

Grade 3

# Comprehension and Critical Thinking

**TIME**  
**FOR KIDS**

- ✓ Test Preparation
- ✓ Comprehension and Critical Thinking Questions
- ✓ Document-Based Analysis

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*The articles in this book are collected from the TIME For Kids archives.*



**SHELL EDUCATION**

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## ***Seeds of Hope***

Every year, Africa's farms produce fewer and fewer crops. Many Africans do not have enough food to eat. Americans Bill and Melinda Gates say it is time to change that for good.

In 2006, the Gates Foundation announced it was teaming up with the Rockefeller Foundation to fight hunger in Africa. Together, the generous groups will spend \$150 million to help farmers on the continent of Africa.

The new program is called Alliance for a Green Revolution. It is a back-to-basics plan that will start with seeds. Already, African scientists are working to develop hardier crops. They have created new kinds of rice plants that grow well in Africa. The rice is resistant to weeds.

Africa's farmers are mainly women. Many of the scientists helping to create the new crops are also women. Margaret Karembu is a scientist in Kenya. She said that women are working to help their sisters in the villages. "We know what it means to have to harvest all day," she said.

The effects of planting hardier plants can already be felt. Children are expected to help in the field, but now they spend less time there. More kids are in school in the areas where the new rice is grown.

Better harvests will give farm families more crops to eat and to sell. It will take years for the new program to reach full bloom. But the seeds of hope have been planted.

## Seeds of Hope *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. Who are the people behind the Gates Foundation?

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2. How much are the groups spending to help farmers?

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3. What is the new program called?

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4. Why are scientists developing new kinds of plants?

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5. Why does it matter that many of the scientists working on the project are women?

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6. How will this new program affect African children who work on farms?

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7. How do you think this program will help the people of Africa?

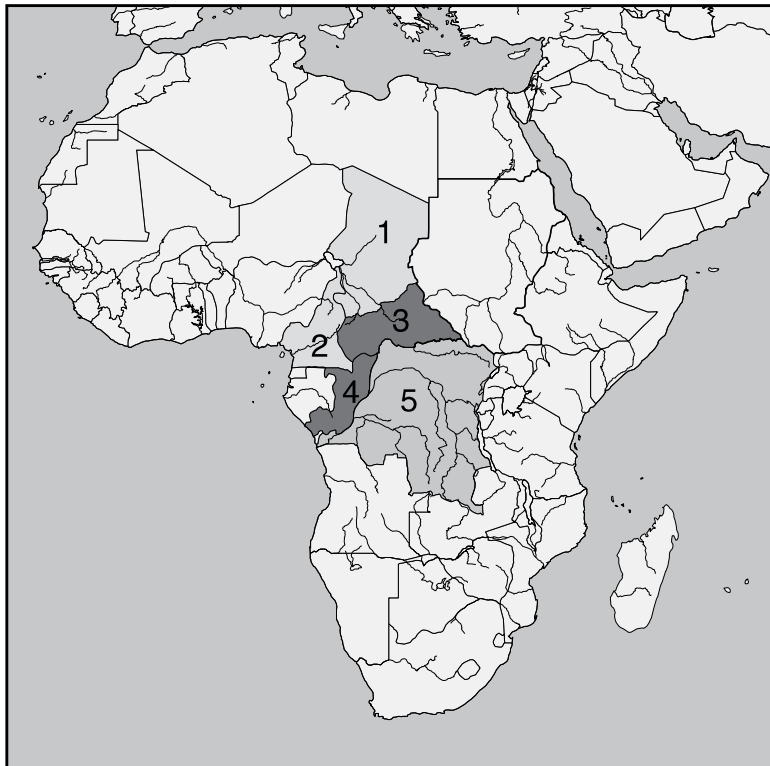
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## Seeds of Hope *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Look at the map. Answer the questions.

### Hunger Hot Spots in Central Africa



1. Chad
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Congo
5. Democratic Republic of Congo

■ 20% to 34% population undernourished

■ 35% population undernourished

Total population: 81.7 million

Undernourished population:  
47.6 million or 58%

1. Name the Central African countries where at least 35 percent of the population is undernourished.

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2. What percentage of the population of Central Africa is considered undernourished?

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3. What do you think the Alliance for a Green Revolution should do to help these countries?

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## ***We Can Eat Smarter***

The United States has a supersize problem. Many Americans weigh too much! More than half the grown-ups in this country weigh more than they should. There are two times as many adults who are seriously overweight as there were 20 years ago. Doctors are worried about this growing problem. Being very overweight is dangerous. It can cause heart disease and other health problems.

How did so many people get out of shape? Nancy Krebs is a doctor who works with kids. She says kids spend too much time watching TV and not enough time doing physical activity, like sports. Americans are eating out more than ever before. Happy Meals and takeout pizzas are quick and tasty, but they are fattening. They are also sold in sizes that are too big. Now, some fast-food companies are offering choices that are lower in fat.

Lunches in public schools are including better foods. This year, the government bought more than 973 million pounds of fruits and vegetables for schools. Parents and kids are also making changes. Danielle Bailey took part in the KidShape program in California. "It taught me to eat more carrots, strawberries, and grapes," she says. "I also learned to go for more walks in the park." Now, Danielle feels great. Take good care of yourself, and you will, too!

## **We Can Eat Smarter** *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. How has the number of overweight adults changed over the past 20 years?

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2. Why do doctors think more kids are out of shape today?

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3. What kinds of things may be making it harder for kids and adults to eat right and get the exercise they need?

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4. What are fast food restaurants doing to help?

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5. What are public schools doing to help?

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6. List three things you could do every day to improve your own health.

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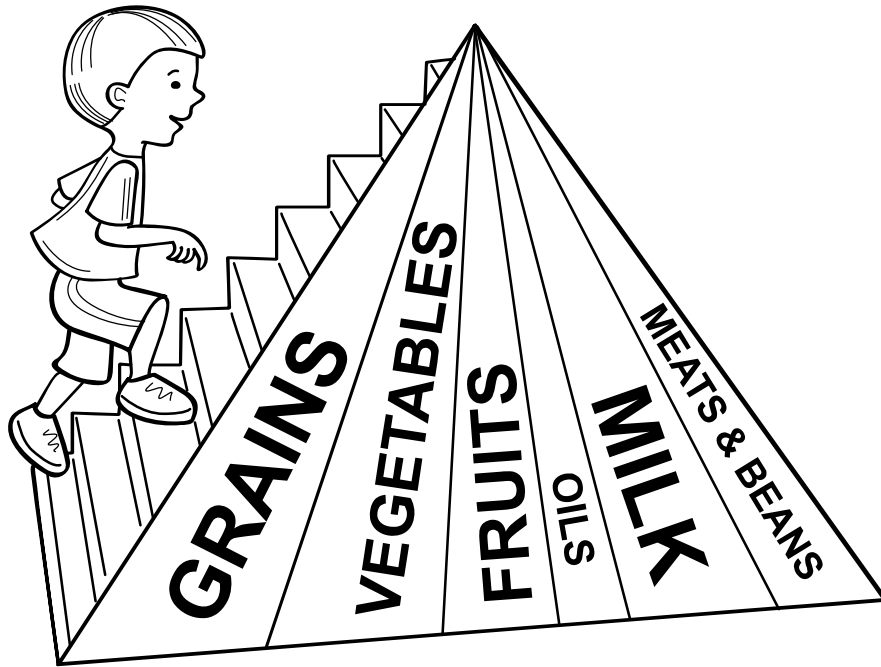
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## We Can Eat Smarter *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Look at the pyramid. Answer the questions.

The United States Department of Agriculture created the MyPyramid for Kids to remind you to be physically active and make healthy food choices. Every part of the symbol has a message.



1. Why do you think some of the stripes of the pyramid are wider at the bottom?

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2. Why do you think the stripe labeled *oils* is so small?

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3. What do you think the child running up the steps of the pyramid is supposed to remind you to do?

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