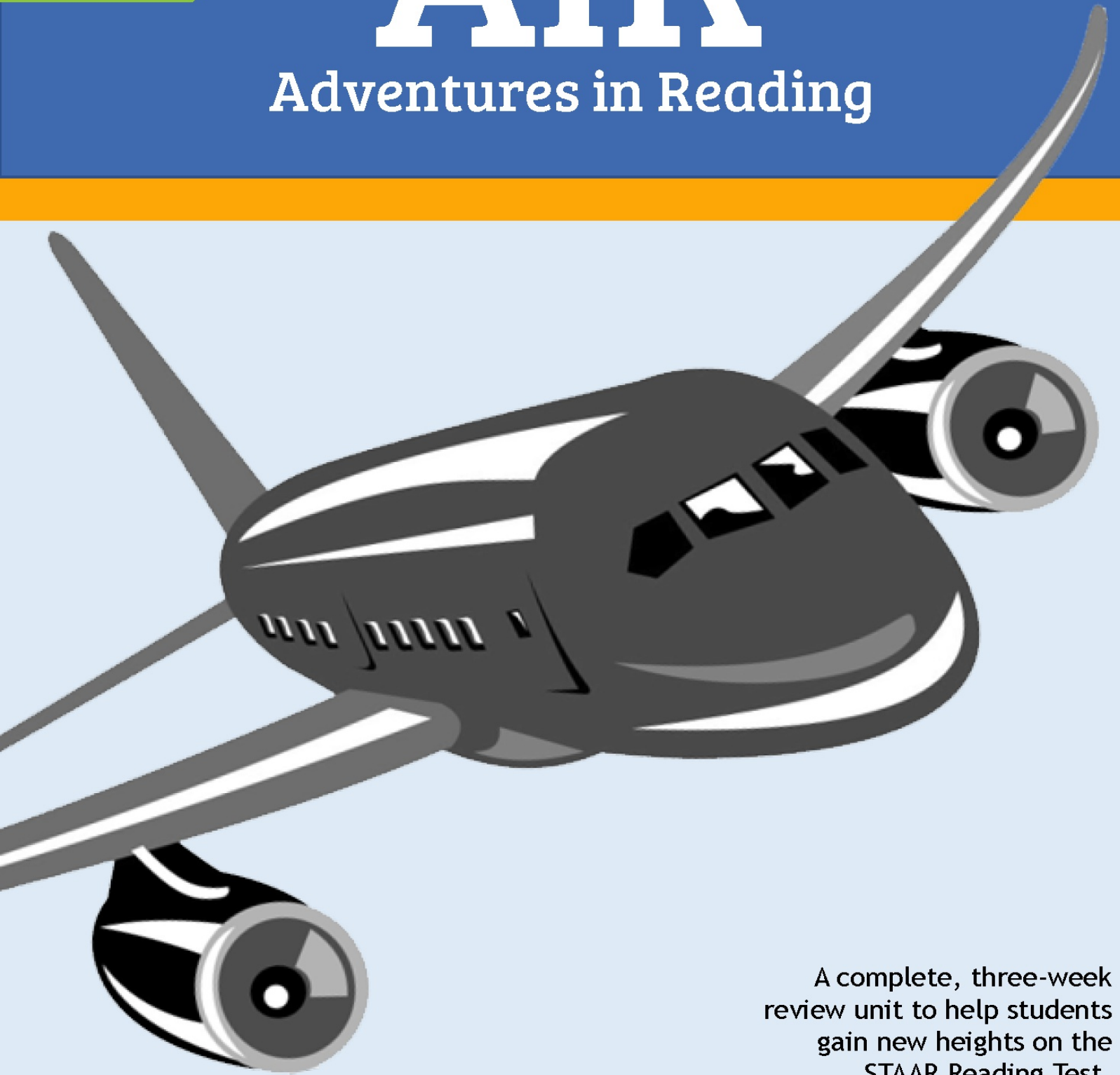


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AIR

Adventures in Reading



A complete, three-week review unit to help students gain new heights on the STAAR Reading Test.



ELA Connections

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For classroom use only

Introductory Notes

What This Curriculum Is

The object of “Adventures in Reading” is to provide meaningful STAAR review for middle school students three weeks before the actual test. Passages are based on the latest STAAR standards, and questions follow grade-level TEKS.

Students will use “boarding passes” and “passports” to “travel” to a different location each week. Each leg of the trip they successfully complete will merit a passport stamp. The goal is for each student to demonstrate reading success by collecting a stamp from each destination.

While you can just use the practice STAAR passages by themselves, the full experience will be much more beneficial for students. The suggested preview videos build background knowledge for greater success with the practice questions. The other activities help students learn interesting things they may not learn elsewhere. The activities vary and are designed to prevent burnout and promote engagement (for students and for teachers). Group work is also an integral part of each “trip.” By interacting with the material in these unique ways, students may even be building their knowledge for one or more passages on the actual test.

What This Curriculum Is Not

“Reading Takes You Places” does not replace regular reinforcement of the TEKS in the classroom throughout the year, and it is not a packet of busywork to hand out to students. This curriculum is designed for student engagement with the materials to help them feel more comfortable with the requirements of STAAR testing.

Notes on Specific Materials

Lesson Plans

The lesson plans are simply our suggestions to you. We developed the included materials to be completed in this order, but you can always edit, reorder, omit, or add activities as you see fit. You know your students better than anyone else. To keep your students’ attention and interest, we do recommend you complete each destination over consecutive class periods. If you decide not to use all three weeks, please know your students may be missing review of some critical TEKS.

Travel Scrapbook

The scrapbook activity is meant to be adapted. If your students enjoy being artistic and creative, encourage them to do so. If they would rather present simple bits of information or interesting pictures, that is great too. To help hesitant students, consider asking your school’s librarian for books on the places you will be traveling. The morning sharing time could be dedicated to research instead, if needed. Having books in the room could also help fill time for students who finish answering practice questions early. You may want to create a sample scrapbook to show students, but we have also included a digital sample for your convenience. Students can create scrapbooks in class, at home, or even for extra credit.

Have Fun!

Most importantly, have fun! Your students will sense your interest level and respond accordingly. If you are enthusiastic, they will get much more out of these three weeks than just additional test practice.

Sample Schedule

Friday (before first full week—does not need to be completed before every unit)

1. Divide groups
2. Passport applications/passports
3. 7 Wonders Focus Activity (FA)
4. FA answers/STAAR Answers Chart

Monday

1. Music/KQL
2. Thought Quest
3. Boarding passes
4. Scrapbooks
5. Videos/discussion
6. Focus Activity 1
7. FA answers/STAAR Answers Chart
8. Homework

Tuesday

1. Music, Focus Activity 2, Share scrapbooks
2. FA answers/STAAR Answers Chart
3. First major passage (fluency practice, if applicable)
4. Game Answers—Stamp Passports
5. Homework

Wednesday

1. Music, Focus Activity 3, share scrapbooks
2. Second major passage (fluency practice, if applicable)
3. Game/answers—stamp passports

Thursday

1. Music, Focus Activity 4, share scrapbooks
2. Finish second passage, if needed
3. Paired questions, if applicable
4. Game for paired answers/stamp passports, if applicable
5. Post-reading KQL
6. Thought Quest
7. Homework

Friday

1. Music, Focus Activity 5, complete scrapbooks
2. Finish post-reading charts/Thought Quest, if needed
3. Share scrapbooks
4. CELEBRATE! Music, food, videos, games, guest speakers, etc.