The World's Greatest Trails

Diana Noonan



PM

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The World's Greatest Trails

Level 27 **Curriculum Areas** Health and Physical Education; Humanities – Geography

Running Words 2577 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–27
Response (Informative) pages 28–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and response in his or her own words.

Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About …

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 How do hikers on the Appalachian Trail protect themselves from attacks by bears?
2 What is the Pennine Way famous for?
3 How different is the landscape on the Tongariro Crossing from that on the Pennine Way?

Inferential

4 What might be the strongest incentive for people to go walking in the wild?
5 Why would some people choose to just walk sections of the Appalachian Trail?
6 What would be the greatest challenge when walking the Pennine Way?
7 Why do less experienced trampers need a guide in winter when walking the Tongariro Crossing?
8 What should trampers on the Tongariro Crossing do if there is a strong volcanic eruption?
9 Why do most people walk the Overland Track in Australia between November and April?
10 How do sturdy boots protect walkers from snake attacks?

Applied Knowledge

11 Some people like to set world records to achieve goals. Why?
12 Many famous trails pass through towns and villages. Why is this important for the local people?
13 Explain why people who walk in the wild should always be well prepared.

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'unpredictable' in this sentence:
The weather can be unpredictable and change at any time

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 27	Book	Information Report/Description	*Unusual Buildings*



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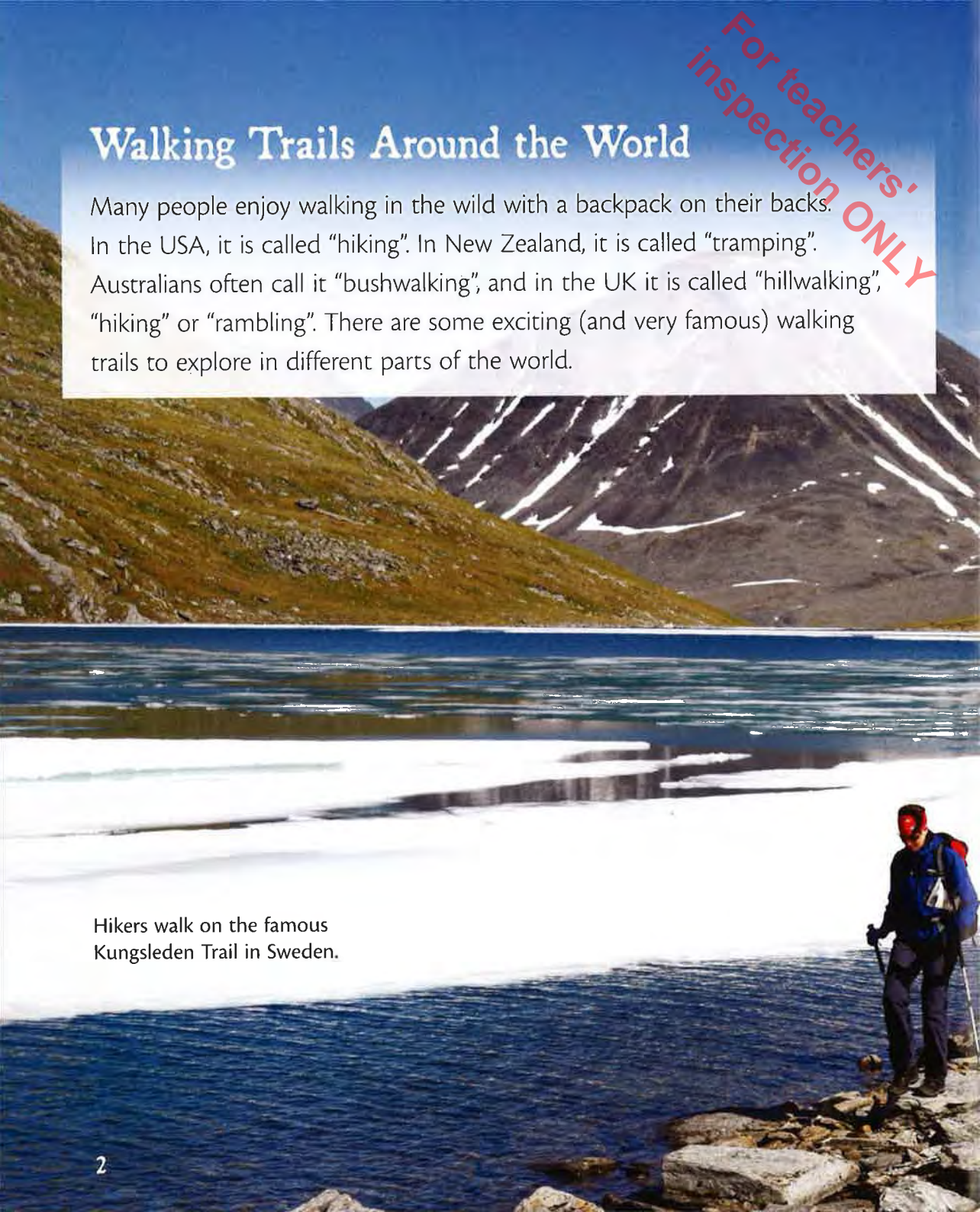
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Walking Trails Around the World

Many people enjoy walking in the wild with a backpack on their backs. In the USA, it is called "hiking". In New Zealand, it is called "tramping". Australians often call it "bushwalking", and in the UK it is called "hillwalking", "hiking" or "rambling". There are some exciting (and very famous) walking trails to explore in different parts of the world.



Hikers walk on the famous Kungsleden Trail in Sweden.



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The Appalachian Trail the USA

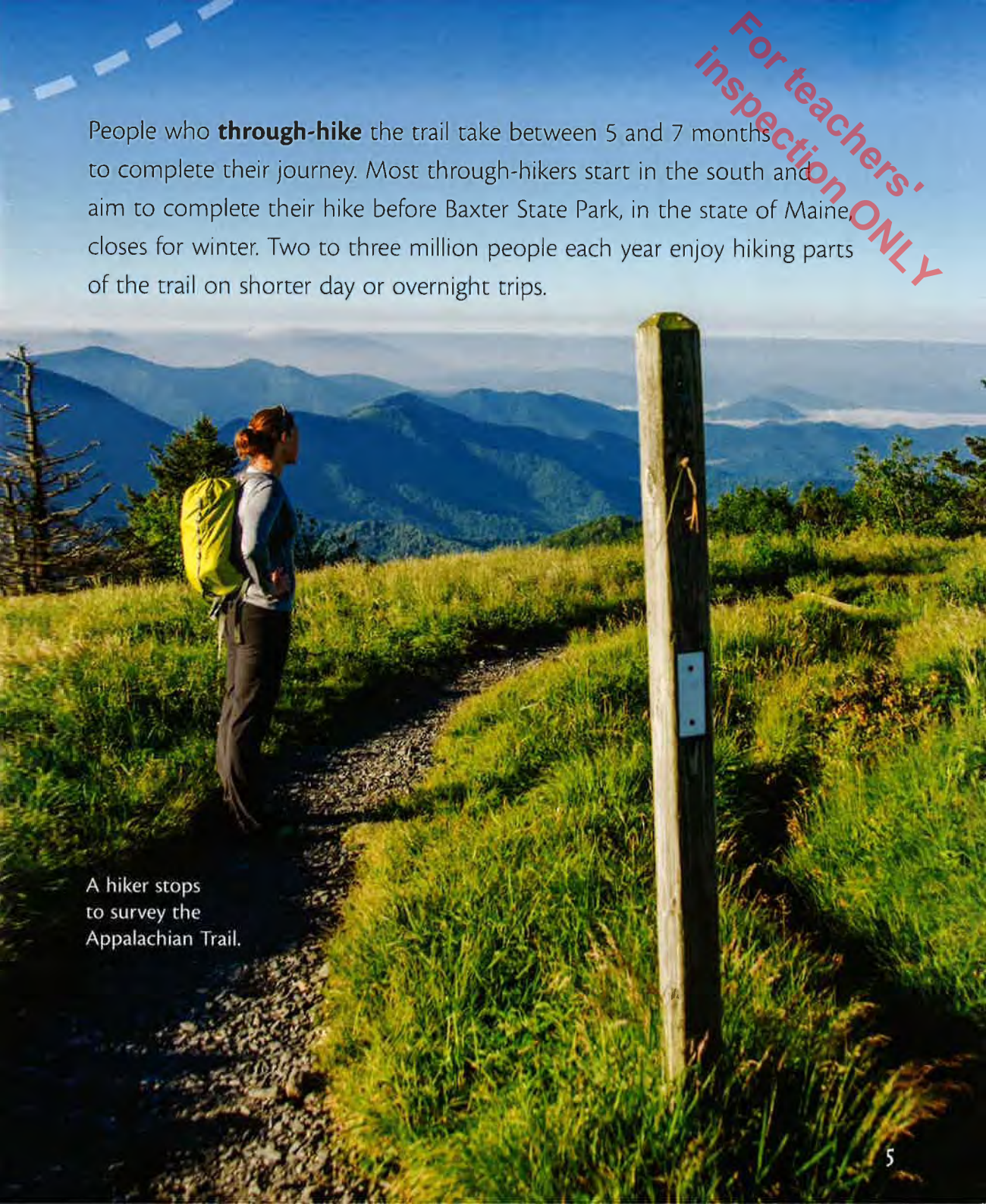
One of the most famous hiking routes in the USA is the Appalachian Trail (say: *a-puh-la-chuhn*). It follows the Appalachian Mountains through 14 states, from Georgia to Maine. At 3518 kilometres long, it is one of the longest trails in the world. The idea for the trail came from a hiker named Benton MacKaye. He wanted people from cities to have a special place where they could enjoy nature.



The Appalachian Trail is located in eastern USA.

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People who **through-hike** the trail take between 5 and 7 months to complete their journey. Most through-hikers start in the south and aim to complete their hike before Baxter State Park, in the state of Maine, closes for winter. Two to three million people each year enjoy hiking parts of the trail on shorter day or overnight trips.



A hiker stops to survey the Appalachian Trail.



There are shelters situated
along the Appalachian Trail.

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The Appalachian Trail includes more than 350 **peaks** that are over 1500 metres high. It also has deep **gorges** filled with waterfalls, maple forests and crystal-clear lakes. Along the trail, hikers see all kinds of wildlife, from foxes and raccoons to white-tailed deer and moose. Many people walk sections of the trail during springtime, when different kinds of flowering trees, such as dogwoods and tulip trees, are in bloom.

There are plenty of places to sleep for the night on most sections of the Appalachian Trail. The route winds through the middle of many towns, and crosses a road every 6.4 kilometres on average. On many sections of the trail, there are also campsites, mountain huts and simple shelters. Volunteers living in towns closest to the shelters help take care of them. Hikers help look after their sleeping sites by carrying out any waste they bring with them on the trail, such as cans and paper.

Bears live along many parts of the trail, but a bear encounter is rare. Hikers try to make plenty of noise as they walk along, so that they don't come upon a bear suddenly and frighten it into protecting itself. Bears are attracted to the smell of food, so hikers are careful to follow instructions and hoist their belongings, especially food, into a tree well away from their campsite.
A common danger on the Appalachian Trail is the poison ivy plant. If it touches the skin, it can cause painful blisters.

Think and Talk About ...

The area surrounding the Appalachian Trail is of great significance to Native Americans.

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Hiking is a pastime enjoyed by people all over the world. Many countries have hiking trails that are famous for their length, scenery or wildlife. These include the Appalachian Trail in the USA, the Pennine Way in the UK, the Tongariro Track in New Zealand and the Overland Track in Australia. Find out why these are considered some of the greatest hiking trails in the world.



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ISBN: 978-0170373036
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