



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Around the World Right Now

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

A beautifully illustrated story lifts reader/listener from one time zone to the next, visiting a significant landmark in most of the 24 time zones. As the time travel continues, the reader/listener is transported to every continent, experiencing a small taste of the culture, and learning that something “wonderful” is happening everywhere around the globe. The story concludes with directions for making a sundial, tying the past to the present. Mother and daughter writing team, Gina Cascone and Bryony Sheppard, as well as illustrator, Olivia Beckman, are sure to inspire conversations about all times of the day and night.

Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text, using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Reading Trek as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Grades K-2, Ages 5-8. Teacher Read-Aloud = K-5 grade, RL = 2-3 grade, Guided Reading Level = M, Lexile = 690. This text would be well suited as part of an elementary music lesson. English Language Arts, English, reading, literatures, social studies (including history and geography), math, and science.

Common Core State Standards for K-5

Reading

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

Writing

- **Text Types and purposes**
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

Mathematical Practice

- **Measurement and Data** (to tell and write time)

ISTE: Student Standards

- (1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
- (3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
- (6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- **Theme: CULTURE**
- **Theme: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE**
- **Theme: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS**

Next Generation Science Standards

- **EARTH'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE**

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- **CREATING**
- **RESPONDING**

National Association for Music Education

- **Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.**
- **Evaluating music and music performances.**

Using the Reading Trek in Class

This title has connections to culture, and people, places, and environment; additionally, this text has history connections in the realm of time, continuity, and change.

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, and highlighting the various layers.
2. Using the illustrations on a given page, students may predict the time of day and possibly the season at greater latitudes.
3. After identifying the students' time zone, use this "[Where in the World Do You Live](#)" PDF to complete the activity of drawing what may be happening at the selected time.
4. Investigate shadows by placing various objects on light sensitive paper or use flashlights to create students' shadows or silhouettes. Silhouettes can be traced on black paper using chalk dipped in water.
5. After listening to the story, students could identify the missing piece of the illustration using text clues as found in [Where in the World is the Missing Picture?](#)
6. View other illustrations by [Olivia Beckman](#) and discuss the similarities and differences.

Additional Activities

1. Make a sundial using the directions in the text.
2. Using the authors' [Incorporating Performing Arts](#) activity, in pairs or groups choose an alternative location in each time zone and produce that page for a class version of the story using [ABCya! Color, Draw, & Paint](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Be sure to watch the tutorial video on [YouTube](#).
3. Use strips of painters' tape on a globe to mark the time zones and discuss the need for the various time zones.
4. Listen to jazz, bossa nova music, Thai classical music, and opera, and then compare and contrast the different forms of music. [ccMixter - Dig](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or [Music Map](#) offer nice collections of music tracks for this activity.
5. In a music classroom setting, students could use percussion instruments in response to the music genre identified in the text.
6. Find the hidden clocks on each page.
7. Take a virtual cable car ride through San Francisco at [San Francisco Cable Car Ride to Fisherman's Wharf](#) or [How to Ride a Cable Car in San Francisco](#). Additional videos at [A Trip Down Market Street, \(1906\)](#), [San Francisco Cable Cars \(1929\)](#), and [Cable Cars of San Francisco \(1945\)](#) will tie the past to the present for students to compare and contrast this mode of transportation.

Helpful Resources

- [Cascade Sheppard](#)
- [The Ewing Observer](#)
- [Gabiella Pereira's diyMFA Podcast](#) (Interview is 37 minutes, for teacher/parent use)

- [Sleeping Bear Press](#) offers printable extension activities for classroom use as a PDF. Texts are listed alphabetically.
- [Plum Pudding Illustration Agency](#) for other illustrations by Olivia Beckman.
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google MANIA - Google Maps: Make Learning a Journey with Reading Treks](#)