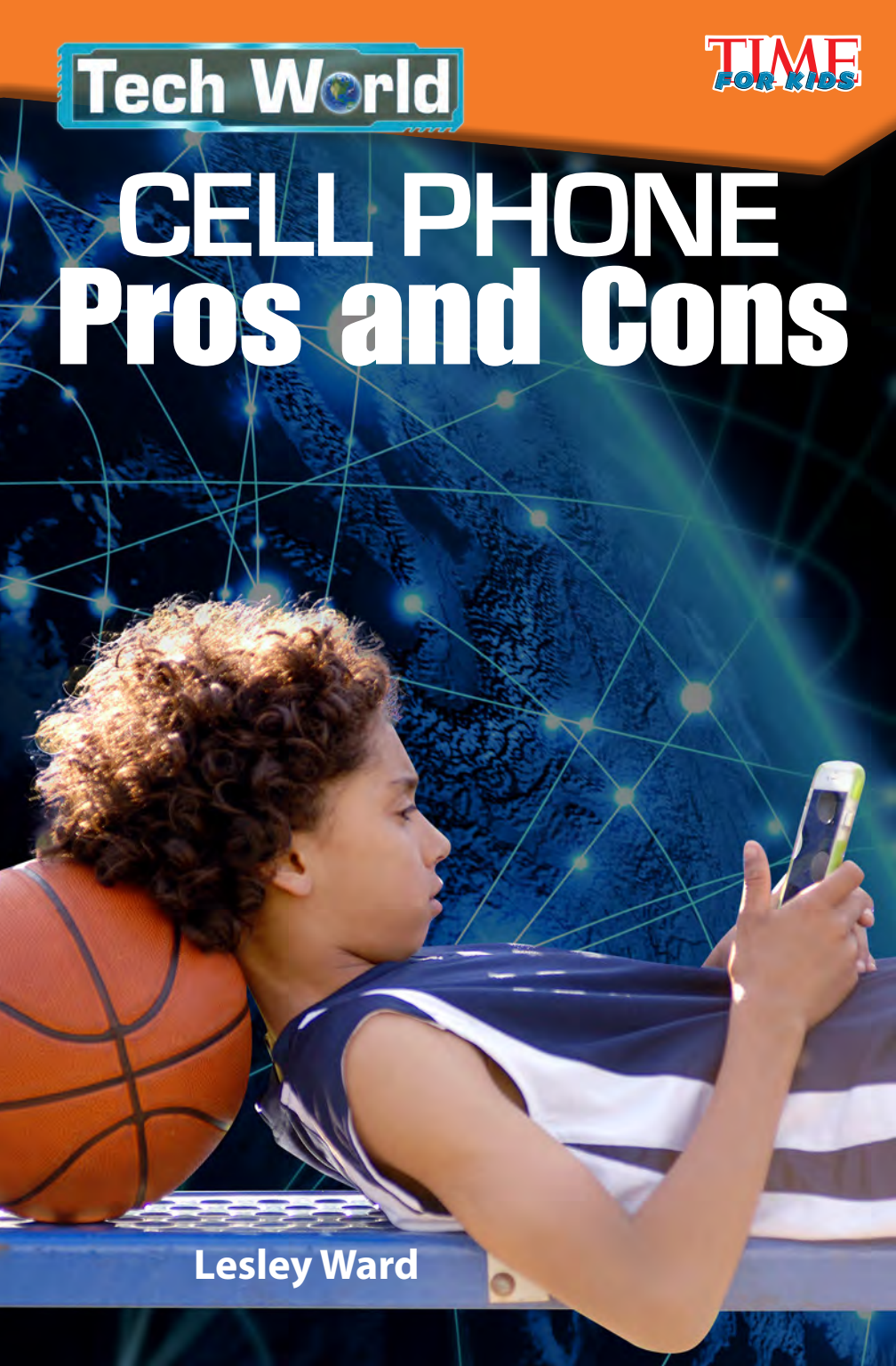
Tech World

TIME FOR KIDS

CELL PHONE Pros and Cons



Lesley Ward

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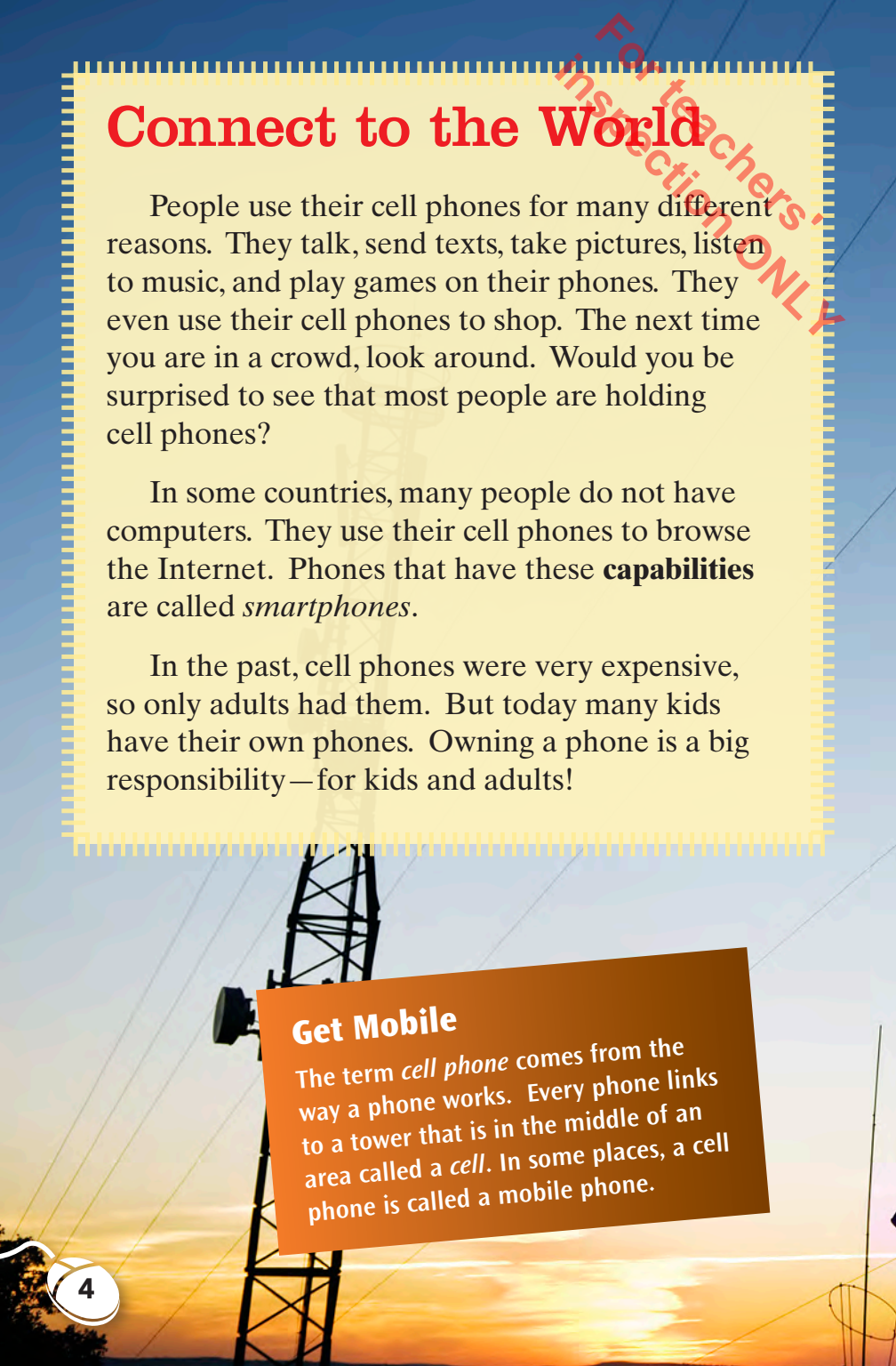
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Connect to the World

People use their cell phones for many different reasons. They talk, send texts, take pictures, listen to music, and play games on their phones. They even use their cell phones to shop. The next time you are in a crowd, look around. Would you be surprised to see that most people are holding cell phones?

In some countries, many people do not have computers. They use their cell phones to browse the Internet. Phones that have these **capabilities** are called *smartphones*.

In the past, cell phones were very expensive, so only adults had them. But today many kids have their own phones. Owning a phone is a big responsibility—for kids and adults!



Get Mobile

The term *cell phone* comes from the way a phone works. Every phone links to a tower that is in the middle of an area called a *cell*. In some places, a cell phone is called a mobile phone.

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The Computer in Your Hand

A cell phone is a miniature computer. That means all the **components** inside the phone are miniature in size, too. Tiny microphones, microchips, and antennas fit inside the phone. Little transmitters and receivers send and receive signals.

Most people are not interested in how their cell phones work. They only care that their phones work when they need them. And people rely on their cell phones all the time. They use their phones as alarm clocks to wake them up. They look up stuff on the Internet, pay bills, and play games on their phones. Cell phones are truly amazing!



Watch That Phone

A smartwatch connects to your cell phone and to the Internet. It acts like a remote control. When you select apps on your smartwatch, it sends messages to your cell phone.

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The First Cell Phone

The first cell phone was big. It weighed just under two pounds and was 13 inches tall. It was too heavy to carry around for very long. It was also expensive—it cost almost $4,000! Not many people could afford one.

Cell phones are built using many tiny parts.

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Cell Phones Around the World

There are some places where people do not have access to computers. They use cell phones instead. They send messages to friends. They catch up on news and check the weather. Cell phones connect people to the rest of the world.

In Mexico, doctors use cell phones to send messages to patients and remind them to take their medicine. In Pakistan, farmers receive texts that tell them when to plant vegetables. In many African countries, people who don't have access to banks use their phones to track their money. Cell phones can help kids and adults around the world have better lives.



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Flashlight in a Phone

In some places, many streets are poorly lit or without power. It can be scary to walk around after dark. The flashlight feature on most cell phones can light the way!

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Reader's Guide

1. How are cell phones helpful?
2. How can a cell phone have a negative impact on someone?
3. What is a good age for a kid to get a cell phone? Why?
4. Why is owning a cell phone a big responsibility?

