

Lesson 4: Related Research (2 Days)

☐ Getting Started

Today you are going to begin a research project that will provide you with more background information related to the novel. Since the setting plays an important role in the story, one option you have is to research the city of La Paz, Mexico to learn more about its environment and culture. The pearl industry is central to the plot of the story, so your second option is to learn more about the history of pearl diving.

Stuff You Need

- colored pencils* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- note cards* (Activity 1 - Option 2)
- note cards* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- paper* (Activity 1 - Option 1)
- paper* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- ruler* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- visual aids* (Activity 2 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- How do people's ability to control their environment affect their success/happiness in life?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Research

For your mini-research project, you can choose to learn more about the city of La Paz, Mexico and create a travel brochure or you can learn more about the history of pearl diving and give an oral presentation.

Option 1: La Paz, Mexico

Today you will research the city of La Paz, Mexico. You can use the following websites and an encyclopedia to locate information. Use the "La Paz, Mexico" pages to record information you learn about this tourist destination.



La Paz

www.beyondthepage.com/link/5156/

This site provides information about the history of La Paz.

**La Paz**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/2963/

This website highlights many of the tourist opportunities of the area.

Option 2: Pearl Diving

Kino is a pearl diver. Pearl diving was a very dangerous profession, and the divers who risked their lives made very little money. Most of the profits went to the dealers who bought the pearls from the divers. The fact that Kino has so few resources and very little education is frustrating to him and causes him to feel he has very little control over his own destiny. With the discovery of the pearl, he believes his situation is about to change.

For this option, you will research the history of pearl diving and give an oral presentation that describes pearl diving. You will write a one-page script for your presentation and will need at least two visual aids. These can be pictures, charts, props, or any other visual element that aids your presentation.

Today you will take notes on note cards about what you learn about pearl diving. You will want to have at least 15 cards. You can use the websites below to discover more about pearl diving.

**Diving for Treasure — Mexican Pearls**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/3300/

**Did you know? Mexico was once the world's major source of pearls**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11879/

**Pearl Hunting**

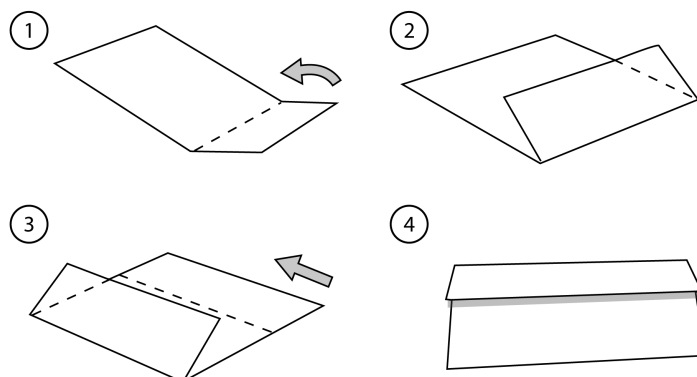
www.beyondthepage.com/link/549/

Day 2☐ **Activity 2: Completing Your Project**

Today you will finish your project either by creating your travel brochure on La Paz or writing and creating visual aids for your oral presentation on pearl diving.

Option 1: Travel Brochure to La Paz

Today you will make a travel brochure for La Paz, Mexico. Fold a blank piece of paper into thirds.

Brochure Folds

Now complete the brochure, following the directions below. Your brochure should contain pictures and text. Remember the purpose of a travel brochure is to provide information and to entice people to visit the destination.

Brochure Outline

front side			back side		
places to see	nature and wildlife	people and culture	map	food	cover page/ your choice

Option 2: Presentation on Pearl Diving

Organize your note cards to write a one-page presentation on pearl diving. Decide on a logical sequence for the presentation. Then write your report using the information on your note cards.

Decide on the two visual aids you will use for your presentation and when you will use them. Practice giving your presentation with the help of the visual aids. Remember that your report should describe pearl hunting and should engage your viewer. If you just state a lot of facts, you may lose the interest of your audience. Making eye contact with your audience and using inflections in your voice (rather than just reading from the script) will also help engage your audience. When you are ready, give your presentation to your family.

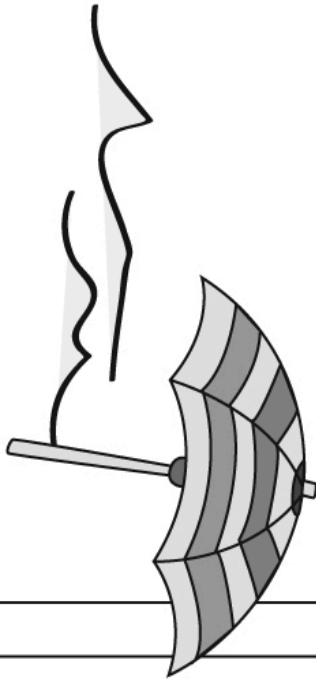
Your presentation will be assessed based on content, delivery, and the effectiveness of visual aids.

Wrapping Up

The research project you completed will help you better understand the setting of the story or the pearl industry of which Kino is a part. Think about how this information will help you better understand the novel and the characters' choices and circumstances.

La Paz, Mexico

Places to See



Geographical Location

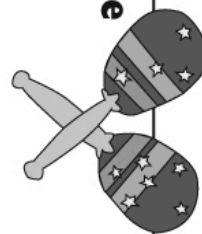


Food

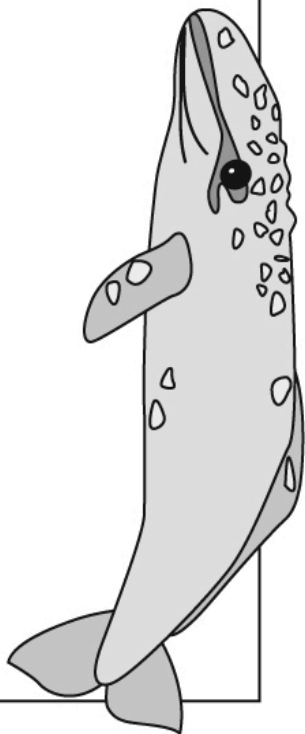


La Paz, Mexico

People and Culture



Nature and Wildlife



Lesson 4: Related Research (2 Days)

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How do people's ability to control their environment affect their success/happiness in life?

⦿ Skills

- Choose language that is precise, engaging, and well suited to the topic and audience. (LA)
- Write and speak with a command of standard English conventions. (LA)
- Deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. (LA)
- Evaluate the content of oral communication. (LA)
- Organize information to achieve particular purposes and to appeal to the background and interests of the audience. (LA) (SS)
- Use speaking techniques including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation, and eye contact for effective presentations. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Your child can decide whether she wants to research La Paz, Mexico and create a travel brochure or research the history of pearl diving and give an oral presentation. Both the setting and the pearl diving industry of the past play an important role in the story. Your child might need help locating information on her chosen topic. Some websites are provided, but your child should use at least one book as a reference.

Activities

Activity 1: Research

Review the two research options with your child and ask her which option most interests her.

Option 1: La Paz, Mexico

Check to see that your child has collected adequate information about the city of La Paz, Mexico on her graphic organizer.

Option 2: Pearl Diving

Review your child's note cards, making sure she has at least 15.

Day 2

Activity 2: Completing Your Project

Option 1: Travel Brochure to La Paz

Look over your child's brochure and discuss with her the choices she made about design and which attractions and information she included. Ask her what she found most interesting about La Paz, Mexico.

Option 2: Presentation on Pearl Diving

Discuss what your child did well in her presentation and what she could have improved. Focus on content, delivery, and the effectiveness of visual aids. Ask what she found most interesting in her research about

pearl diving.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- Which part of the research process did you find most rewarding? Most challenging?
- What would you do differently next time?

Things to Review

Review the definitions of the vocabulary words taken from the novel.