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TAKE AWAY MY TAKEAWAY Texas

CONTENT AREA: US CULTURAL STUDIES

LEVEL

Common European Framework level A2

This level is suitable for teenage students who have been learning English for at least two years, and assumes a knowledge of approximately 1000 headwords. It corresponds to level 2 of the Scholastic Readers series.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOLASTIC DVD READERS?

The Scholastic DVD Readers are a series of non-fiction graded readers with supporting DVD material. Based on popular TV factual series and documentary films, the Scholastic DVD Readers present teenage students with engaging content that covers a range of curriculum content areas.

The reader itself tells the story of the episode or film in graded language, providing students with background information and context, as well as language support, before they watch the clips that follow each chapter. The DVD clips are taken from the original TV show or film and expose students to authentic English, supported by a simplified voiceover and subtitle option, and provide an excellent opportunity for audio-visual comprehension practice.

USING YOUR SCHOLASTIC DVD READER

The Scholastic DVD Readers are suitable for students to use autonomously or in class.

Autonomous reading

Each student chooses a title that appeals to them personally and reads at home, watching the DVD clips after finishing each chapter and completing the activities. Teacher provides answer key for checking.

Class / teacher-led reading

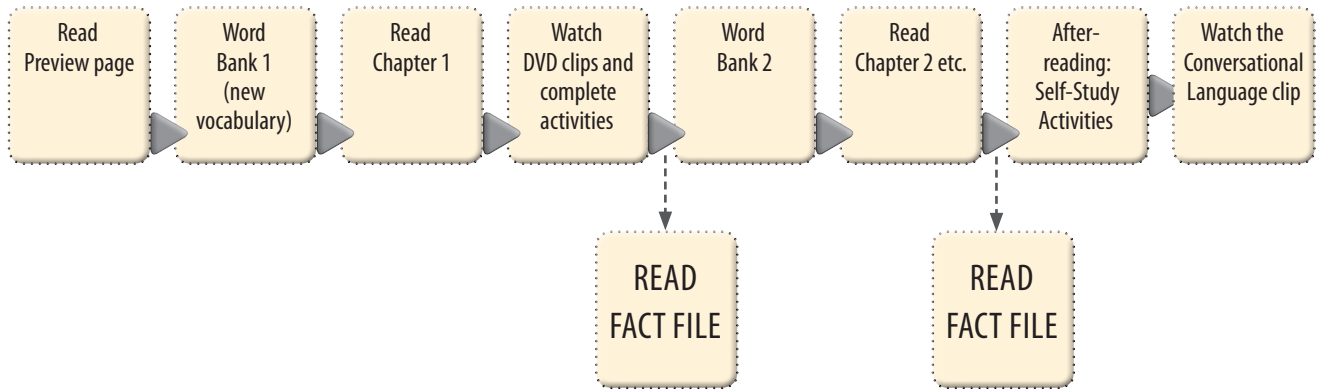
You will usually need two forty-minute classes to comfortably complete a chapter. Use the Word Bank page to introduce the new vocabulary before students read the chapter independently. Set a time limit. (Early finishers could read one of the Fact File pages.) Students watch the DVD clips together, answer the activities and discuss the chapter as a class.

Autonomous & class reading

Choose a reader that will interest your students. Read the Preview page and watch the first clip in class, then set a class reading schedule. For example, students read a chapter for homework, then watch the DVD in class together, completing the activities.

STRUCTURE OF A DVD READER

The structure of each DVD Reader is carefully conceived so that students gain optimum benefit from their reading and watching experience.



PREVIEW (pages 4–5)

Students should read the Preview page before beginning the reader. This section provides background information to the TV show or film and presents the overall themes, the main characters and locations. After reading, students watch a short introductory DVD clip. The clip is accompanied by a while-watching comprehension question.



WORD BANK

Each chapter is preceded by a Word Bank which presents the content area vocabulary that will appear in the chapter that follows and on the DVD voiceover. Students should familiarise themselves with the new words, using a dictionary if necessary to check meaning, before reading the chapter.

In later chapters, Vocabulary Review activities are provided. These act as a refresher and focus on vocabulary from the preceding Word Banks and chapters.



CHAPTERS

Each reader is divided into four chapters. The function of each chapter is: to provide students with extensive reading practice, to enrich their understanding of the topic by giving extension material, and to act as comprehension support to students before they watch the corresponding DVD clips.

After reading each chapter, students watch one longer or two short clips from the DVD.

WATCHING THE DVD CLIPS

The DVD clips are usually between two and three minutes long and link directly with the chapter that the students have just read. They contain a simplified voiceover containing structures and vocabulary familiar to students as well as the authentic English dialogue. The DVD menu contains a subtitle option for each clip.

We recommend playing each clip three times, twice with subtitles as students familiarise themselves with the content, and once without, depending on the confidence and overall level of the class.

Students should complete the DVD activities in the reader, as they watch the clips. The first activity is a while-watching activity; the second activity poses a slightly higher level of challenge, requiring closer attention to the content of the DVD. The section is usually rounded off by a freer activity which encourages students to think about what they have learnt and relate it to their own experience.

Please note As the clips contain real English, the dialogue may sometimes be fast and colloquial. Students do not have to understand every word that is being spoken and the accompanying activities are designed so that students focus on the salient points within the clip.

Do you have any feedback on your Scholastic DVD Reader? Let us know at: readers@link2english.com

FACT FILES

Each DVD Reader contains two magazine-style Fact Files, with further cross-curricular or cross-cultural information on the topic. Each Fact File has a discussion question which can be used by the teacher in class. After reading the Fact Files, students answer the corresponding comprehension questions in the Self-Study Activities.

TEXAS

'Everything's bigger in Texas!' Some Texans say and Texas is certainly big. It is the second largest state in the USA and is bigger than France! Texan people are very independent and a look at their history and way of life tells us why.

From past to present

Texas was under Spanish or Mexican rule for nearly three hundred years. Many Texans wanted to be independent and Texas was its own country from 1836 until 1845 – when it became part of the USA. There are still lots of signs of Texas' past. Many places have Spanish names. San Antonio, in the south of the state, is one of the biggest cities. Around 30% of the population is Mexican American and many people speak both Spanish and English.

Texas today

★ Football
Texans, like many Americans, love American football. The most famous team is the Dallas Cowboys, but many Texans get even more excited about university football teams. Games between teams from the University of Texas in Austin and Texas A&M University near Houston are some of the most important games of the year.

★ Trucks
Texas buys 14% of the country's trucks. Some Texans need a truck to work on a ranch. For many others it is a sign of independence. Texans love the outdoors and with a truck you can go anywhere.

★ Guns
Guns are legal in the United States. In the past, cowboys always carried a gun and today there are maybe as many as 20 million guns in the state of Texas. This is more than in any other state in the USA.

★ Money, money, money!
In the late 1800s the Texans first discovered oil. By the 1920s the USA got over half of its oil from this part of the country. The cities of Dallas and Houston became very rich. Today oil is not so important to Texas, but the state is still one of the richest in the USA.

Compare Texas to your country. What is different? What is the same?

SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES (pages 46–7)

After completing the reader and watching the DVD clips, the students can complete the self-study activities. These provide further activities on the story as a whole, as well as exploiting the two Fact Files and presenting a short writing task.

CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE (page 48)

The DVD clips provide a great opportunity to expose students to chunks of colloquial language in context. The final clip on the DVD pulls out a selection of conversational language from the preceding clips. Students watch the clips, then complete the activities.

CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE

CLIP 9

1 Watch the clip. What do you say in these situations? Match the situations and the conversational language.

a) Your brother has an exam.	ii) 'Fair enough.'
b) You meet a group of friends.	iii) 'Good luck!'
c) Your sister wants to change schools. You understand why.	iiii) 'It's good to see you!'
d) You don't know if you will get a place in the football team.	v) 'You gotta do it!'
e) Your friend doesn't want to do her homework.	vi) 'I'm gonna try.'***

2 Complete the sentences with the conversational language.

a) Joe: I've got my driving test today.
Anita: _____

b) Hi, Mum! Hi, Dad! I've got some news for _____

c) Carlos: It's a great job. Do you think that you can get it?
Ben: _____

d) Lucy: I'm going home now.
Jodie: _____

e) Tom: I'm not going running. It's too cold!
Sarah: Come on!

* 'gotta' = you'd; ** 'gonna' = you'll; *** 'gonna' = going to

ANSWER KEY

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PREVIEW

(page 5)

 CLIP 1

Possible answers: curries, pizza, kebabs, burgers

CHAPTER 1, DVD ACTIVITIES

(page 14)

 CLIP 2

- 1 a) ii b) i c) ii d) i
- 2 a) True
b) False (The girls don't know a lot about burgers.)
c) False (You usually get 680 burgers from a cow.)
d) False (Dave gives the girls two plane tickets.)
e) True

CHAPTER 1, DVD ACTIVITIES

(page 15)

 CLIP 3

- 1 The correct order is: d, b, f, a, c, e.
- 2 a, d and e
- 3 Possible answer: The girls are not happy because they have just bought the cow and she is a new friend. They don't want to sell the cow for meat.

CHAPTER 2, DVD ACTIVITIES

(pages 24–5)

 CLIP 4

- 1 a) The girls go to Nick's ranch with the cow.
b) The cow needs a tag and an injection before she joins the herd.
c) The cow's name is Manchester Moo.
d) Dolly is Nick's mother.
e) Texans usually cook burgers on a grill.
f) Yes, Lauren and Hayley love the burgers.
- 2 a) ii b) iii c) i d) v e) iv
- 3 a) pen b) tag c) ear d) injection
- 4 The correct order is: e, d, c, a, b, f.

5 Possible answers:

All new cows need a tag.
New cows need an injection.
The cows are not pets.
The vet looks at all the new cows.
Not all cows can join the herd.

CHAPTER 3, WORD BANK 3

(page 29)

VOCABULARY REVIEW

- 1 Jobs: butcher, cowboy, rancher, vet
Cattle: calf, herd, horn, moo
Food and cooking: grill, hamburger, pepper, takeaway
- 2 a) injection b) tools c) ranch d) fresh e) tag
f) earrings g) healthy

CHAPTER 3, DVD ACTIVITIES

(page 36)

 CLIP 5

- 1 a) Nick's ranch and the year 1836 (when the ranch started).
b) horses
c) 7 o'clock in the morning
d) Lauren.
e) boots and a cowboy hat
f) Nick's vet
g) They feel bad about Manchester Moo.
h) burgers
- 2 a) The girls are
b) jewellery
c) horns
d) frightened of
e) don't help much
f) bad
g) wrong

ANSWER KEY

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CHAPTER 3, DVD ACTIVITIES (page 37)

CLIP 6

- 1 a) True
b) False (John cuts up the meat.)
c) False (John minces the meat.)
d) True
e) False (The girls are going to cook burgers for some top burger experts.)
f) False (The girls are upset.)
g) True
- 2 a) Lauren is talking about the milk for the calf.
b) Dave is talking about making burgers.
c) Nick is talking about the minced beef.
d) Hayley is talking about the minced beef.
- 3 Students' own answers.

CHAPTER 4, WORD BANK 4 (pages 38–9)

VOCABULARY REVIEW

- 1 a) herd b) truck c) earring d) bun e) oil
f) calf
- 2 a) iii b) vi c) iv d) i e) ii f) v
- 3 a) A butcher b) A cowboy c) A vet
d) An auctioneer e) A teenager f) A band
g) A presenter h) A friend

CHAPTER 4, DVD ACTIVITIES (page 44)

CLIP 7

- 1 a) more than 50 years ago
b) the toppings
c) Lauren's
d) 8
- 2 a) ii b) iv c) iii d) i
- 3 Students' own answers.

CHAPTER 4, DVD ACTIVITIES (page 45)

CLIP 8

- 1 a) last b) book c) goodbye d) kill e) babies
- 2 a) ii b) iii c) iii

SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES (pages 46–7)

- 1 a) Lauren b) Dave c) Tiffany d) Hayley
e) Nick
- 2 a) False (Texas is the second largest state in the USA.)
b) True
c) True
d) False (Some Texans are Mexican-American.)
e) True
f) False (Most Texans love American football.)
g) True
h) True
i) False (Guns are legal in Texas.)
j) True
- 3 a) White Castle
b) 1940s
c) Teenagers
d) California
e) McDonalds
f) 1.5 million
- 4 a) ii b) iv c) vi d) v e) i f) iii
- 5 Students' own answers.

CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE (page 48)

CLIP 9

- 1 a) ii b) iii c) i d) v e) iv
- 2 a) Good luck!
b) y'all
c) I'm gonna try.
d) Fair enough.
e) You gotta do it!