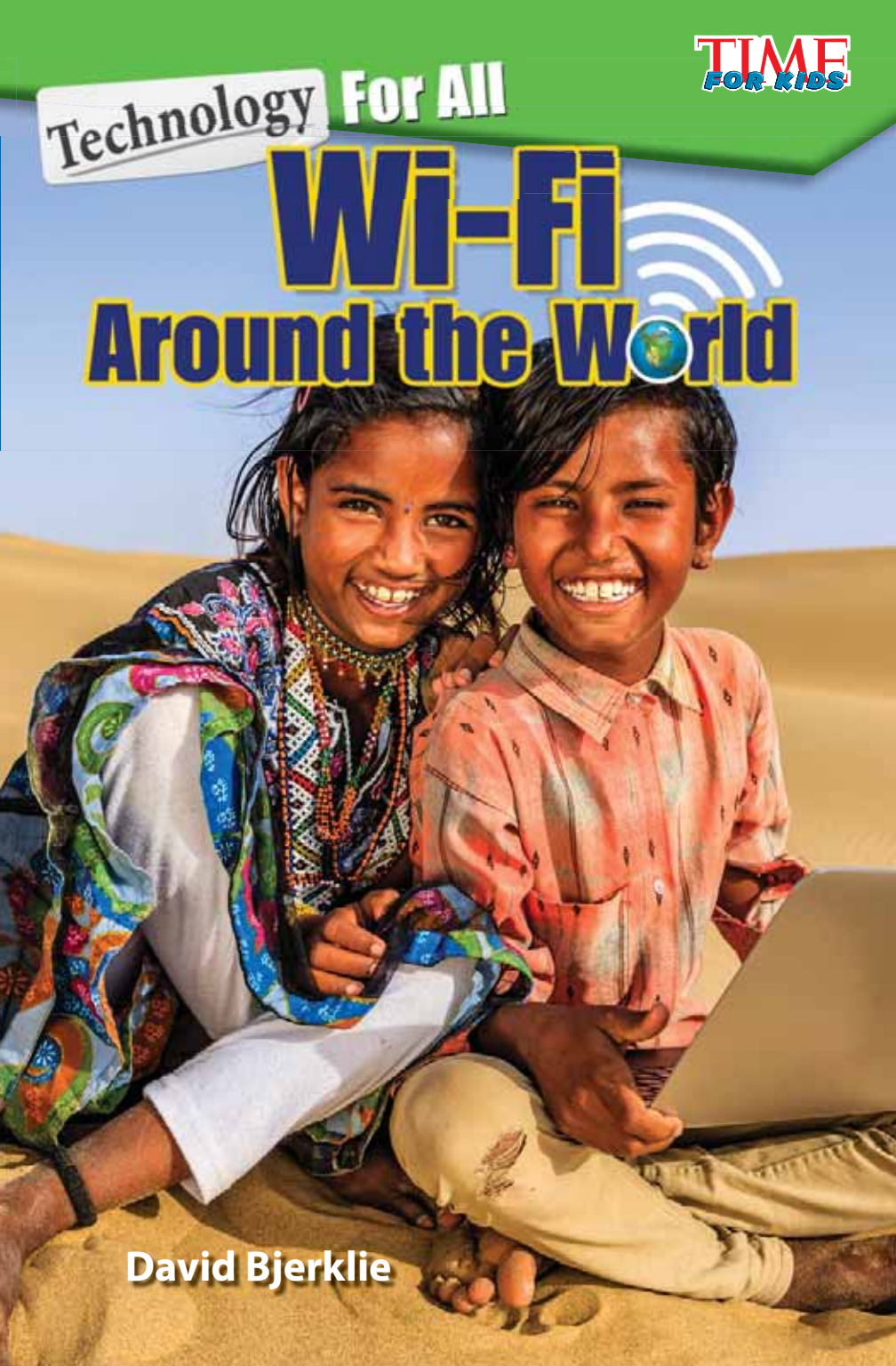
TIME FOR KIDS

Technology For All

Wi-Fi Around the World



David Bjerklie

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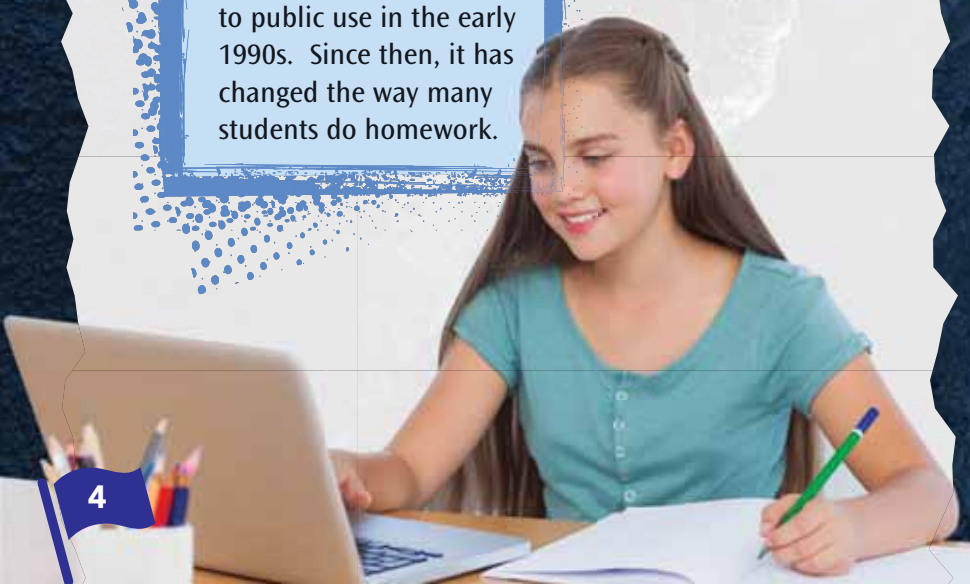
Looking to Connect

Imagine you are sitting in class. Are you in the front row? Or do you like to sit in the back? School is almost over for the day. Your teacher gives the class a homework assignment. You will need to use a computer. And the homework is due tomorrow morning.

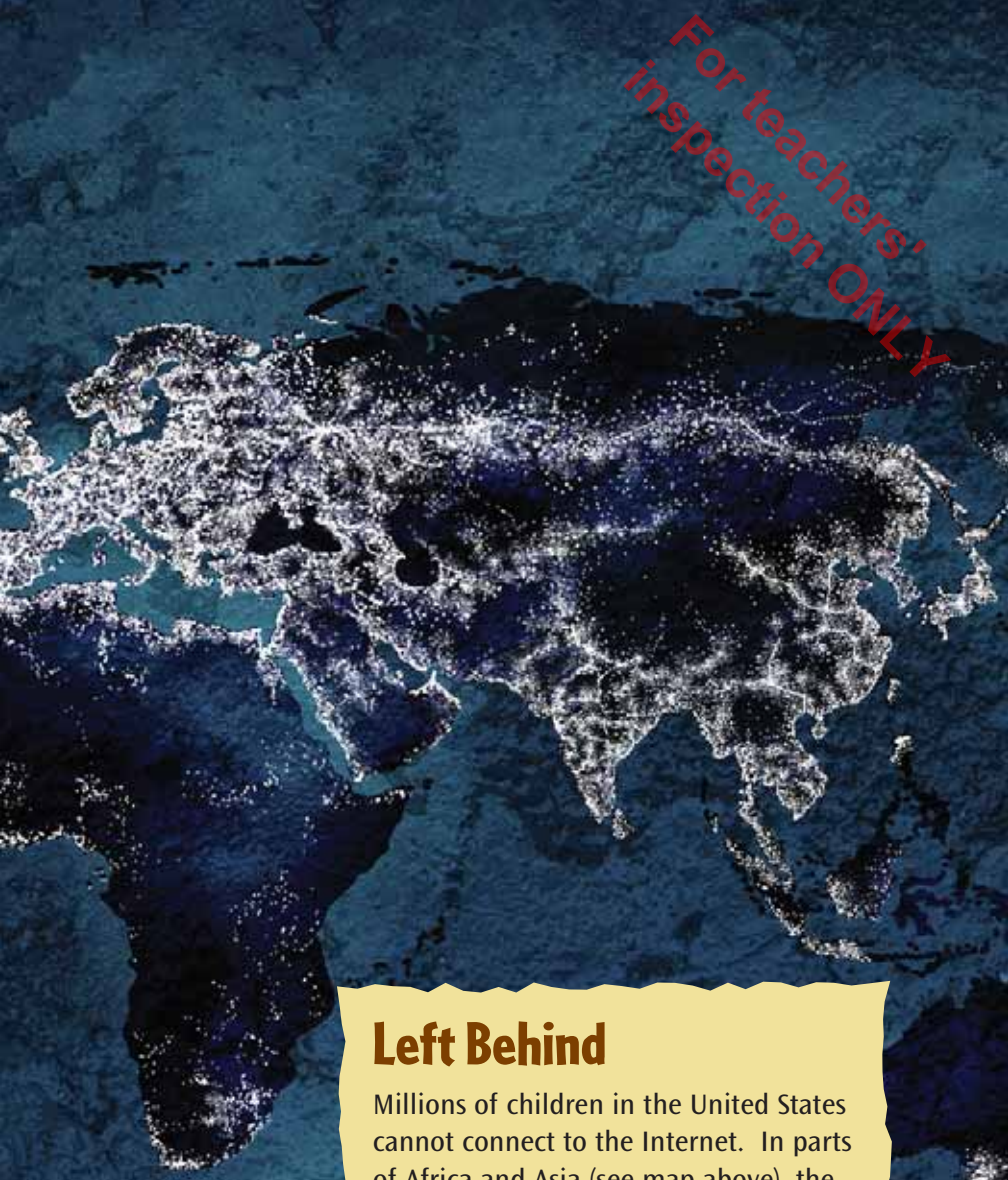
Your heart sinks because you know you will not be able to finish it. You understand the homework, and you want to do a good job. But you will not be able to do the work because you can't connect to the **Internet** from your home.

Open for Use

The Internet first came to public use in the early 1990s. Since then, it has changed the way many students do homework.



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Left Behind

Millions of children in the United States cannot connect to the Internet. In parts of Africa and Asia (see map above), the numbers are also high. Some families do not know what the Internet is. Some cannot afford to connect. And others live in areas that are hard to reach.

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Sending Signals

It is easy to send messages today. People can use a telephone or a computer. These inventions took a long time and a lot of hard work to create. But the effort was worth it. Now, communication moves much faster.

Many years ago, people found a way to send messages through wires. This was called the *telegraph*. The first telephones also used wires.

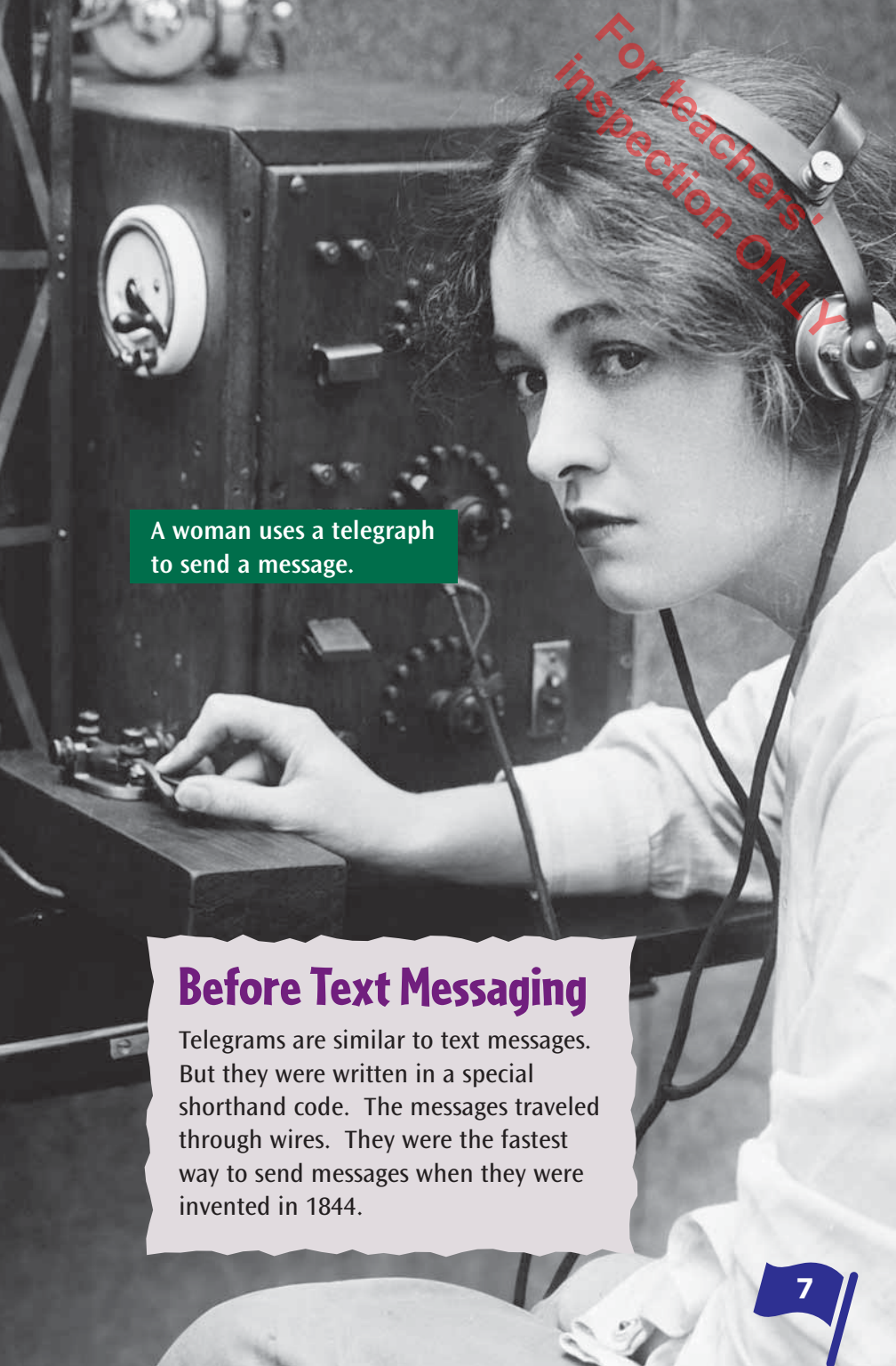
Inventors then found a way to send messages through the air. The first device to do this was the radio. Then came the television. Now, images can also be sent. We still use wires and airwaves to send messages.



Wires and Waves

We live in a world of **networks**. They carry messages, music, voices, and video. We can use networks to learn about the world.

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A woman uses a telegraph to send a message.

Before Text Messaging

Telegrams are similar to text messages. But they were written in a special shorthand code. The messages traveled through wires. They were the fastest way to send messages when they were invented in 1844.

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Technology gets better all the time. Even wires get better. We now have wires called **high-speed cables**. These bring the Internet to towns and cities. Special equipment also lets people connect to the Internet without wires. This is called Wi-Fi.

People use Wi-Fi at home. They also use it in restaurants and coffee shops. They can even use it on trains and planes. That means more people can use the Internet. They use it to read and to learn. They also use it to listen to music and to watch videos.



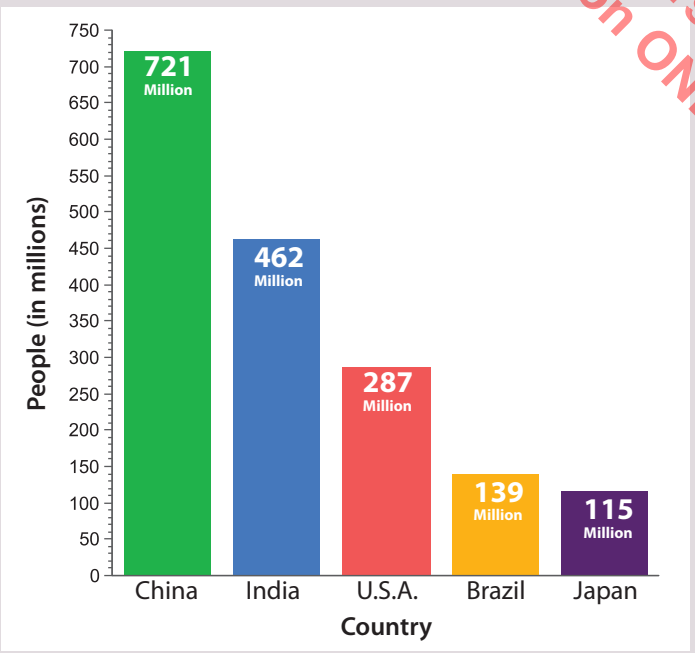
Around the World

More than three billion people in the world use the Internet. Yet there are still more than four billion who are not connected! But this number is slowly changing.

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Top Five

These five countries have the most people connected to the Internet.



People use the Internet at this cafe in China.

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Reader's Guide

1. How can the Internet help kids in school?
2. What new ways to connect are inventors working on today?
3. How can the Internet help farmers?
4. What stories about your community would you like to tell someone who lives far away?

