

# Springboard into Comprehension

20

## Identifying Detail Sunflowers

Main Idea The Jungle Monster

Sequencing Dragon's Best Crown

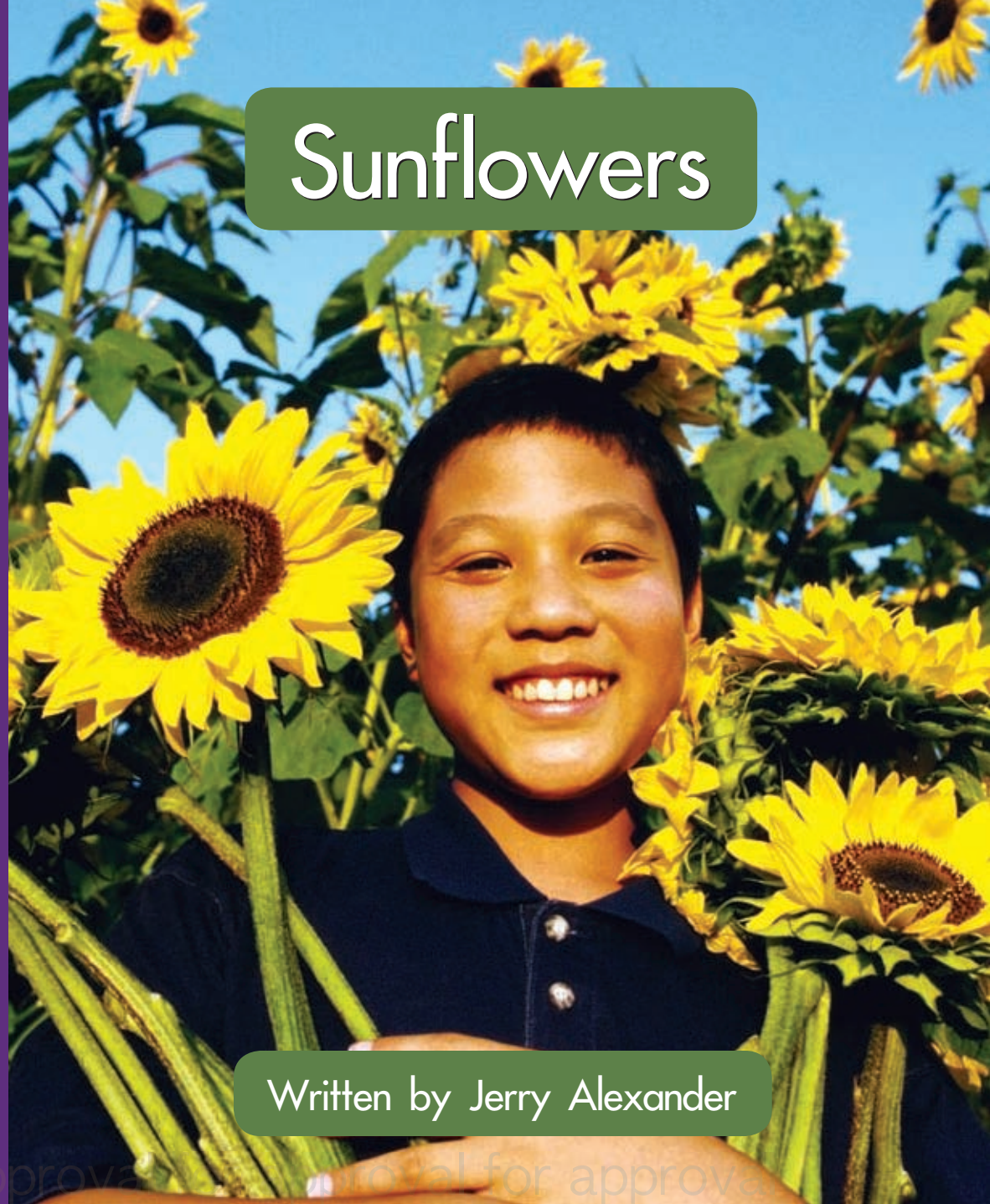
Compare and Contrast Parrots of the Pacific

Fact and Opinion No Eggs Today

Cause and Effect Disguises



Written by Jerry Alexander



# Sunflowers

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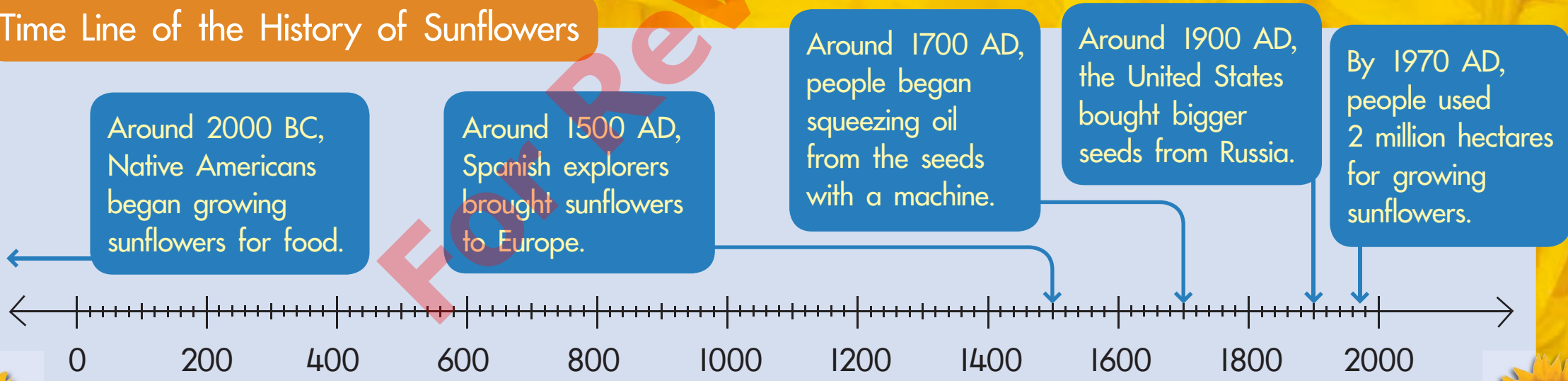
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## Introduction

Today, you can see sunflowers growing all around the world. But the first sunflowers came from North and South America. People in the Americas have grown sunflowers for a long time.

Farmers there first started growing sunflowers about 4,000 years ago. Now, farmers in many places grow sunflowers. Sunflowers are very useful. People use them to make many things.

## Time Line of the History of Sunflowers

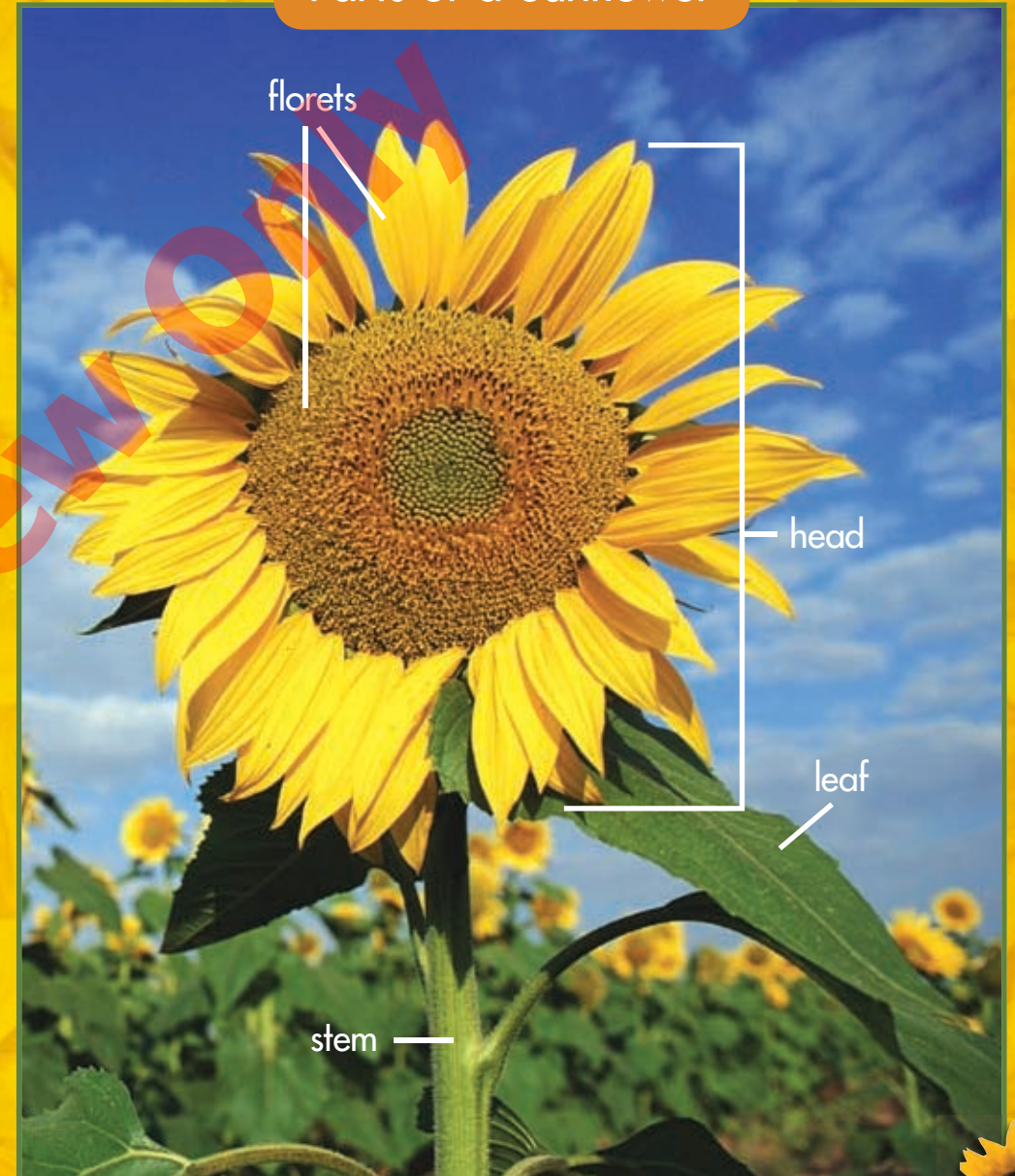


## What Are Sunflowers?

Sunflowers are very tall plants. They can grow up to 3.5 m high. That is higher than the ceiling in your classroom. Sunflowers have big, rough leaves and straight, hairy stems.

The big yellow part at the top might look like a giant flower, but really it is made up of many small flowers. The big flower-like part is called the **head**. The small yellow flowers are called **florets**.

## Parts of a Sunflower



Two different kinds of florets make up the head. The outer florets are called **ray florets**. They can be yellow, orange, or red. The inner florets are called **disc florets**. Disc florets are young fruit. When the disc florets get older, people call them sunflower seeds. But a sunflower seed is really a kind of fruit with a seed inside.



A sunflower head can grow bigger than a person's head.