Making Connections
Reading Comprehension Skills and Strategies
Book 4

Unit 1 Skill Focus: Sequencing
Unit 1 Theme: How is it Done?
**Text 2: How Polar Fleece Is Made**

**BEFORE READING**

**Skill Focus**
Ask students what comprehension skill they are using when they put things in the order in which they happen. *(sequencing)* Ask them what words like *before, next, then, until,* and *when* are called. *(signal words)*

Tell students that the words *last* and *finally* are also signal words. Give an example of how these words are used to show sequence: “*First,* I put my coat on. *Then,* I got my dog’s leash. *Finally,* we went for a walk.”

**Background Knowledge**
Guide a discussion with students about polar fleece. Ask: “Does anyone have a blanket or a jacket made from polar fleece?” If so, ask a volunteer to tell you how it feels and how light it is. Talk about other things that can be made with polar fleece. *(hats, sweaters, jackets, blankets)* If students are not familiar with polar fleece, share this information with the group. Tell students that they may be surprised to learn where polar fleece comes from.

Find ELL support for background knowledge on page 31.

**Text Structure and Purpose**
Have students open their books to page 8. Point out that, like “Make Your Own Paper,” this text tells the steps of making something. But unlike that text, which told how you can make paper, this text tells how polar fleece is made in a factory.

**Text Features**
Read the title and focus question aloud with students. Ask them to keep the focus question in mind as they read. Have students describe the photographs. Then have them read the captions and tell how they help readers know what the pictures are showing. Look at the picture at the bottom of page 8 and ask: “Where do you see the bottles before they are squashed? *(at the bottom)* Where do you see them after? *(top)* How do you know?” *(They are loose at the bottom and tight together at the top.)*
At the recycling plant, the bottles are washed and ground into flakes. The flakes are cleaned again with water and detergent to get rid of any dirt or other materials. Then the flakes are dried out.

PET bottles are washed and ground into flakes.

Next, the flakes are melted and spun into stands. If you want to know how this is done, think about how people who make cotton candy spin sugar into threads. The flakes are spun in a similar way.

Some of the fibers are coarser than others. The coarser fibers are often used for carpets or packaging materials. The finer fibers are woven into polar fleece fabric. The fabric is then dyed. Finally, it is cut and sewn to make clothes or blankets.

It takes about twenty-five PET bottles to make the cloth for one polar fleece jacket. When you wear your polar fleece jacket, you might be wearing your own recycled bottles.

To figure out the definition. Say: “If something has been squashed, it is a different shape than it was before. In the top picture it looks like the bottles are tightly wrapped in a cube shape. Bottles aren’t usually this shape, so I think a bale must be a large bundle of tightly wrapped materials.” Ask a volunteer to name another material that is frequently put into bales.

Phrases and Sentences If students have circled the phrase “recycling companies,” remind them that a company is another word for a business. Ask them what they think a recycling company makes or does. (It uses recycled goods to make other things.)
Text 2: How Polar Fleece Is Made

Rereading
Work with students to underline words and phrases that help them understand the sequence of steps described in the text. Remind them to pay close attention to the signal words and phrases before, then, next, and finally.

Have students reread the focus question to themselves. Ask a volunteer to read it aloud and another volunteer to answer it. (It gets cut and sewn to make clothes or blankets.)

Cooperative Learning
Have students work in small groups or with you to clarify other words, phrases, and sentences that they have circled and the sequence of steps they have underlined. Then invite the group to share their ideas with the class.

Invite students to reinforce their understanding of sequencing with the following activity:

- Assign each group one of the following steps in making polar fleece: squash bottles, wash and grind bottles, wash and dry flakes, melt and spin flakes, weave fiber, dye fabric, cut and sew fabric.
- Have them brainstorm how to act out their step without using words.
- Have one or two students from each group come to the front of the room to do the acting. Invite the other groups to guess the step.
- Have the students organize themselves in proper sequence, again without using any words.
AFTER READING

Reread for Fluency
Have pairs of students reread the second paragraph. This paragraph includes a number of multisyllabic and scientific words that can be challenging. Remind students to use the phonetic respelling of Polyethylene Terephthalate in parentheses to help them pronounce the term correctly. Have students practice rereading the paragraph to each other. Then have them read the entire text, monitoring each other for accuracy and fluency.

Graphic Organizers and Question Answering
Direct students to the graphic organizer on page 10. Point out that the text can be broken into three steps (before, during, and after recycling), and that there is a sequence of events within each step. Then help students complete the Writing activity by brainstorming other uses for plastic bottles.

Summarizing
Ask students what they are doing when they provide just the most important, or main, steps from a text that tells how to do something. (summarizing) Encourage volunteers to help you create a summary by referring to their marking of the text, including sequencing signal words.

ELL Support
ELLs and others might benefit from an explanation of “polar fleece.” Tell them that fleece means a soft, woolly covering. Then tell them that polar refers to the North or South Pole, and ask whether you would need to wear clothes that are very warm or very cool at these places. (very warm)
Text Connections

Explore the following questions and activities with the whole class or in small groups, or assign them for independent work. Review Texts 1 through 5 with students, including the activity pages. Tell students they may need to refer back to these pages.

1. Fill in the blanks below to show other things you’d like to learn about. Do some research to figure out the sequence for making something and how something else is made, then share your information with the class.
   - Text 1: Make Your Own ____________
   - Text 2: How ____________ is Made

2. Write a short account of what you did over the weekend. Write about the events in the order in which they happened.

3. Choose and research an animal and write about how it finds or builds its home. Remember to put the steps in the correct sequence.

4. Interview an adult about his or her job. Write about one of the tasks that person does and what steps he or she takes to complete that task.

5. When you read history, you are reading about a sequence of events. Write a few paragraphs telling the history of your town, your school, or your family. Be sure to use signal words or dates to show the order things happened.

6. Choose and research a topic, such as the history of the Olympic Games or how to make a diorama. Record your findings in the form of a chart or a table. Then share what you have done with the class and create a display that other classes can enjoy.
Polar fleece is a warm material used for blankets, sweaters, and jackets. It is very soft and very light. Easy to clean, polar fleece dries quickly and comes in a range of colors. It is ideal for wearing in wintry conditions. You might never guess that polar fleece is actually made from recycled plastic bottles!

Only recycled bottles made from a substance called PET can be used for making polar fleece. PET stands for Polyethylene Terephthalate, which is a kind of clear polyester. (Say it like this: Polly-ethy-leen Terrif-thal-ate.) This material was invented in 1941. PET is used to make bottles for many different things, such as fruit juice and vegetable oils. These bottles are light but very strong, easy to clean, and recyclable.

Before PET bottles are recycled, they are squashed into big bales. Each bale weighs more than a thousand pounds. The bales are then sold to recycling companies.
At the recycling plant, the bottles are washed and ground into flakes. The flakes are cleaned again with water and detergent to get rid of any dirt or other materials. Then the flakes are dried out.

Next, the flakes are melted and spun into strands. If you want to know how this is done, think about how people who make cotton candy spin sugar into threads. The flakes are spun in a similar way.

Some of the fibers are coarser than others. The coarser fibers are often used for carpets or packaging materials. The finer fibers are woven into polar fleece fabric. The fabric is then dyed. Finally, it is cut and sewn to make clothes or blankets.

It takes about twenty-five PET bottles to make the cloth for one polar fleece jacket. When you wear your polar fleece jacket, you might be wearing your own recycled bottles!
Practice the Skill

Sequence of Recycling
Fill in the details to show the steps.

Before the bottles are recycled
1. 
2. 

At the recycling plant
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

After the flakes are cleaned and dried
1. 
2. 
3. 
4.
Check Comprehension

1. Give three reasons why people like polar fleece.

2. List three things that can be made of polar fleece.

3. What is polar fleece made from?

4. PET is used to make ________________________________

5. Name two things made from coarse polyester fibers.

Writing

What else could you do with plastic bottles?