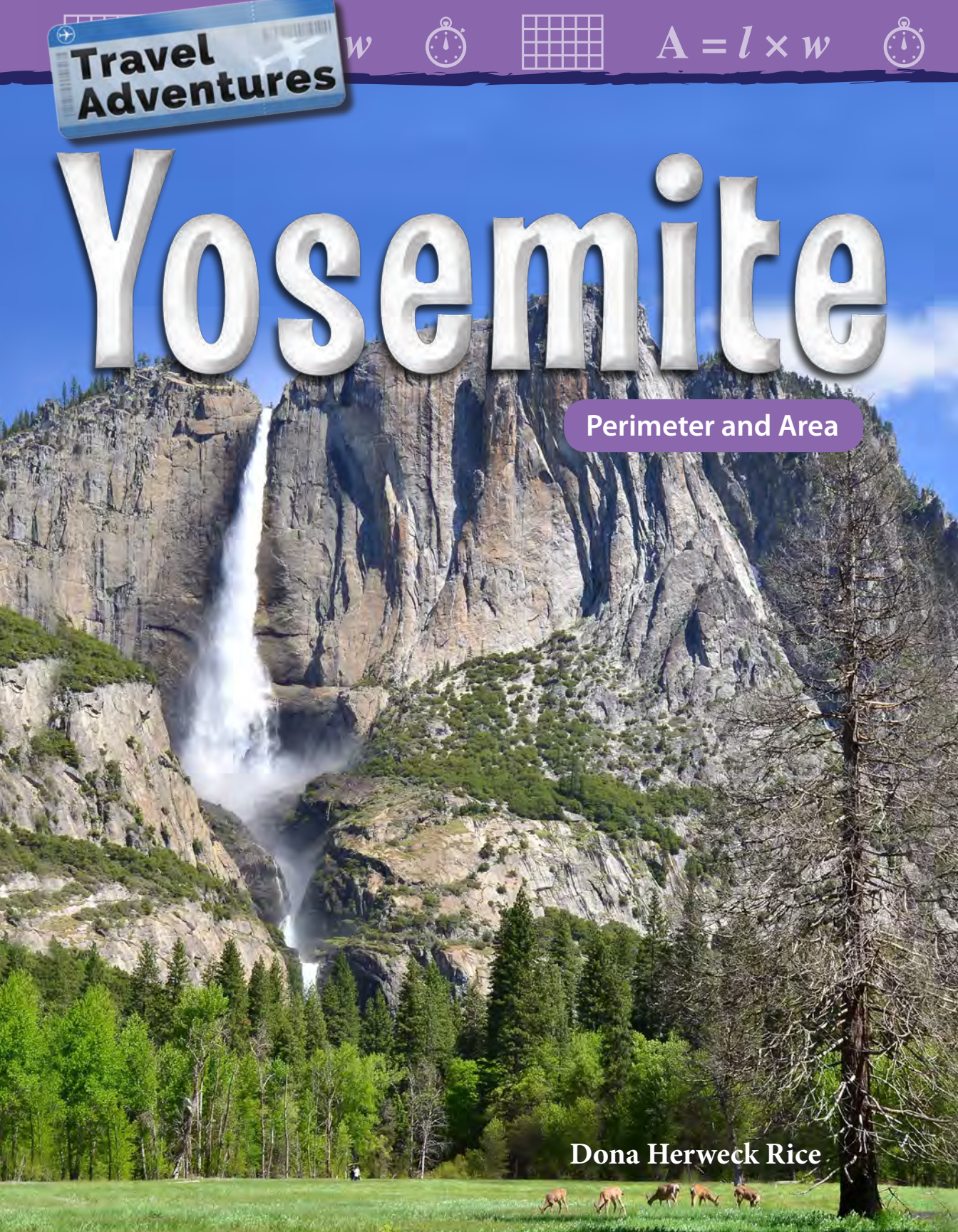

Travel Adventures
A = l × w
Yosemite
Perimeter and Area
Dona Herweck Rice

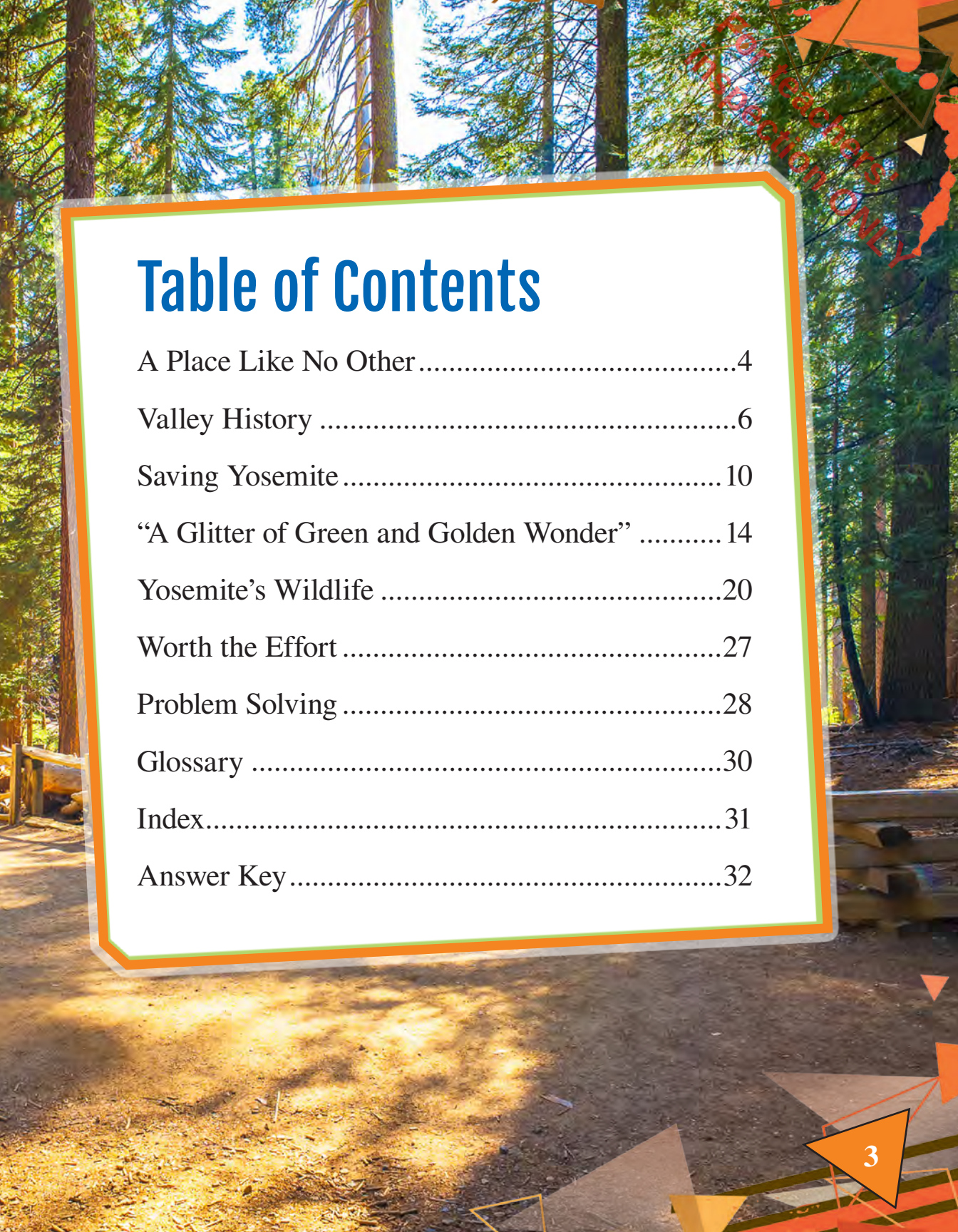


Table of Contents

A Place Like No Other 4

Valley History 6

Saving Yosemite 10

"A Glitter of Green and Golden Wonder" 14

Yosemite's Wildlife 20

Worth the Effort 27

Problem Solving 28

Glossary 30

Index 31

Answer Key 32

for teachers' inspection ONLY

For teachers' inspection ONLY

A Place Like No Other

There's green as far as the eye can see. But only in spring and summer, of course. In winter, shades of white, blue, and purple streak the mountains and valleys. Year round, there is a lake so clear you can see reflections of mountains and sky. Standing at the water's edge, it's like looking into an upside-down world. There are tree-lined trails that give hikers shady comfort on even the hottest summer days. Towering cliffs, plunging waterfalls, and ancient domes seem like the stuff of movies rather than the real world. Bears, elk, and deer roam wild. Bats dot the evening sky with flapping wings and piercing cries. Mosquitoes and stinging bugs, dragonflies and butterflies, and all manner of flying creatures are everywhere. *Everywhere.*

This is the majestic world of Yosemite. It has a natural beauty that is not found in many places. Millions of tourists agree it is one of the most breathtaking places in the world!





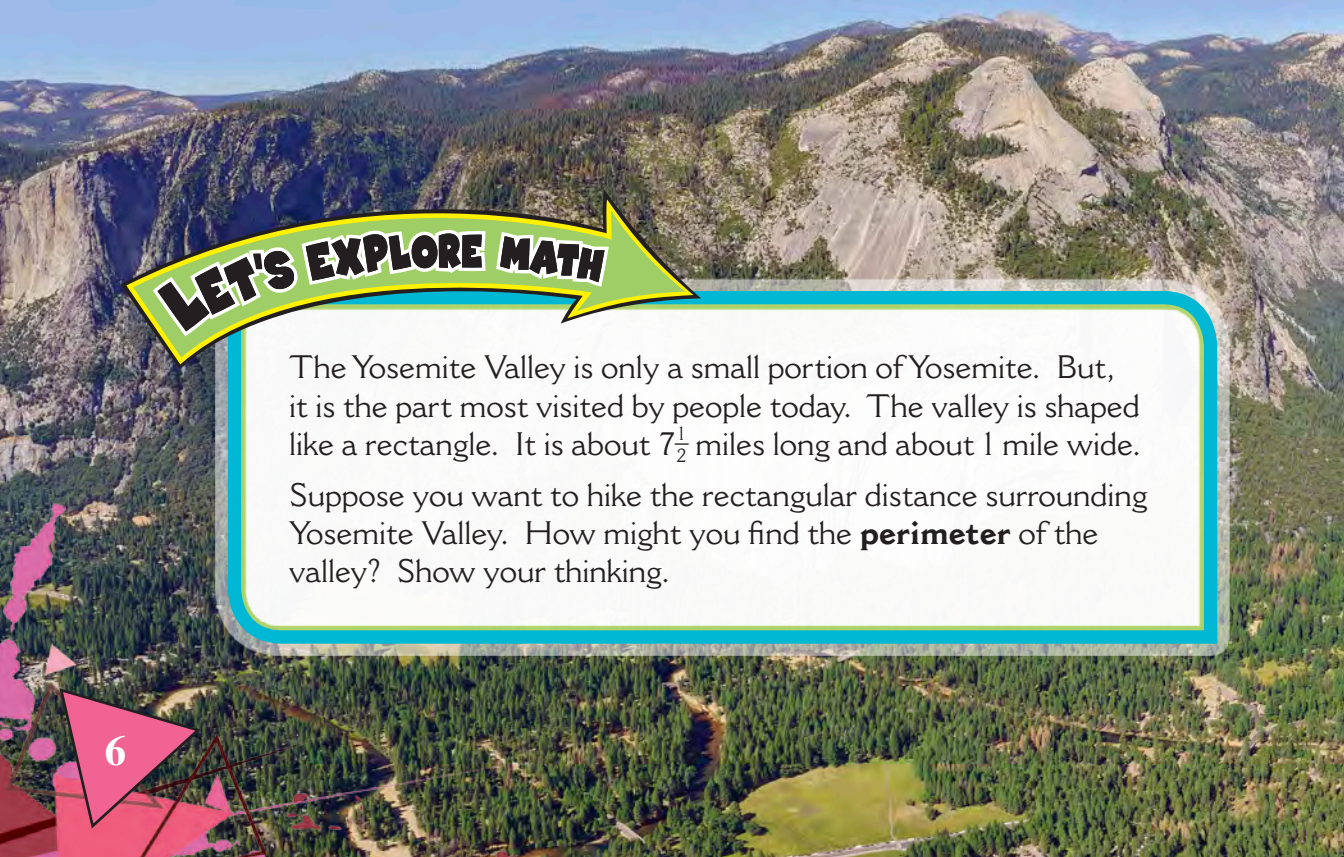
For teachers' inspection ONLY

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Valley History

Long before people came to Yosemite Valley, the rocky mountain cliffs and snaking waterways were already much like we know them today. Plant life flourished. Animals settled in this thriving place. It was a rich environment.

People first came to the area about 8,000 years ago. They hunted for food with spears and gathered seeds and other plants to eat. **Archaeologists** (ahr-kee-AWL-uh-jists) have found some traces of their lives. Fossils and tools they used have taught us much of what we know about them. Stories have also been passed down through the ages. But, no one knows exactly when the stories began.



Let's Explore Math

The Yosemite Valley is only a small portion of Yosemite. But, it is the part most visited by people today. The valley is shaped like a rectangle. It is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and about 1 mile wide.

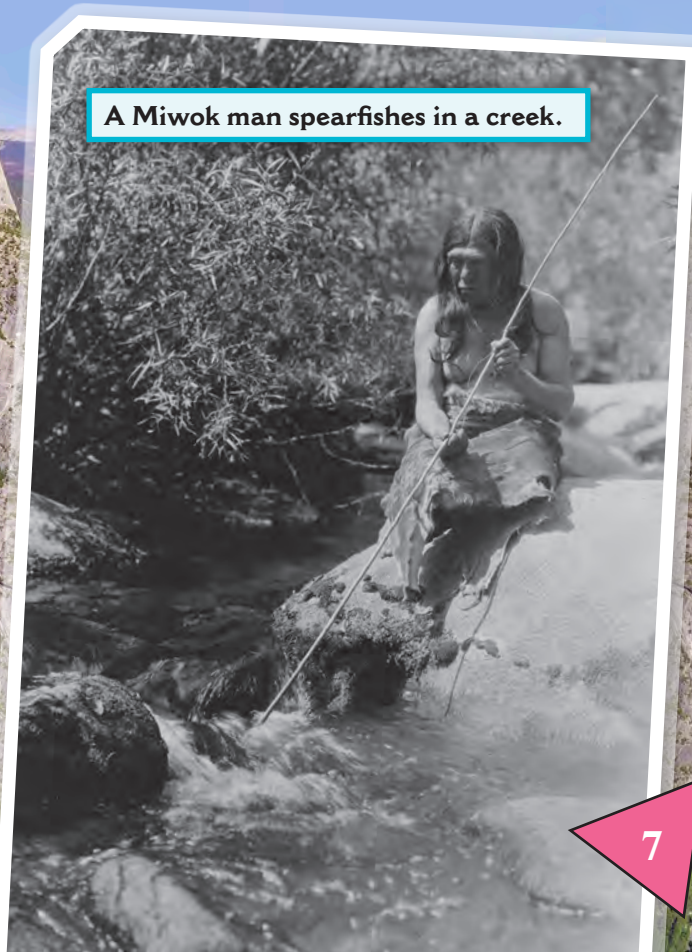
Suppose you want to hike the rectangular distance surrounding Yosemite Valley. How might you find the **perimeter** of the valley? Show your thinking.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

At some point, these people called the place they lived *Ahwahnee*. That was their word for "**gaping** mouth." A gaping mouth is what the wide valley looked like to them. Many think it looks that way still.

About 4,000 years ago, American Indians moved into the valley. These people were called Miwok (MEE-wok). The name simply means "people." That is what they called themselves. By the late 1700s, the valley was filled with Miwok. They thrived in this environment. It offered everything they needed to live well.





A Miwok man spearfishes in a creek.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Gold Rush

Life in Yosemite changed greatly in 1849. That year marked the start of California's Gold Rush. Thousands of people from all over the country swooped into the area. They wanted to get rich quickly. In their frenzy for gold, miners often pushed the Miwok off their land and out of their homes. Some Miwok were killed. Some died of starvation because their resources were taken. Others fought back, trying to preserve their way of life.



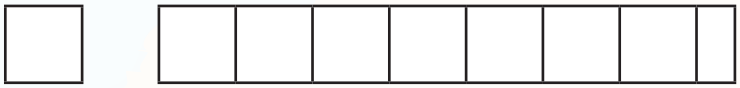
Miners search for gold in California in 1849.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Let's Explore Math

Remember that Yosemite Valley is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and about 1 mile wide. Now, consider its **area**.

Imagine that a huge storm passed over Yosemite Valley, and the ground is all covered in snow. Use the area model to find the number of square miles of snow covering the valley.



In time, most Miwok who stayed adapted to western **culture**. They began to dress like westerners. They began to eat western types of food. They took jobs in service to the newcomers. Some served as guides for those who had just arrived. They showed the new residents how to live in Yosemite, even though their own way of life was falling away.

In time, the number of Miwok dwindled. Today, fewer than 1,000 Miwok live in the area. They have worked to maintain and restore traditions of their culture.



Miwok woman and her baby



A Miwok tribe meets for a morning council in Yosemite Valley in 1872.