

## 1 Who Owns the Roads?

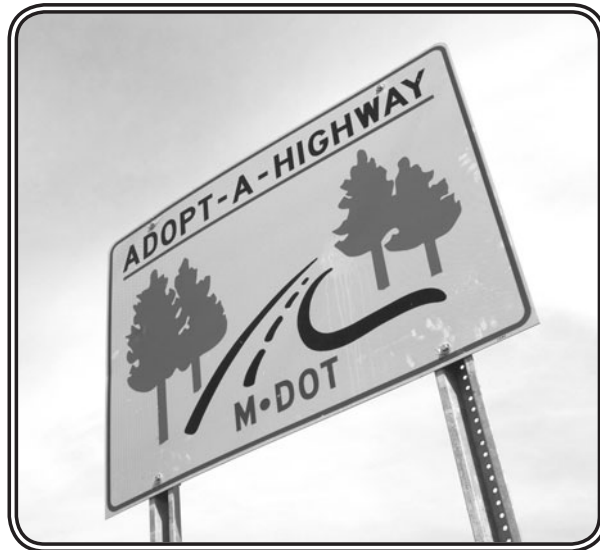
Bobby Evans got sick of seeing trash **thrown** along the **roads** by his Texas home. He wondered what he could do. He didn't **own** the **roadways**.

One day in 1984, Evans **followed** a pickup truck. It had a **load** of rubbish that was **blowing** onto the **roadway**. As he **approached**, he had to dodge the trash. He knew he must act. So, in 1985, Evans began the "Adopt a Highway" program. He asked local clubs to tend **roads**. He asked them to pick up trash in specific places. The clubs began adopting the **roads**.

Today, every state has this program. Clubs and other groups pay to adopt a **roadway**. They pay the costs for picking up trash and maintaining the **road**.

Evans's program did not stop there. Places such as Canada and Japan began programs, too. Now, thanks to Evans, we can all **own** the **roads!**

Word Count: 150



### Glossary Links

dodge  
adopt



Tell about a street or lot that needs cleaning up.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 344.



### Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 132

SAM Keyword: DD 16.3

## 2 Danger on the Coast

A man named George Bennett settled on Oregon's **coast** in 1873. The settlement was named Bandon, after Bennett's home back in Ireland.



Bennett brought with him a plant named "gorse." This plant thrived in Bandon, growing fast and happily. Its **yellow** petals **coated** the **coastline** in gold.

In 1936, hot, dry winds blew a forest fire into Bandon. The thick gorse fed the blaze. Flames raged. The fire left hundreds of homes and shops in ashes. At least ten residents were killed.

The citizens of Bandon made it their **goal** to get rid of the gorse. It is close to impossible to eliminate the plant. But this did not stop the residents from trying. They chopped, yanked, cut, dug, sprayed, and **mowed** it. They sent in insects and animals to eat it. Yet, it still thrived.

Today, the Bandon **coastline** is still **coated** in gold. And those who **know** Bandon's past remain on edge, **knowing** that fire may come back at any time. But in the meantime, they are happy to gaze at the stunning **yellow** plant that lines their **coast**.

Word Count: 181

### Glossary Links

thrived  
eliminate



Imagine you are a reporter. Write a paragraph about the fire in Bandon.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 344.



### Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 133

SAM Keyword: DD 16.3