

Day 3

Grade 4

LEVEL 13, UNIT 4
INFORMATIONAL TEXT

The Unbelievable BAMBOO

If you **strolled** through a bamboo forest, you'd think you were surrounded by tall trees. You'd see **delicate** green leaves sprouting overhead. You might think the straight tree trunks were odd, **especially** if you knocked on one. It would be hollow. As plant experts know, trees are not hollow, but grasses are.

Now here's the amazing part: Bamboo isn't a tree. Could a plant this tall be a grass? In fact, that is exactly what bamboo is. It's a grass—a **gigantic** grass! A full-grown bamboo plant may grow 130 feet (40 meters) high. That's taller than most 12-story buildings.

Bamboo is unusual in other ways. It is the fastest-growing grass in the world. Many grow a foot (30.33 centimeters) in a single day. Some actually grow 3 or 4 feet (91-121 centimeters) in 24 hours. You wouldn't think something that grows so fast could be strong, but woody bamboo stems are incredibly strong. Bamboo has a **tensile** strength similar to steel. This means it is about as easy to tear apart bamboo as it is to tear apart steel. Bamboo also holds up under **pressure** better than **concrete**.

This amazing plant has over a thousand uses. Bamboo is used to build things from fences to floors, lamps to ladders, boats to bikes to bridges! It can be used to make fabric as soft as cotton. It's even good to eat!

The Unbelievable Bamboo

KEY VOCABULARY

- **strolled** (verb) To *stroll* is to walk slowly.
- **delicate** (adjective) *Delicate* means tender or fine.
- **especially** (adverb) *Especially* means in particular.
- **gigantic** (adjective) *Gigantic* means very big.
- **tensile** (adjective) *Tensile* means bendable.
- **concrete** (noun) *Concrete* is a strong, hard building material.

- ▶ Describe what a bamboo forest looks like.
- ▶ Explain why bamboo is a grass, not a tree.
- ▶ Create an infographic that highlights all the "unbelievable" features of bamboo.
- ▶ How is bamboo similar to the grass that grows in a park? How is it different?
- ▶ Do you agree that bamboo is "unbelievable"?
- ▶ Describe a day in the life of someone who uses bamboo in as many ways possible.

Name: _____

SNAKE - A

Fill each empty box, in order, combining the numbers from the previous 2 boxes.

85	$\div 5$			$\div 3$		+51	
		+67	+46				$\div 7$
	$\div 6$					+69	
+74			$\div 3$	$\div 4$			
	$\div 4$		+74			+55	75

77	$\div 7$		+73		$\div 6$		+61	
								$\div 5$
	$\div 3$		+59		$\div 8$		+65	
+49								
	$\div 4$		+39		$\div 3$		+45	64