearly?		
Does the explorer state his/her transportation and equipment needs?		
Does the explorer state the date, time and weather conditions for all three journal entries?		
Does the explorer state his/her findings clearly?		
Does the explorer share his/her thoughts and feelings in all three entries?		
Does the explorer state a problem and solution?		
Does the explorer summarize his/her journey?		
Does the explorer state how their journey changes them?		

Peer Feedback

Read over your friend's journal carefully.

Answer the following questions so that your friend can make some changes to his/her writing.

What is the best line in the journal?

What is one thing he/she can do to make the writing better?

Is there anything you think he/she should take out?

Feedback given by: _____

Explorer Journal Rubric

RUBRIC	OOPS!	OK	GOOD	WOW!	POINTS
	0-2	3-4	5-7	8-10	
Information (Place explored, reason for going, transportation, equipment, creative details about the beginning, middle and end of journey, problem and solution)	There is information missing. Lack of details. It is difficult to follow.	Some of the information is clearly stated but not in detail. Little evidence to support.	Most of the information is clearly stated with thoughtful details. Description of the journey is clearly stated with some evidence.	All of the information is clearly stated. A strong description of the journey is presented with evidence to support to contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his/her imagination.	
Organisation	The beginning middle and end are unclear, incomplete and/or do not relate to the topic.	An attempt was made to write a beginning, middle and ending but they are not effective at relating to the topic.	The beginning, middle and ending are complete and relate to the topic but they are simple.	The beginning, middle and ending are well written, correctly placed and relate to the topic.	
Voice	Basic sentence structures are used. Patterns are not varied.	Basic sentence structures are used with some varying forms.	Good use of a variety of sentence structures creates interest in the journal.	A variety of interesting sentence structures creates an unforgettable journal.	
Word Choice	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses words that draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice of words seems accurate and not forced.	
	0-1	2-3	4	5	
Conventions	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation that distract the reader from content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation that distract the reader from content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation that distract the reader from content.	Writer makes no errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	
Presentation	Presentation is sloppy and rushed.	Some effort has been made.	Presentation shows effort and care.	Very good effort has been made. Finished product is of excellent quality.	

Common Core State Standards

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3](#)

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3a](#) Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3b](#) Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3c](#) Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3d](#) Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3e](#) Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.4](#)

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3.)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.5](#)

With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 5 [here](#).)

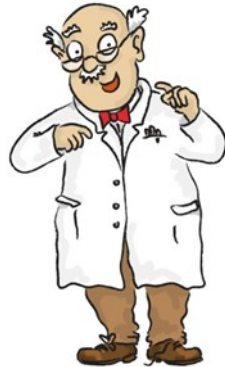
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.7](#)

Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.8](#)

Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

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Teacher's Notes

Begin the lesson by asking questions like “Are there still any undiscovered places on Earth?”, “What would it be like to be the first person to ever visit a place?”, “How do you think the great explorers of the past felt as they sailed into the unknown?”

Explain that there are still some uncharted areas of the world and many more areas that have been explored but we know very little about.

Then play the video: [Things You Won't Believe Actually Exist in Nature](#)



After the video ask students which one they liked the best.

Which one would they like to visit and why?

Prior to this activity you may consider doing some background work on famous explorers.

Useful links

<http://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/>

<http://www.missionexplore.net/challenger/missionexplore>

<http://fifthgraderamblings.edublogs.org/2012/01/18/excellent-explorer-journals/>

Students should choose a real (but ideally little known) place so that they can research factual information to include in their journals. They may use their own ideas or a place from the [YouTube video](#) above.

Teacher's Notes

Grammar Considerations

Students may write in a variety of tenses according to how they choose to describe the events. Entry 1 tends to require the present simple, present continuous and possibly future tenses. Entry 2 tends to require past tenses. Entry 3 often leads students to produce the present perfect as they reflect on past experiences.

Some guidance has been included for the past tense because our own students have most difficulty with this. However, this is not a grammar practice activity. The main objective is to teach students how to write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing and rewriting in accordance with the CCSS.

Things To Be Aware Of

The first draft is supposed to include all 3 journal entries. Refer to the example of a travel journal on page 4.

Students should be reminded that the 3 journal entries constitute more than 3 days time. The whole journey could last about a week.

Teacher's Notes

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Students should be reminded that the 3 journal entries constitute more than 3 days time. The whole journey could last about a week.

See next pages for answer keys.

Analyse The Text—ANSWER KEY

Journal Entry 1

What factual information is given? [Sudd Swamp of Sudan](#) is in East Africa. It is the largest protected swamp in the world.

How is James Smith feeling? How do you know? He feels scared and nervous but also very excited to learn about the different kinds of plants that grow in the swamp. He says so in his journal.

What equipment does he have? Not much because he has to carry whatever I bring. He has a tent, sleeping bag, notebook and camera. A few clean clothes, some food and water and a small first aid kit.

Journal Entry 2

How does the explorer feel today? How do you know? Relieved' probably because he says "I'm still alive!" He says he is "hot, sticky and smelly...but alive!". We can suppose that he is tired and maybe a little scared because he lost his raft. He is curious about what else he might find. He feels lonely because he hasn't seen anyone else for several days

What sensory details are given? It is so peaceful and beautiful, the loudest noise is the sound of birds twittering and some strange far away animal noises. There are colourful flowers

What problem occurred? His raft floated away.

Journal Entry 3

How was the problem solved? A young man on a bicycle gave him a ride to his village and told me how to catch a local bus into town.

How has the explorer changed? He has learned so much about being alone and not giving up. Every time he sees a bicycle he will think of the young man who saved his life.

How does he feel as he goes home? He will be glad to sleep in my own bed and have a nice hot shower! I hope my discovery of new plants will keep the swamp protected.

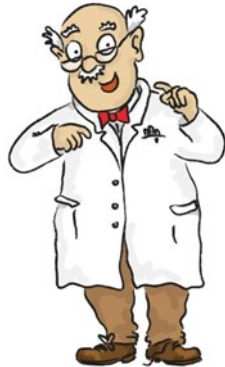
How many days was the total journey? 5 days. Entry 1 was written on Day 2

Time Expressions—ANSWER KEY

Use the expressions on the previous page (or an idea of your own) and complete the sentences below. There is more than one possible correct answer.

1. I got up really early just before sunrise / this morning and started walking through the desert.
2. Hours late, after getting lost, I finally found the right path.
3. I heard some strange noises during the night.
4. The desert is boiling hot during the day and freezing cold at night.
5. Yesterday afternoon was the worst moment of the whole trip!
6. I had just made it back to the shelter when suddenly / a few minutes later it began to pour with rain!
7. This morning / after lunch / a few minutes earlier it looked perfect but then it started to snow!
8. Just before sunrise, I packed my bag and started walking.
9. I couldn't sleep so I went for a walk around midnight.
10. It was so quiet last night, I slept like a baby!

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