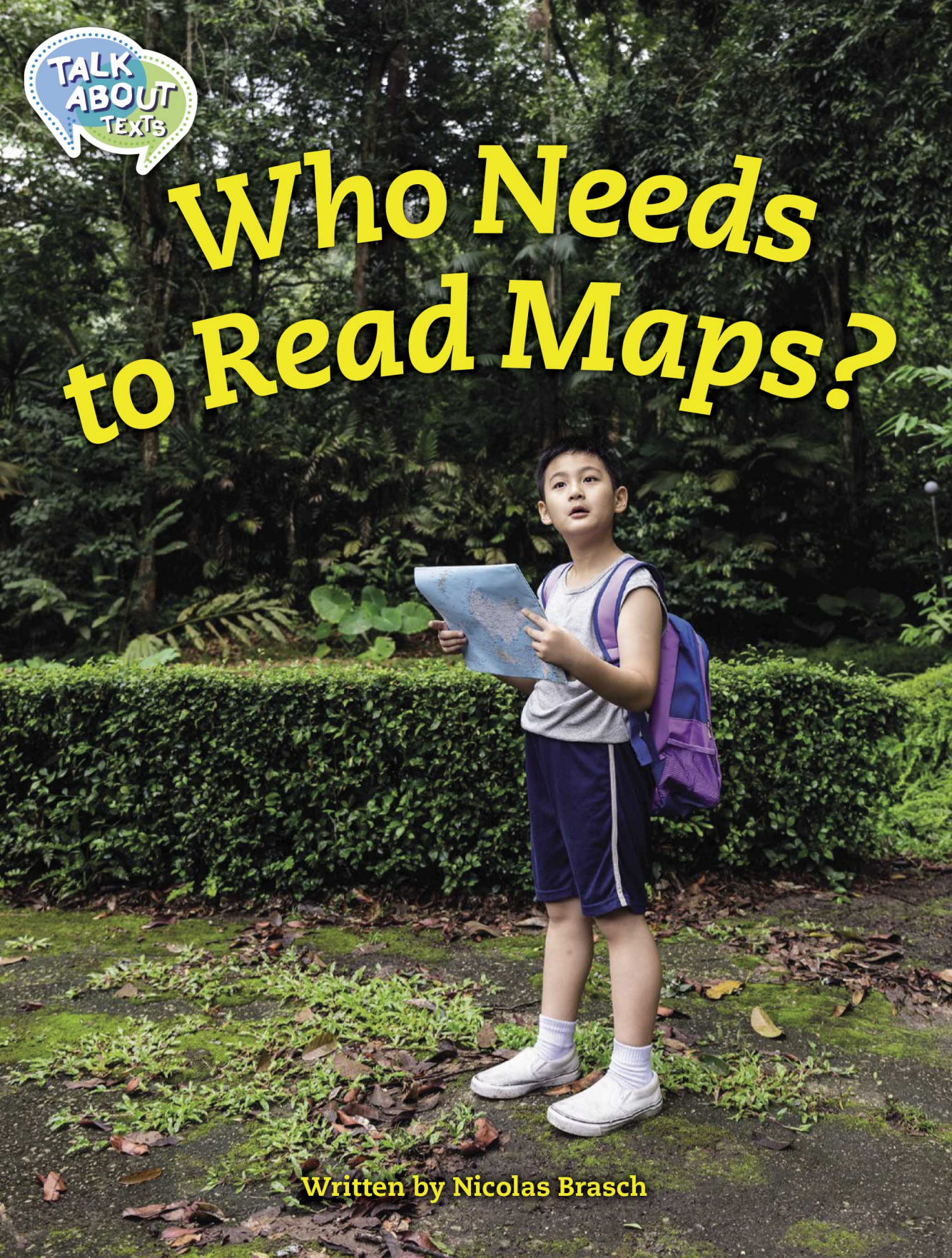

TALK ABOUT TEXTS
Who Needs to Read Maps?
Written by Nicolas Brasch

Who Needs to Read Maps?



For Review Only

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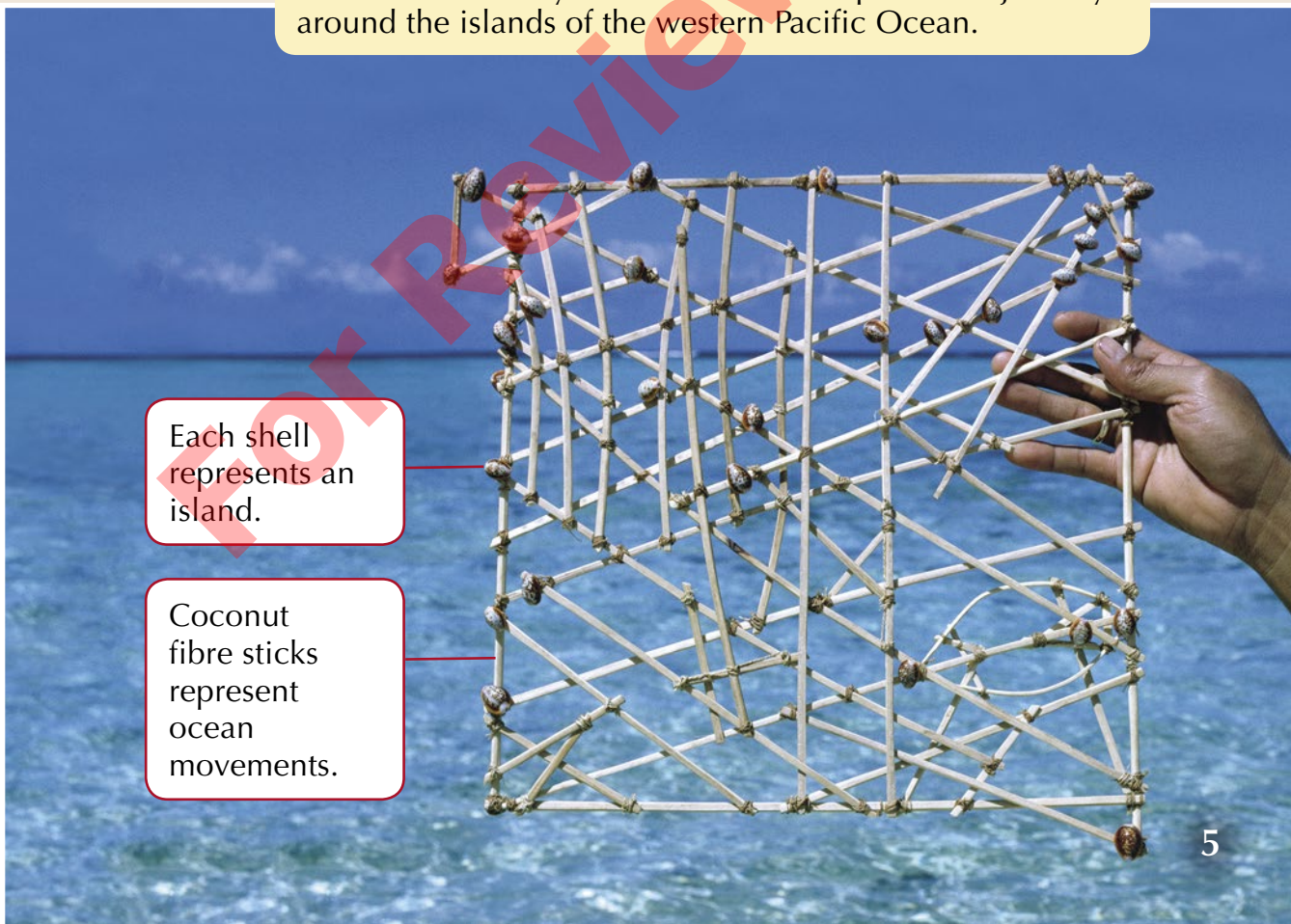


The History of Maps

Humans have a long history of making and reading maps. Basic maps of the night sky have been found on cave walls in France. These maps date back at least 16 000 years.

In the Marshall Islands, people created stick charts to map the ocean and its movements. In North America, some Native Americans made maps on animal skins. These maps showed physical features, such as rivers and mountains. They also showed past journeys and the significance of the land.

Sailors traditionally used stick charts to plan their journeys around the islands of the western Pacific Ocean.



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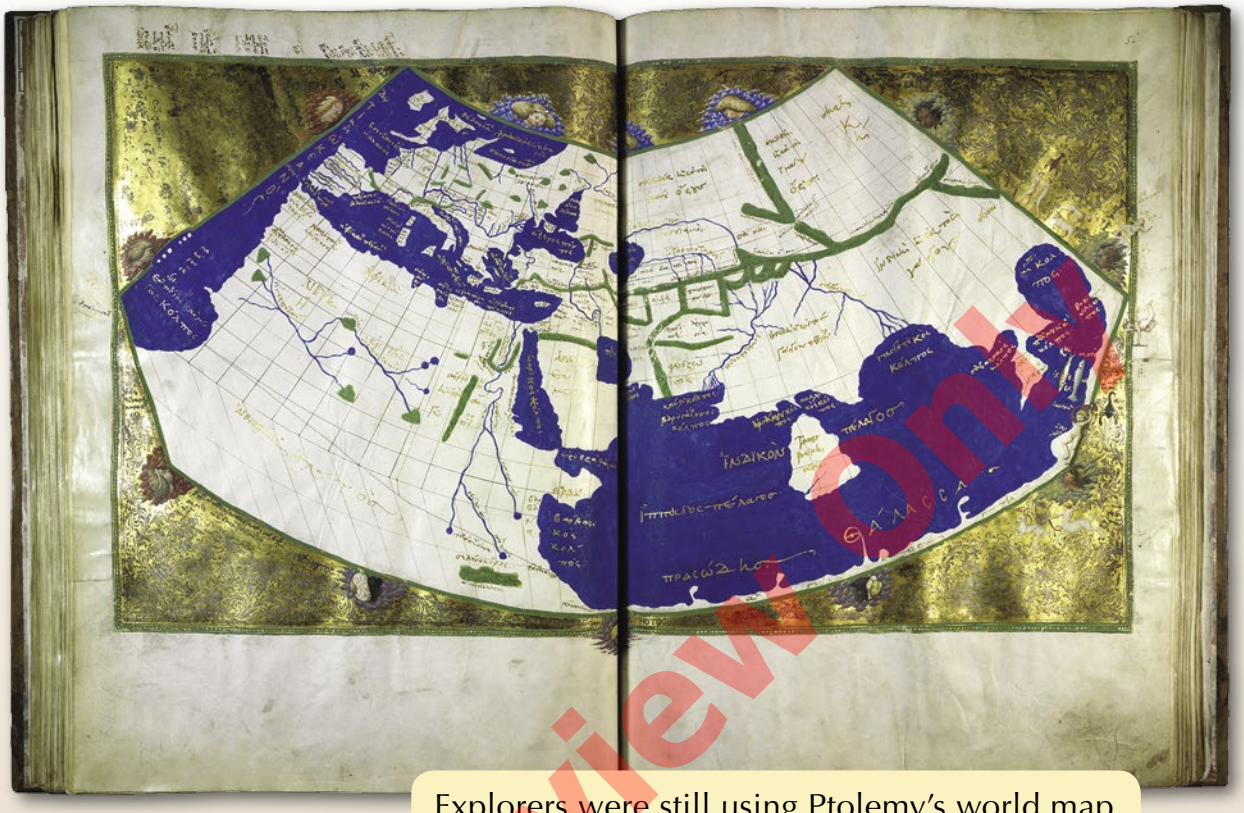
Maps on Clay and Paper

Over time, people began to draw more detailed maps on clay and then on paper. The ancient Babylonians lived around 5000 years ago in the Middle East. They sketched their local areas on clay tablets.



This Babylonian clay tablet map from 600 BCE shows mountains, islands and rivers.

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Explorers were still using Ptolemy's world map to plan voyages 1000 years after he made it.

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The ancient Greeks and the ancient Romans drew detailed maps. Some of the Greek maps measured distances in 'days of sailing' and 'days of marching'. This allowed future travellers to prepare for long journeys.

Ptolemy

One famous mapmaker was Ptolemy, a Greek mathematician and astronomer. Ptolemy created a work named *Geographia* nearly 2000 years ago. It was a large collection of maps of the known world.