

PLATO[®] Reading Explorations

Grade Level: 4–6
Target Audience: Elementary/Middle
Audio Support: Yes

Product Features

- 24 modules and 456 reading passages
- Reading passages focus on various locations around the world
- Teaches 8 reading comprehension strategies at grades 4-6
- Reinforces the application of strategies to expository text in the practice section
- Monitors and bookmarks student progress
- Models effective use of strategies through a series of tutorials, practices, and quizzes

Product Benefits

- Aligns with standards identified by the National Reading Panel
- Demonstrates instruction with visual and verbal cues to support various learning styles
- Integrates science and social studies content within the reading passages
- Rewards learner who completes the skill activities
- Provides a structure to teach reading using a scaffolding approach

Online Features

Handheld—allows learner to take notes and demonstrate application of a given strategy

Pop-up Definition—allows learner to highlight words or passages to identify its use or definition

Highlighted Text—prompts learner to highlight text to verify understanding of strategy

Menu Icons

Tutorial—launches the beginning of the tutorial

Practice—launches the beginning of the practice

Quiz—launches the beginning of the quiz

Question Mark—allows learner to review the function of the menu icons

Stop—allows learner to exit the skill activity

Print—allows learner to print the screen as shown

Strategy—reviews the steps of a given reading comprehension strategy

Itinerary—lists the various passages the learner will read

Back Arrow—allows learner to return to the previous page

Next Arrow—allows learner to proceed to next part of the question

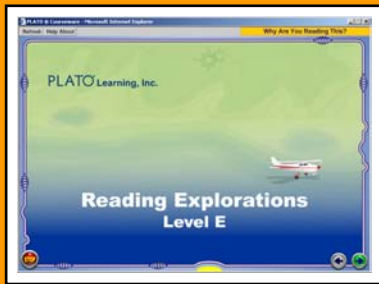
Map—illustrates places where the learner can visit and earn the Adventure Club patches

Reference Materials (Refer to the PLATO Documentation CD)

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Reading Explorations

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Reading Explorations—Scope and Sequence List

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Skills Inventory



Getting Started

- Refer to the Curriculum Guide—Reading Explorations to learn about the product features, benefits, and menu icons.
- Use the scope and sequence to identify the curriculum structure and learning outcomes.
- Begin previewing several courseware modules at the appropriate instructional level.
- Become familiar with the reference materials on the PLATO Documentation CD.

Lesson Progression

- Tutorial—teaches the 8 reading strategies through a carefully guided process (not-scored).
- Practice—contains 5 expository passages with questions and instant feedback (not-scored).
- Quiz—contains 5 randomly generated passages from a pool of ten to measure skills (scored).

Assessment

- Assign the Beginning Reading Level D—Skills Inventory as a pretest to determine the learner’s entry level in Reading Explorations.
- Use the quiz as a pretest to identify specific learning needs in reading comprehension.
- Assess the learner’s responses to questions within the tutorial to remediate content skills.
- Use state and local assessment to further identify and prioritize instructional needs.

Implementation Strategies

- Apply the 8 reading comprehension strategies across the curriculum.
- Design classroom activities and projects to extend learning beyond the courseware module.
- Incorporate the “Strategy Steps” outlined in the PLATO Curriculum Guide to reinforce the strategies of reading.
- Assign the Beginning Reading Level D—Skills Inventory to identify learning strengths and placement within the appropriate courseware level.
- Encourage the learner to engage in writing assignments as a means of improving reading.

Evaluation

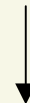
- Generate reports to track learner progress and measure gains.
- Use chapter tests from basal reading programs to evaluating learner progress.
- Evaluate and discuss assignments collected in the learner’s writing portfolio.
- Evaluate outcomes from the Beginning Reading Level D—Skills Inventory to determine next steps.

Extension Exercises

- Create a library of literature books that align to the reading passages.
- Align the geographical locations in Reading Explorations with other social studies units.
- Create a website library for each geographical location and module theme.
- Use vocabulary words located in the passages to create a word bank and dictionary.
- Align thematic topics in Reading Explorations with Projects for the Real World.

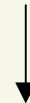
Curriculum
Structure

Curriculum



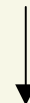
Reading
Explorations

Course



Reading
Explorations
Level E

Module



Why Are You
Reading This?

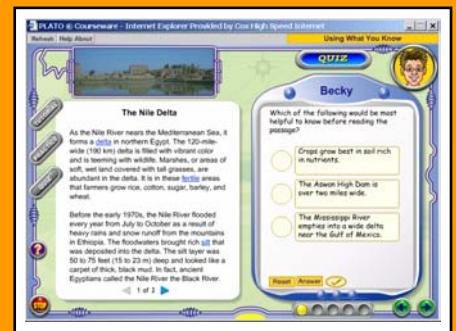
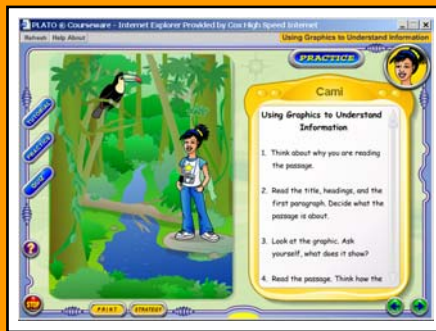
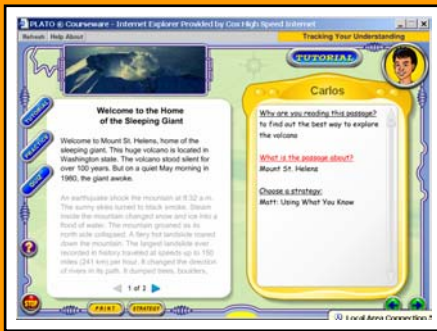
Cape Cod

Tutorial

Practice

Quiz

Reading Explorations



Learners travel world-wide while improving their comprehension skills
4th Grade—United States • 5th Grade—North and South America • 6th Grade—the World

Reading Strategies

Grade Level & Location	Strategy	Objective
4th: Cape Cod 5th: Patagonia 6th: Thames River	Why Are You Reading This?	The learner will determine as appropriate purpose for reading a selection of expository text
4th: Everglades 5th: Copper Canyon 6th: Nile River	Using What You Know	The learner will use prior knowledge to understand expository text
4th: Redwood Forest 5th: Toca da Boa Vista 6th: Serengeti Plains	Asking and Answering Questions	The learner will use a strategy to ask and answer questions in order to understand expository text.
4th: Mississippi River 5th: Sonoran Desert 6th: Gobi Desert	Making Good Guesses	The learner will use an inference strategy to read and understand expository text.
4th: Yellowstone National Park 5th: Greenland 6th: Chauvet Cave	Finding What's Important	The learner will use a strategy to determine what's important in expository text.
4th: Mojave Desert 5th: Great Lakes 6th: Carpathian Mountains	Summarizing What You Read	The learner will use a strategy to summarize expository text.
4th: Mammoth Cave 5th: Amazon Rain Forest 6th: Great Barrier Reef	Using Graphics to Understand Information	The learner will use a graphic to find and understand information in expository text.
4th: Mount St. Helens 5th: Denali 6th: Mount Everest	Tracking Your Understanding	The learner will use metacognition to better understand expository text.

For more information, please call 800.44.PLATO or visit www.plato.com

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