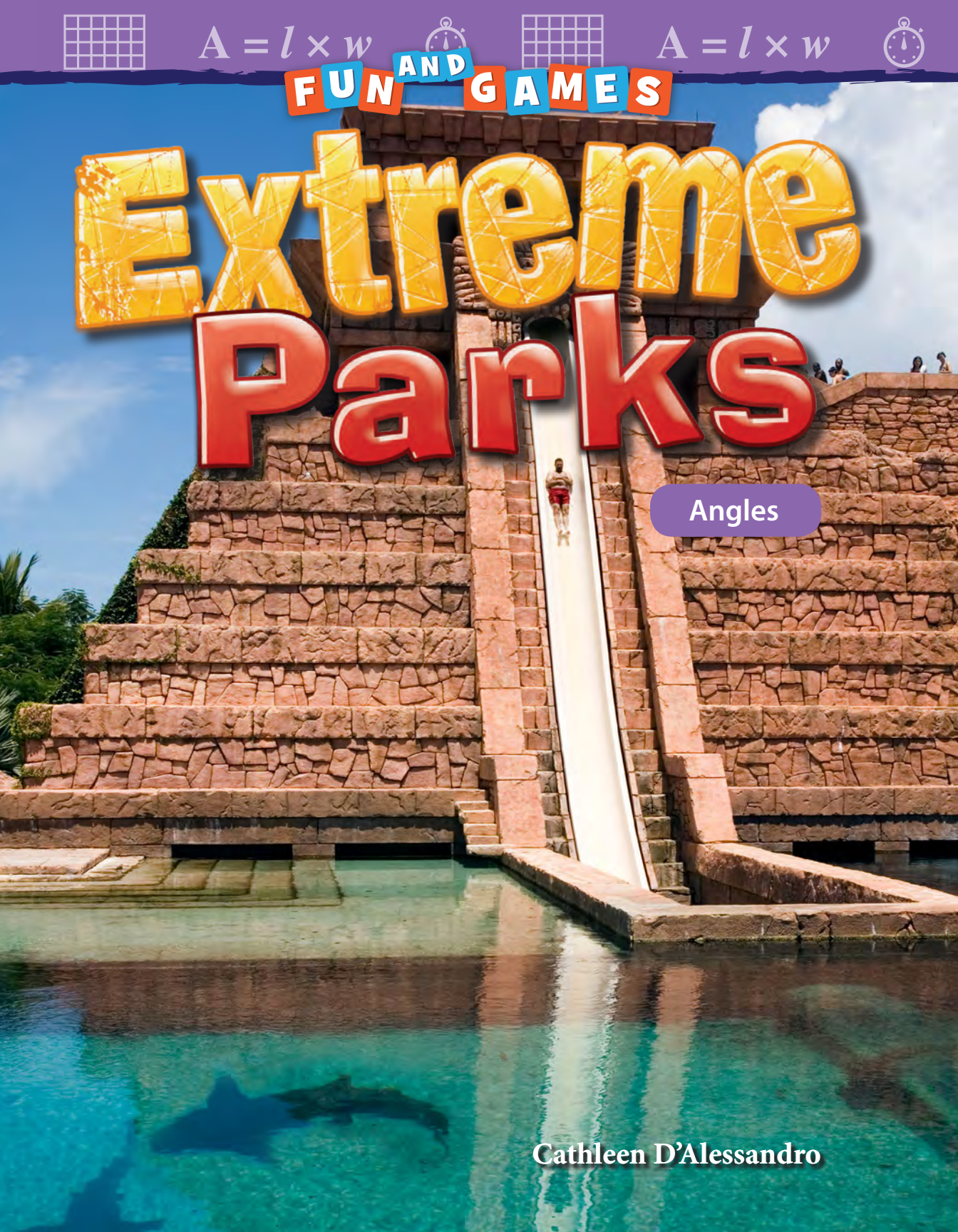
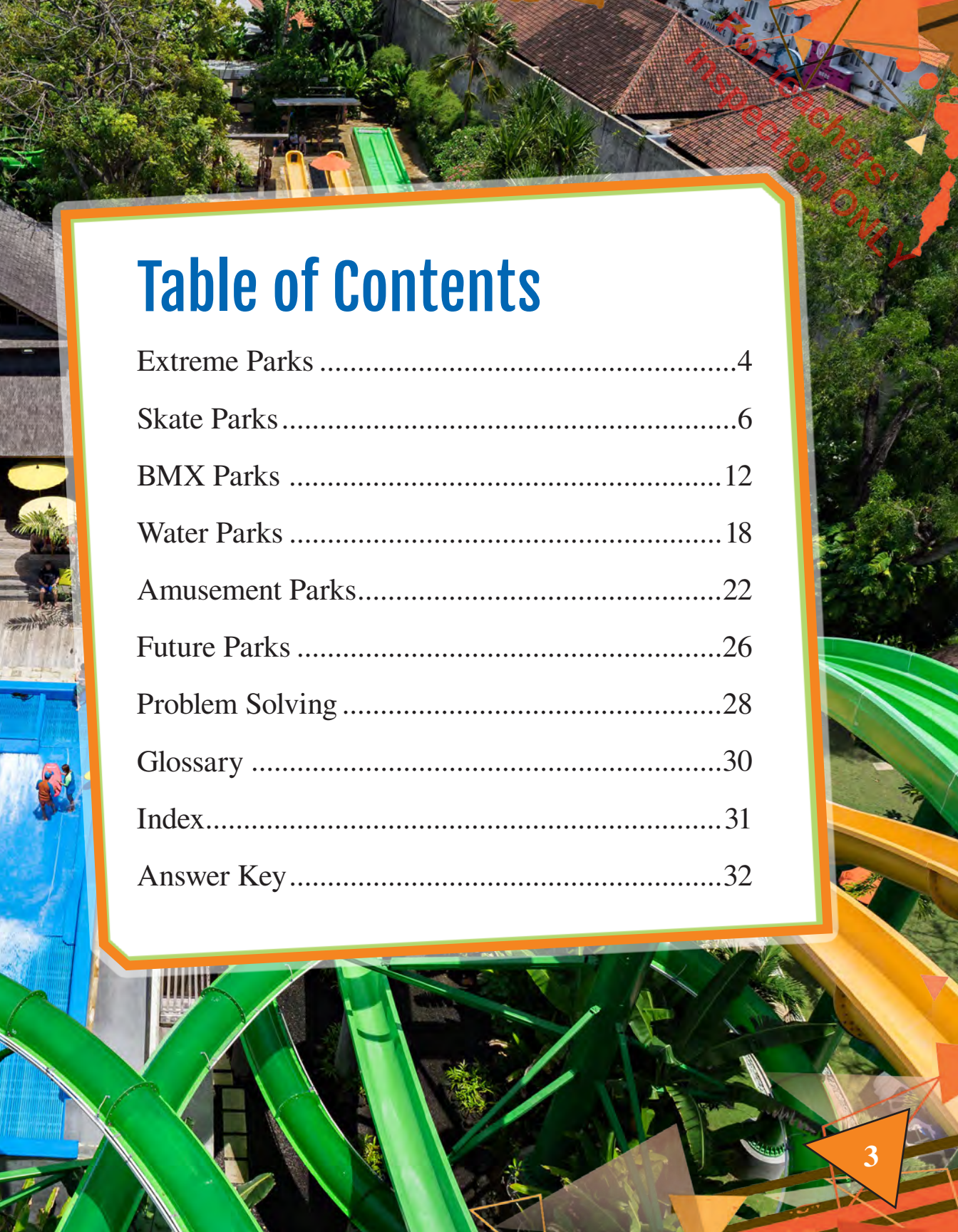

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FUN AND GAMES
Extreme Parks
Angles
Cathleen D'Alessandro



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Extreme Parks

Imagine that you are at the top of a 40-story roller coaster. You're about to experience a free-fall drop. Your heart is pounding out of your chest. You grip the metal bar tighter and close your eyes. You take a deep breath, and then…it happens. Your jaw drops. You try to scream, but nothing comes out. In a matter of seconds, the coaster comes to a stop, and you open your eyes. You just had the most terrifying experience of your life. Would you do it again? Chances are, you will!

All around the world, people seek thrilling adventures. Some people look to extreme sports for a bit of danger. Others prefer to **plunge** down a colossal water slide or ride a twisting roller coaster. People are always finding ways to push their limits. They want to go faster and reach new heights. Where do people go for these adrenaline-pumping experiences? Welcome to the world of extreme parks!



Passengers plunge down a 50-foot drop at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, California.



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Riders start their plummet down a 40-meter vertical drop at Efteling theme park in the Netherlands.

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Skate Parks

When skateboarding became popular, skate parks began to pop up in cities around the world. Before skate parks were built, **skaters** took their tricks to the streets. This was not safe. Skaters were injured because of uneven street surfaces and collisions with cars. Now, skaters can go to skate parks to practice their tricks.

Every skate park has unique features. Some parks are designed to **mimic** street and sidewalk conditions. Other parks have bowl-like structures with smooth, curved concrete. Skaters can do **aerial** tricks off a **half-pipe**. They can pick up speed to do 180 **ollies**. Or, they can invent new tricks of their own.

Skateboarding has become a five billion dollar industry in the United States. It is so popular that there are now skateboarding competitions. The X Games draws huge crowds. Skaters can compete in many events. Some contests are to see who can do the best trick. Others are to see who can get "the most air" off a **ramp**.



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Let's Explore Math

To do a 180 ollie, skaters must pop into the air and do a half rotation. When skaters land, they and their boards are facing the opposite direction.

1. What is the name of a 180-degree angle?
2. Max is learning to do a 180 ollie, but right now he can only make half the rotation. How many degrees does he rotate? What is the name of this type of angle? Make a sketch to show your thinking.
3. What number do you think skaters use to describe ollies that are full rotations? Why?

This diagram shows a skater doing a 180 ollie.



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The X Games skateboarding competitions are held twice a year at skate parks all around the world. Most of these skate parks are built and then torn down after the event. Before the start of the X Games, the skate park must be designed and built. Designers and builders work with skaters to make sure every course is built just right.

Some of the best skaters in the world compete at the X Games. One event they compete in is the half-pipe. This is a ramp that curves up at both ends. At the top, skaters perform high-flying tricks.

One of the most famous X Games athletes is Tony Hawk. He is a skateboarder from San Diego, California. He started skating when he was only 9 years old. By the age of 20, he was known as the best in the world for his ramp tricks. He won more than 70 contests. He even won gold medals at the 1995 and 1997 X Games. Now, he helps build skate parks that are free to the public in low-income areas all around the United States.

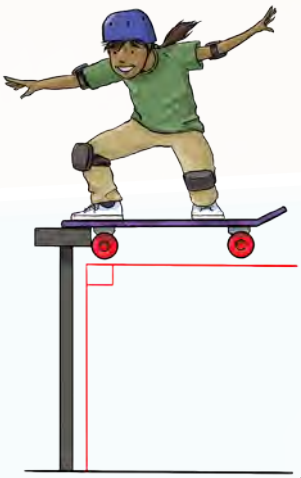


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Tony Hawk gets "big air" on the half pipe at a festival in Australia.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Look at the illustration of a skateboarder doing a noseslide trick. The skater is sliding the nose edge of the board along a rail.



1. What is the measurement of the angle shown in the illustration? What is the name of this type of angle?
2. Sketch the angle. Draw a ray dividing the angle in half. What is the measurement of each of the two angles formed? What is the name of this type of angle?