This is a picture of an octopus at the bottom of the ocean.
Octopus Intelligence

1 Octopuses are very intelligent animals. For example, they are very good at getting away from their enemies. To do this, octopuses use a behavior called shape-shifting. Shape-shifting means they can change their bodies to match their surroundings. They do this by changing the color of their skin. Octopuses can also disguise themselves to look like fish or eels. As shape-shifters, they become nearly impossible to find.

2 In case of an attack, octopuses can puff up their bodies, turn white, and shoot clouds of ink. They can also zigzag through the water to escape. Even a five-foot-long octopus can squeeze itself into an opening the size of a softball.

3 Octopuses are also fast learners. They have been able to solve mazes. In aquariums, they have opened their tanks and raided other tanks for food. People have also seen octopuses using tools, such as rocks. Humans are just beginning to understand how remarkable these sea creatures are.
This is a picture of two frogs. One is small and labeled “Green Tree Frog.” The other is large and labeled “Cuban Tree Frog.”
Two common kinds of tree frogs live in the Florida Everglades. They are the green tree frog and the Cuban tree frog. The Everglades is a very large wetland ecosystem. It is a perfect habitat for frogs.

Green tree frogs are native to the Everglades. These tiny frogs are commonly found in freshwater habitats, but they can also live in forests and gardens. Green tree frogs are very alert, especially at night. They see and hear almost everything. This helps them catch crickets, moths, and flies for food. Their green color keeps them hidden from enemies, such as snakes and birds.

Cuban tree frogs are not native to the Everglades. They come from Cuba and the Cayman Islands. It is likely that Cuban tree frogs arrived in Florida in the early 1900s. Cuban tree frogs are twice the size of green tree frogs. They eat almost everything they can catch, and they compete with native tree frogs for food. They even eat other tree frogs! Cuban tree frogs are mostly light brown but can be green or even white if they are cold.

Both frogs fit in perfectly in the Everglades because it is one of the largest wetland ecosystems.
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a resource checklist on a clipboard. There are checkmarks on the checklist.
How Do We Know What We Read Is True?

1. There is so much information in print and on the Internet; it is hard to know what to believe. Determining whether a resource is credible is important. Documents with credible sources are more likely to be true.

2. Here are some basic criteria to use to determine whether a document is credible.

- **Is the author a noted expert in the subject?** An expert in the subject would have written articles or books and be well-known as an expert.

- **Is the document published by a reliable organization?** Government publications, respected journals, and peer-reviewed articles are considered credible.

- **Are the document and its sources up to date?** Has it been revised? Some subjects, such as science and medicine, change quickly. If the document has been revised, then it may be up to date. History changes less often, but new facts are sometimes uncovered.

- **Does the document include a bibliography that is complete?** The bibliography should include any work mentioned in the text so that a reader can go to the original and decide whether the information has been presented fairly and accurately. The authors listed in the bibliography should be experts in the subject.

- **Is the document biased?** If an opinion is presented, it should be fully documented; conflicting opinions should also be presented with similarities and differences explained. If one is better, the reasons should be explained. If the author has something to gain, that author’s opinion should be questioned and other sources considered also.
This is a picture of two tidal generators. One shows the flow of the water as the tidal flow is coming in. The other shows the water moving out as the tide goes out.
Tidal Energy Considered by Local Power Company
(Post from a Blog Written in Response to an Article)

1 Tidal energy is a good idea for those of us living on the coastlines of America. We have the ocean right here and can use it to produce enough electric power for the entire United States!

2 I’ve researched tidal energy. I’ve found there are three different kinds: tidal streams, barrages, and tidal lagoons. The best thing about tidal energy is that it is dependable. The tides rise and fall twice every day. This is much more dependable than wind or solar power, which are not regular but dependent on the weather.

3 Europe has several tidal energy plants set up and they work well. I’ve found several sources on the Internet that tell about them. One is the company that built a plant in France. The engineer is very well educated, and he says it’s the best way to generate electricity.
This is a picture of a beach and the ocean. There are shells, driftwood, and seaweed on the beach.
Waves and Coastline Changes  
(Task 1)

Coastline changes are natural and vary from day to day and year to year. One type of change is brought about by coastal deposition. When waves lose energy, as a result of reaching shallow water or carrying a lot of material, they deposit the material. This material includes seaweed, shells, driftwood, small stones, and even rocks. This deposition may occur during storms when the waves are energized or during the everyday rise and fall of the tides.
Waves and Coastline Changes  
(Article)  
(Task 2 and Task 3)  

1 Coastline changes are natural and vary from day to day and year to year. One type of change is brought about by coastal deposition. When waves lose energy, as a result of reaching shallow water or carrying a lot of material, they deposit the material. This material includes seaweed, shells, driftwood, small stones, and even rocks. This deposition may occur during storms when the waves are energized or during the everyday rise and fall of the tides.

2 An opposite action of waves is erosion. When erosion occurs, waves pick up material and move it. When the waves slow down, sometimes at another part of the coast or out to sea, deposition occurs and that coastline may change.
Support the Coastal Beach Association
(Online Brochure)
(Task 2 and Task 3)

1 The coastlines of Florida are very important. They support tourism as well as provide recreation areas for residents. Barrier islands are long, narrow strips of land. They are sometimes the result of deposition. These islands often have homes, hotels, and beaches on them.

2 Barrier islands are important to coastlines and the environment. Barrier islands protect the coastline from storms and some erosion. Both erosion and deposition are natural events, occurring with the movement of the tides. But sometimes there is more erosion than deposition; for example, during a storm. To manage this loss, local replacement projects pump sand along the coast or barrier island to build up the beach. The costs are shared by the federal, state and county governments.
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a girl sitting outside on a park bench drawing a flower on paper.
Getting Published

1 Eva spent most of her free time drawing. She carried a sketchbook with her everywhere and drew whenever she found the inspiration. Eva always dreamed that one day people would see her drawings in an art show or magazine.

2 After class one day, Eva told her art teacher Mr. Valdez about all the drawings in her sketchbook. “Eva, these are wonderful!” he said as he flipped through the pages. “Why have you not shared these with anyone?”

3 “I draw because I love to do it,” Eva replied. “I just wasn’t sure if my drawings were very good.”

4 Mr. Valdez encouraged Eva to think about becoming an illustrator. He suggested that she send some of her drawings to a magazine that uses illustrations. Eva felt all mixed-up as she thought about these new ideas. Suddenly, she became nervous. “Don’t worry,” Mr. Valdez reassured her. “I believe in you.”

5 Eva picked three of her best drawings from her sketchbook and sent them to the magazine. After three months of waiting, she finally received a letter in the mail. She quickly read the letter and then grinned from ear to ear. The magazine wanted to pay her to use one of her drawings!
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a girl using a camera to take a picture of a bride and groom.
Lucy’s Photography Business

1 Lucy was really good at taking pictures, and everyone told her they enjoyed her photographs. The summer after Lucy finished tenth grade, her cousin Hector asked if she would take pictures at his wedding. Lucy agreed, but she needed a better camera.

2 Lucy had been saving money from babysitting, but it wasn’t enough for a high-quality camera. She asked her grandparents for a loan. They agreed to lend her some money.

3 Lucy used her new camera for taking pictures at Hector’s wedding. Hector and his new bride were very happy with Lucy’s pictures. So was Lucy. She used some of the pictures as samples, and people who saw her work were impressed.

4 That summer, Lucy took pictures at three more weddings. She also took senior pictures for several students at her school. Each time Lucy earned money, she gave some back to her grandparents.

5 By the end of the summer, Lucy had completely paid back the loan from her grandparents. They took her out for ice cream to celebrate. “I really liked earning money taking photographs this summer,” she told them. “I’m going to advertise next summer to get even more customers.”
A Good Night’s Sleep

1 Most teens do not get enough sleep. According to the National Sleep Foundation, teens require at least eight and a half hours of sleep each night. However, only a small percentage of teens get enough sleep on school nights.

2 Lack of sleep can make school more difficult. It is harder for students to concentrate, learn, and solve problems when they feel tired. Sleep could improve performance at school. It also improves people’s skin, mood, and overall health.

3 There are several things teens can do to promote sleep. They can avoid drinking beverages with caffeine late in the day. In fact, it is best to avoid drinking, eating, or exercising too close to bedtime. Teens should also avoid putting off doing homework until bedtime. Instead, they should do calm, quiet activities for the last hour before bed. It is also helpful to stay away from the computer, phone, and television. Instead, it is best to read a book or take a shower or bath to relax.

4 These tips can help many teens wake up feeling more refreshed and ready to learn!
Grades 9 and 10
English Language Arts 1 and 2—Writing
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)

This is a picture of a pig. The pig has two wheels attached to his back legs.
The Pig on Wheels

1 Chris P. Bacon is the silly name given to a famous pig from Florida. What besides his name is so special about this pig? Chris can only use his front legs, but he still manages to get where he wants to go.

2 Chris was born unable to use his rear legs. His original owner did not know how to care for a piglet with a disability, so she took him to a veterinarian named Dr. Len Lucero. Dr. Lucero was confident that he could help Chris.

3 Chris was able to move around by pulling himself with his two front legs, but Dr. Lucero wanted to provide Chris with more support. One day, the doctor had an idea. He gathered some of his son’s old toys and built Chris a small wheeled cart similar to a wheelchair. Then, Chris was able to roll anywhere!

4 Dr. Lucero was inspired by Chris and thought others would be as well. The doctor started taking the pig to visit young patients in Florida hospitals. News reports show patients meeting the amazing pig. Dr. Lucero has also used Chris’s image and story to help important charities.

5 Chris’s story is so inspiring that picture books have been written about him. Chris P. Bacon still lives a happy, healthy life in Florida. Everyone that meets the pig on wheels can’t help but admire his determination.