

1 A Jewel in Space

After seeing Earth from space, astronaut James Irwin described it as "...the most beautiful blue marble you can imagine." After Alan Shepard walked on the **moon** in 1971, he said, "When I first looked back at the Earth, standing on the **moon**, I cried." He **knew** he was looking at a **jewel** in space.

Most people never get the chance to travel to space. But thanks to photographs, we can still see Earth from space without ever leaving the ground.

The first photos of Earth were taken in 1946. The photos were **crudely** taken by a camera attached to a rocket. The rocket climbed 65 miles above Earth's surface, then fell back to the ground minutes later.

Today, astronauts take photographs of our amazing planet from the International Space Station. Satellites also orbit hundreds of miles over our planet, taking incredibly crisp photos.

But the photos do more than just fascinate us. They also provide us with important information about Earth's features, **including** its atmosphere, land, and water.

Word Count: 168



Glossary Links

international
atmosphere



Would you like to travel to space? Tell why or why not.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 408.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 204

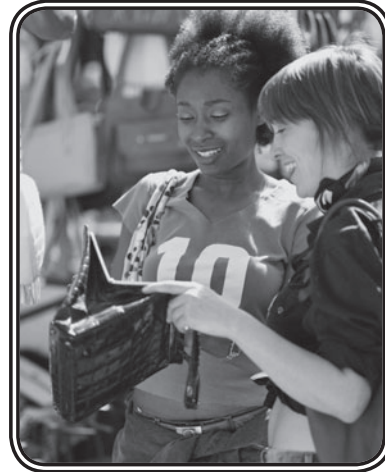
SAM Keyword: DD 22.3

2 Renew Your Look

Short on cash but need some trendy **new** clothes? Got a new **attitude** and want to show it off? By shopping for secondhand clothes, you can save cash and find **cool**, one-of-a-kind outfits.

Follow these tips to **renew** your wardrobe:

1. Check the back of the **newspaper** for local tag sales. Check the phone listings for thrift shops. These places have excellent deals on secondhand clothing and **costume jewelry**.
2. After you locate things you might like, try them on. Sizes fit everyone differently. Of course, you can always have waistbands **loosened** or hems shortened.
3. Next, check the clothes with care. Check that the zippers zip and that there are no stains or holes in the fabric.
4. Remember to always clean secondhand clothes when you get home.



Glossary Links

trendy
unique

Hunting for secondhand clothes can be thrilling! While you may come away empty-handed, there is always a chance you may find something unique and wonderful. And do not be afraid to try on **cool** vintage clothes. **Poodle** skirts or **hoopskirts** may seem old-fashioned, but who knows? You might make a past fashion trend **new** again.

Word Count: 189



Do you like shopping for secondhand clothes?
Tell why or why not.



Use with **Teaching Guide**, page 408.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 205

SAM Keyword: DD 22.3

1 Cook, the Ten-Foot Rookie

Cook is a **rookie**. He is **looking** forward to a career with the New York City Police Department. But he will need to put his best **hoof** forward to do that! If he makes it into the force, Cook will be one of only twenty horses chosen from a total of 1,500 horses.



But for now, Cook must **fulfill** three to six months of training. He must **push** his limits each day. But the **outlook** is **good** that Cook will end up with a job on the police force. Then he may get a new name. Most NYPD horses are given the name of a fallen New York City Police Officer. It is a real honor.

In New York City, police horses are known as “Ten-Foot Cops.” New Yorkers are very proud of their ten-foot cops. And Cook has an important job ahead of him.

Word Count: 147

Glossary Links

rookie
honor



Write two facts you learned about police horses.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 416.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 210

SAM Keyword: DD 23.2

2 Wooden Shoes

Klompfen are interesting-**looking wooden** shoes. They are a bit like the modern clogs we wear now. Klompfen were worn in the Netherlands for hundreds of years. And some people still wear klompfen today.



Klompfen are made from hollowed out pieces of hard **wood**, like birch or willow. They can be decorated with carvings or brightly colored paint.

Wood has long been used for making **footwear**. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks wore **wooden** sandals. Before streets were paved, roads and paths were made of dirt. The paths frequently became muddy. So rich people would put **wooden** shoes over their fancy slippers to keep their feet clean and dry.

Can you imagine **pushing** your feet into hard **wooden** clogs and hiking around in them all day long? Klompfen may be sturdy, but they are NOT **cushy**.

“Klompfen” sounds like “clomp” in English, which means “to walk noisily.” That is exactly how **footsteps** sound in **wooden** shoes!

Word Count: 154

Glossary Links

Netherlands
cushy



What materials are your shoes made from?



Use with Teaching Guide, page 416.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 211

SAM Keyword: DD 23.2