

# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY READING

CREATIVE THINKING AND  
READING WITH TEDTALKS



# TED SPEAKERS

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**TRY SOMETHING NEW  
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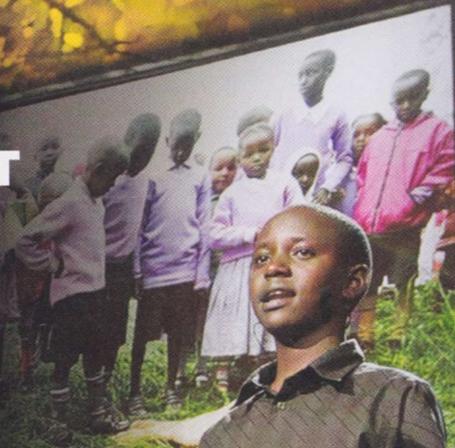
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21st Century Reading was created through a partnership between TED—a nonprofit dedicated to spreading ideas through short, powerful talks—and National Geographic Learning.

# 21<sup>ST</sup>

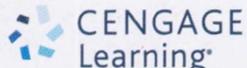
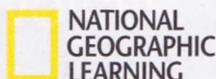
# CENTURY READING

CREATIVE THINKING AND  
READING WITH **TED**TALKS



# TED

Robin Longshaw • Laurie Blass



Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Reading Student Book 1  
Creative Thinking and Reading with  
TED Talks**

**Robin Longshaw**

**Laurie Blass**

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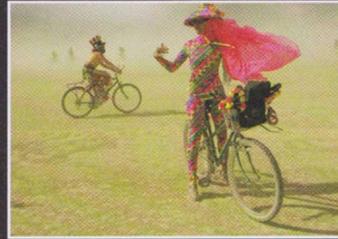
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# SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Unit/Theme	Lesson A	Reading	Reading Skills	Critical Thinking
<b>1</b> <b>LIFE CHANGES</b> <i>Interdisciplinary</i>		<b>The Power to Change</b> Biographical article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding sequence words</li> <li>Creating a timeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpreting a person's statement</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> <b>TEAM POWER</b> <i>Business / Leadership</i>		<b>The Marshmallow Challenge</b> Research article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying main ideas in paragraphs</li> <li>Identifying supporting details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpreting a person's statement</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> <b>OCEAN WONDERS</b> <i>Life Science</i>		<b>Messages from the Sea</b> Scientific article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying purpose</li> <li>Identifying referents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inferring meaning from context</li> <li>Evaluating and justifying an opinion</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <b>WHAT WE WEAR</b> <i>Sociology / Fashion</i>		<b>The Science of Style</b> Research report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making connections</li> <li>Understanding a process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inferring reasons</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <b>MOMENTS AND MEMORIES</b> <i>Psychology / History</i>		<b>Preserving the Past</b> Biographical article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying approximate numbers</li> <li>Understanding visuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inferring meaning from context</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>
<b>6</b> <b>BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b> <i>Architecture and Design</i>		<b>Living Spaces</b> Magazine-style article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing supporting details</li> <li>Understanding reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synthesizing information</li> <li>Analyzing problems</li> </ul>
<b>7</b> <b>ROADS TO FAME</b> <i>Communication / Sociology</i>		<b>Going Viral</b> Magazine-style article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scanning for numbers</li> <li>Understanding a graph</li> <li>Identifying transition words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inferring attitude</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>
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<b>10</b> <b>ROBOTS AND US</b> <i>Technology / Robotics</i>		<b>Robots Like Us</b> Scientific article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying main and supporting ideas in paragraphs</li> <li>Making comparisons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluating pros and cons</li> <li>Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>



Lesson B	TED Talks	Academic Skills	Critical Thinking	Project
	<b>Try Something New for 30 Days</b> Matt Cutts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing attitude</li> <li>• Identifying facts and opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating challenges</li> <li>• Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning a 30-day challenge</li> </ul>
	<b>Build a Tower, Build a Team</b> Tom Wujec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Understanding stages in a process</li> <li>• Summarizing main ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inferring reasons</li> <li>• Reflecting on personal strengths</li> <li>• Applying ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing a team-building task</li> </ul>
	<b>Underwater Astonishments</b> David Gallo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing tone and message</li> <li>• Synthesizing information using a Venn diagram</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questioning a speaker</li> <li>• Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching and presenting examples of adaptation</li> </ul>
	<b>Wearing Nothing New</b> Jessi Arrington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing point of view</li> <li>• Comparing messages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreting statements</li> <li>• Reflecting on personal style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching for a poster session on clothing</li> </ul>
	<b>One Second Every Day</b> Cesar Kuriyama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing a message</li> <li>• Identifying true statements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreting a statement</li> <li>• Synthesizing ideas</li> <li>• Evaluating an argument</li> <li>• Reflecting on own experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning a media show about memories</li> </ul>
	<b>Ingenious Homes in Unexpected Places</b> Iwan Baan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Summarizing ideas using a concept map</li> <li>• Recognizing attitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inferring reasons</li> <li>• Applying ideas to own experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching for a talk about an unusual structure</li> </ul>
	<b>Why Videos Go Viral</b> Kevin Allocca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing a message</li> <li>• Summarizing ideas using a concept map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying ideas to other contexts</li> <li>• Reflecting on reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching and presenting a viral video</li> </ul>
	<b>My Invention that Made Peace with Lions</b> Richard Turere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Recognizing tone and message</li> <li>• Summarizing ideas using a process diagram</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making predictions</li> <li>• Interpreting meaning</li> <li>• Questioning a speaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching and presenting on human–animal conflict</li> </ul>
	<b>Before I Die, I Want To...</b> Candy Chang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Making predictions</li> <li>• Recognizing point of view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreting a speaker's statement</li> <li>• Making predictions</li> <li>• Synthesizing and applying ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting a survey about your community</li> </ul>
	<b>The Rise of Personal Robots</b> Cynthia Breazeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding main ideas and key details</li> <li>• Understanding sequence</li> <li>• Summarizing main ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyzing problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a design for a new robot</li> </ul>

# WHAT IS 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY READING?

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY READING** develops essential knowledge and skills for learners to succeed in today's global society. The series teaches core academic language skills and incorporates 21st century themes and skills such as global awareness, information literacy, and critical thinking.

Each unit of 21st Century Reading has three parts:

- **READ** about a 21st century topic—such as social robots and viral videos—in Lesson A.
- **LEARN** more about the topic by viewing an authentic TED Talk in Lesson B.
- **EXPLORE** the topic further by completing a collaborative research project.

**Developing Reading Skills**

**CREATING A TIMELINE**

Complete the timeline. Use information about Ayla Elvan from the passage on pages 11–12.

**BUILDING VOCABULARY**

Choose the best word to complete each sentence. Write the word in the blank space.

1. Many people think \_\_\_\_\_ education that they have completed a high school diploma.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a family member who lives in a different country.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is in charge of a business.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is in charge of a business.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is in charge of a business.

## VOCABULARY BUILDING

**Lesson A**

**PRE-READING**

Look at the picture and read the text. Complete the sentences.

The passage is mostly about \_\_\_\_\_.

A. animals and the ocean  
B. the natural world of the sea  
C. how humans have changed the ocean  
D. how humans have changed the ocean

Read the first few paragraphs of the passage on page 13. Complete the sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

**MESSAGES FROM THE SEA**

Reading colors, changing patterns, giant eyes — Meet the ocean's messengers of change.

In the ocean, animals possess all kinds of ways to survive with an amazing ability. These animals, known as cephalopods, are able to change the appearance of their skin.

Some cephalopods can change the color of their skin to match their surroundings. Some of these animals have special eyes that can see in the dark. They can also change the color of their skin to match the color of the water around them.

Cephalopods have been used in many ways. Some are used in the military to help with camouflage. Some are used in the medical field to help with skin conditions. Some are used in the fashion industry to create new colors and patterns.

## READING SKILLS

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

Strategies for understanding key ideas, language use, and purpose.

**Lesson B**

**TED TALKS**

**THE RISE OF PERSONAL ROBOTS**

**CHYTRA BHARDWAJ**, founder, ThisRobotics

Why do we have robots on Mars, but not in our homes? This was a question Chytra Bhardwaj asked herself when she was a graduate student at MIT in 2007.

Today, Bhardwaj works for Microsoft Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is also the founder of ThisRobotics, a company that focuses on building personal robots that can do simple tasks like cleaning, watering plants, and playing music. She has founded the MIT Robotics Club and is also a member of the MIT Media Lab.

In this lesson, you are going to watch a segment of Bhardwaj's TED Talk. Use the information she shares to answer the questions.

1. Why did Chytra Bhardwaj start working on personal robots?

2. What are some examples of the personal robots she is talking about?

3. How do you think robots could improve these aspects of life?

## BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

**Lesson A**

**PRE-READING**

Look at the photos and complete the sentences. Use the information on page 14.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the main idea of the passage.

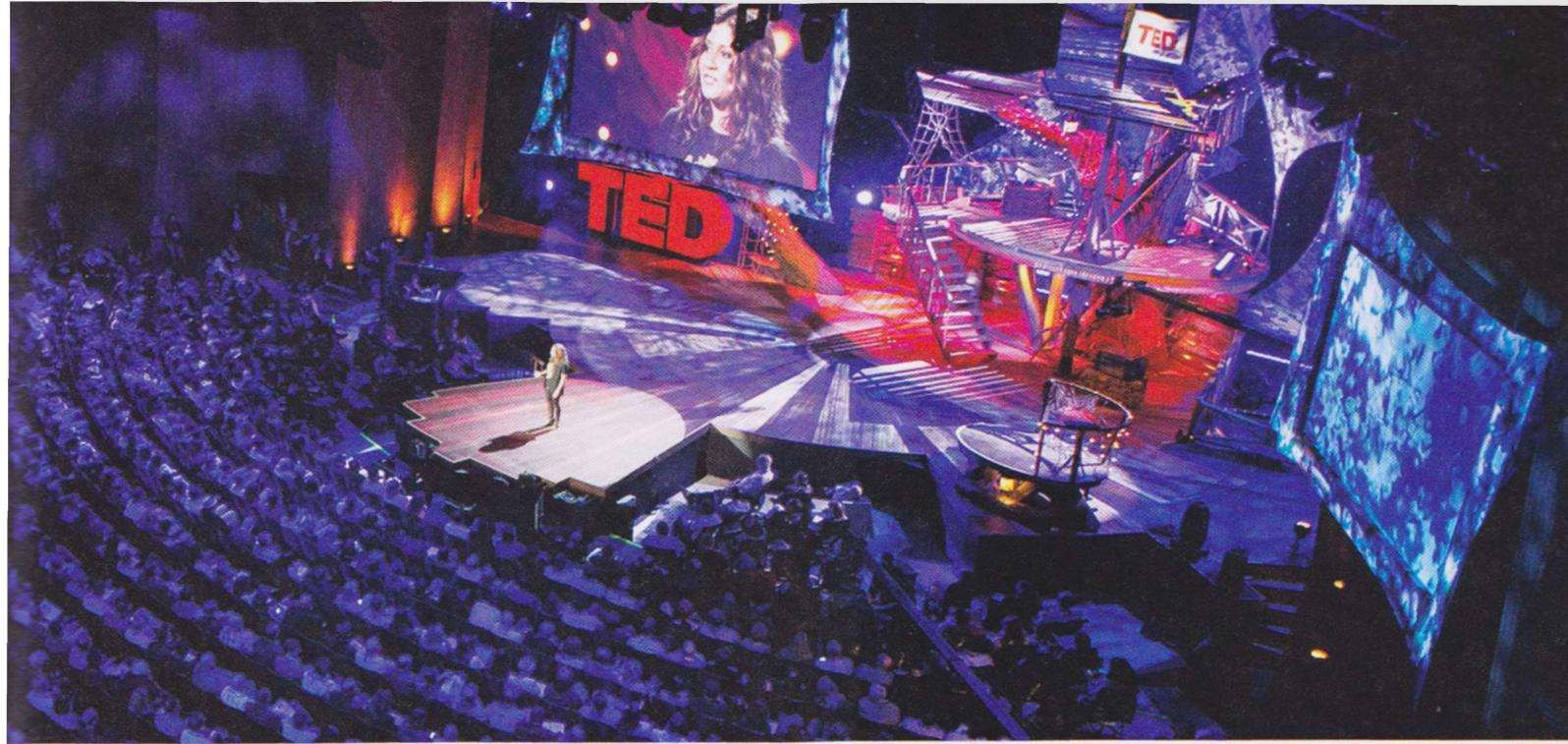
**LIVING SPACES**

In many communities around the world, people are finding creative ways to make the most of their resources.

## GLOBAL AWARENESS

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY THEMES

Interdisciplinary topics that affect everyone in a global society



## LEARNING SKILLS

The "4 C's" that all learners need for success in a complex world.



**TED TALKS**  
**ANIMATING A PROCESS**

1. **Task:** You have been asked to create a presentation for a client. The client is a small business and you need to show them how your company can help them grow. You have 10 minutes to prepare your presentation. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow.

2. **Resources:** You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow.

3. **Process:** You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow.

4. **Outcome:** You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow.

5. **Reflection:** You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow. You have a budget of \$1000 and you need to show them how you can help them grow.



What can you do with 20 sheets of paper, one yard of string, and one marshmallow? Try the **Marshmallow Challenge!**

The Marshmallow Challenge is a team-building exercise that is often used in business schools and corporate training. The goal is to build the tallest free-standing structure that can support a marshmallow on top. The team with the highest structure wins the challenge.

The idea for the challenge came from a challenge called **Spaghetti Tower** that was created by a group of people who were looking for a good way to test their problem-solving skills. The challenge is a great way to test your problem-solving skills and your ability to work with others.

**The Challenge**  
 100 minutes... Teams of 3-5... **Yarn!**... Marshmallows

10 sheets of spaghetti... one yard of string... one marshmallow

**Developing Reading Skills**

**SETTING THE MAIN IDEAS OF PARAGRAPHS**

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?  
 2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?  
 3. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

**IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS OF PARAGRAPHS**

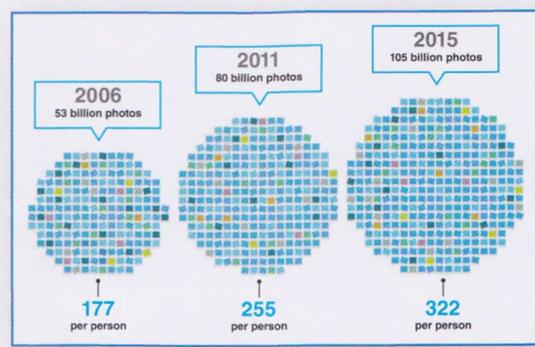
1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?  
 2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?  
 3. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

## CRITICAL THINKING AND COMMUNICATION

## CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION

## 21ST CENTURY LITERACIES

The ability to deal with information in a variety of modern formats and media.



## VISUAL LITERACY



## INFORMATION AND MEDIA LITERACIES

➔ For more on 21st century learning, see [www.p21.org/](http://www.p21.org/) and [21foundation.com/](http://21foundation.com/)

# LIFE CHANGES

## GOALS

### IN THIS UNIT, YOU WILL:

- Read about someone who changed her life.
- Learn about 30-day challenges.
- Explore ways to change your life.

### THINK AND DISCUSS

1. Why do people make changes in their lives?
2. In your opinion, what kinds of changes are difficult to make? What kinds of changes are easy to make?



Hikers climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.

## PRE-READING

**A.** Read the information in the “What is TED?” feature on page 12. Write your answers to the questions. Then discuss your answers with a partner.

1. What does TED do?

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2. How many countries have held TEDx events?

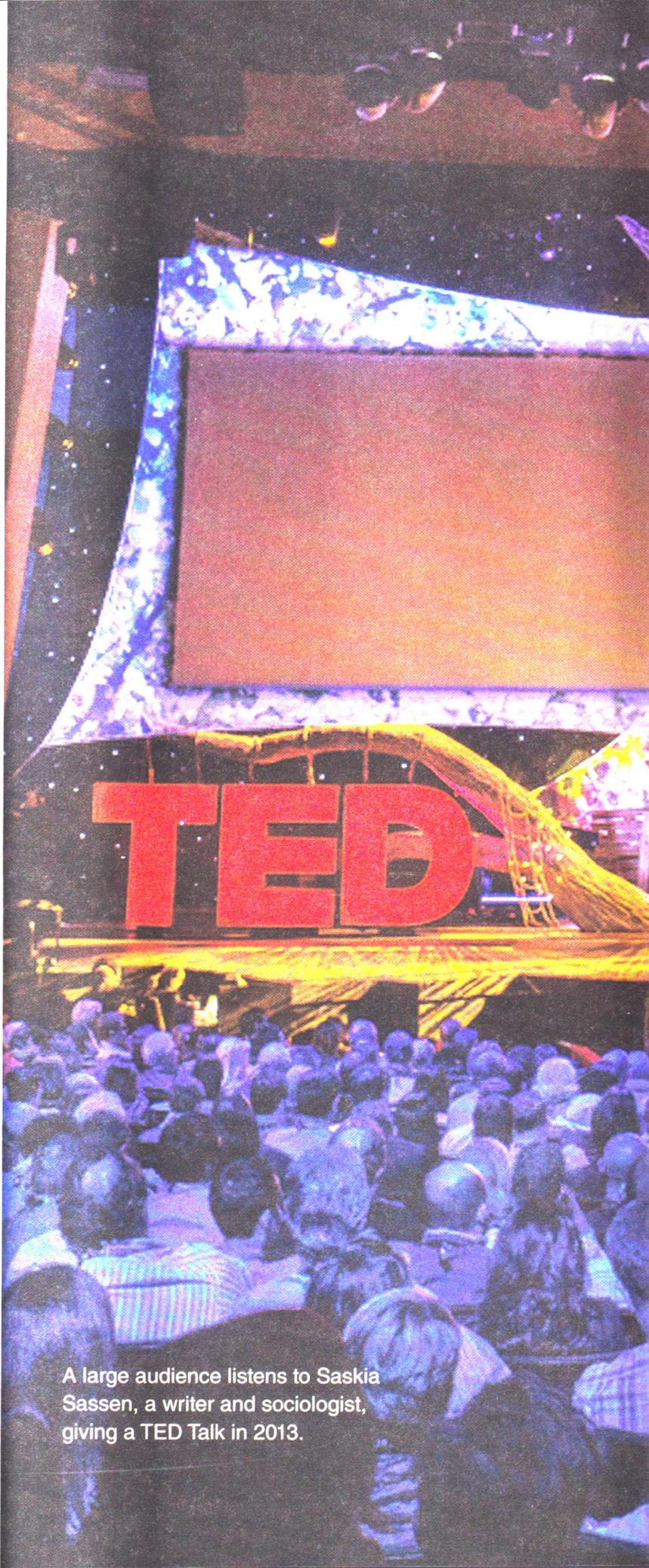
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**B.** Look at the passage’s title, headings, photos, and captions (pages 11–12). Then answer the question below. Read the passage to check your ideas.

What do you think the passage is about?

- a. How change can be difficult
- b. How TED events happen all over the world
- c. How TED Talks inspire people

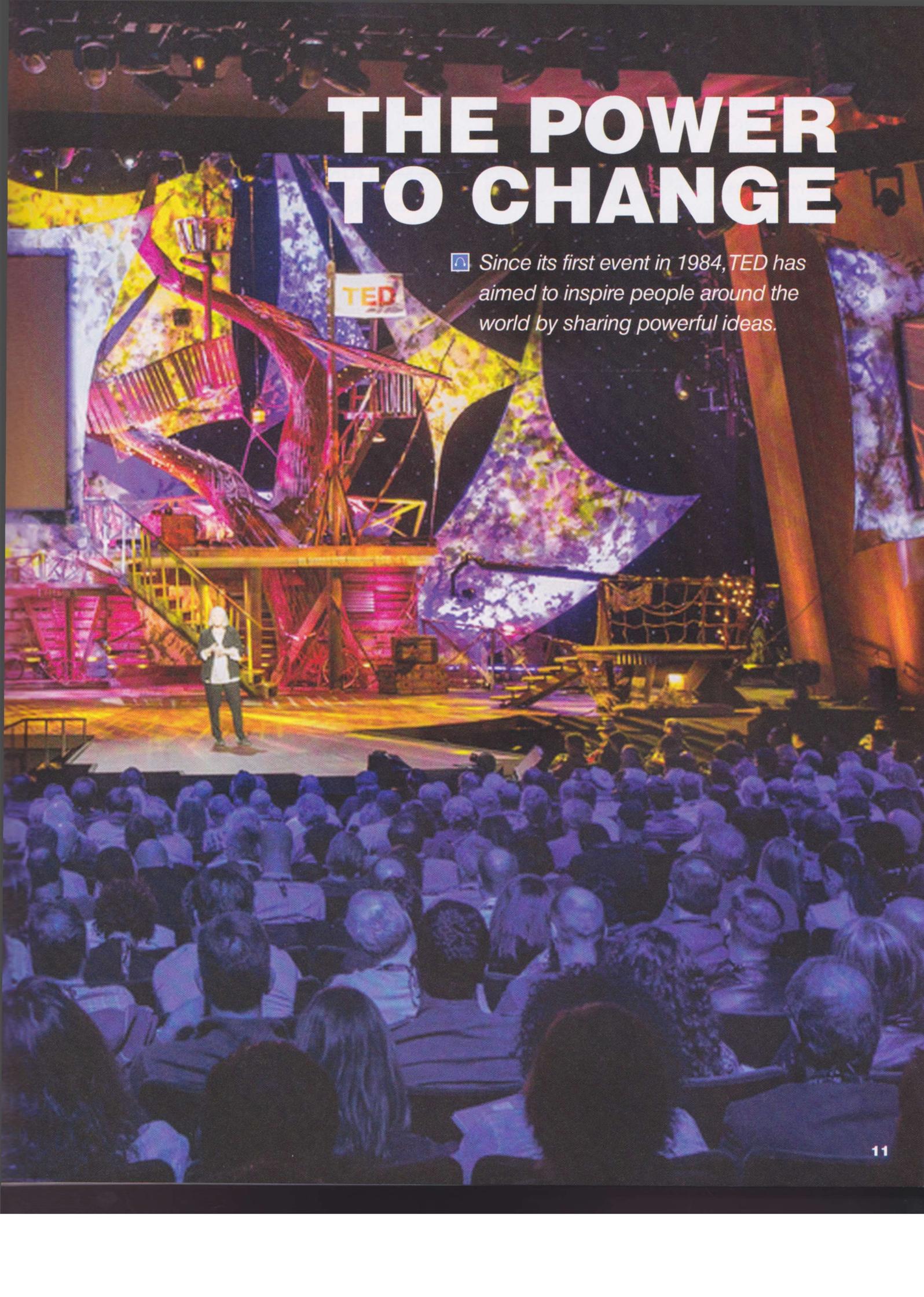
**C.** Have you ever seen a presentation or talk that changed you in some way? Discuss with a partner.



A large audience listens to Saskia Sassen, a writer and sociologist, giving a TED Talk in 2013.

# THE POWER TO CHANGE

 Since its first event in 1984, TED has aimed to inspire people around the world by sharing powerful ideas.



1 In 2011, Kylie Dunn, a writer from Australia, decided to shake up her life. Every month for a year, she decided to try two new activities. In February 2012, for example, one of her **goals** was to eat less meat for 30 days. Later, she wrote a letter to a friend or relative every day for a month. In just 12 months, she changed her life in more than 20 different ways.



inspired other people to change their **attitudes** and their lives. Before her project, Dunn says, she didn't think she had the courage to change her life. The project showed her she had more strength than she thought.

### A YEAR OF CHANGE

- 2 Dunn was **inspired** to try her **project** after watching a TED Talk by Matt Cutts. To get ideas for activities, she watched hundreds of other TED Talks. Her first activity, in November 2011, was inspired by Jessi Arrington's talk "Wear Nothing New." Dunn tried each activity for 30 days, and then wrote about her **experiences** in a blog called "My Year of TED."
- 3 Finally, when her project was over, Dunn talked about her experiences at a TEDx conference in Hobart, Australia. Dunn's talk in January 2014

### A MILLION STORIES

- 4 "People who watch TED Talks . . . end up shifting their view of the future," says Chris Anderson, the curator of TED. He says that TED's goal isn't to make a single big change. TED's **impact** is the millions of stories of small changes. **Individual** changes like Kylie Dunn's are happening every day. Together, these changes have the power to change the future in a **positive** way. As Anderson explains, "Instead of thinking of [the future] as an unstoppable force . . . [people can] play a part in shaping it."

**courage:** *n.* a willingness to do something that is difficult or dangerous

**shifting:** *v.* moving, changing

**view:** *n.* an opinion or way of thinking about something

**curator:** *n.* a person who selects and manages a collection of art, videos, etc.

## What is TED?

TED has a simple goal: to spread great ideas. Every year, hundreds of presenters share ideas at TED events around the world. Millions of people watch TED Talks online. The talks inspire many people to change their attitudes and their lives.

### SPREADING IDEAS WORLDWIDE



Over **10,000** TEDx events in **167** countries



Over **1,800** TED TALKS recorded



TED TALKS translated into **105** languages



Over **1,000,000,000** views of TED TALKS at TED.com

Source: TED 2014



Organizers help set up a TEDx event in Sydney, Australia.

## Developing Reading Skills

### GETTING THE MAIN IDEAS

Choose the best answer for each question. Use information from the passage on pages 11–12.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
  - a. Many people watch TED Talks online.
  - b. People can try different things for 30 days.
  - c. TED Talks spread ideas that can change lives.
  
2. Why did Kylie Dunn do her “year of TED”?
  - a. She was inspired by a TED Talk.
  - b. She started a new job at TED.
  - c. She needed a new challenge.
  
3. What does Chris Anderson say about the future?
  - a. Small changes can have a positive impact on the future.
  - b. Most people are afraid of what will happen in the future.
  - c. People should make a single big change.

### UNDERSTANDING SEQUENCE WORDS

When writing about a process, writers use sequence words to organize their ideas. Sequence words include: *first, second, third, next, later, then, before, after, and finally*. Sometimes writers do not write all parts of the process in chronological (time) order. It is important to notice sequence words as you read.

- A. Find and circle the sequence words in paragraphs 1–3 on page 12.
  
- B. Complete the paragraph with the best sequence word. Use the information from the passage.

TED \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> began to put videos of TED Talks on the Internet in 2006. Five years \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub>, writer Kylie Dunn decided to change her life \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> watching a TED Talk by Matt Cutts. She watched a lot of talks to get ideas. \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub>, she used these ideas to decide her projects. When her projects were \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> over, she gave her own TED Talk.

**CREATING A TIMELINE**

Complete the timeline. Use information about Kylie Dunn from the passage on pages 11–12.

\_\_\_\_\_ **2011** ○ First activity inspired by talk called \_\_\_\_\_

**Feb.** \_\_\_\_\_ ○ Decides to eat less \_\_\_\_\_

**Late 2012** ○ Writes a \_\_\_\_\_ to a friend or relative every day

\_\_\_\_\_ **2014** ○ Gives a talk at a TEDx event in Hobart, \_\_\_\_\_

**BUILDING VOCABULARY**

**A.** Choose the best word to complete each sentence. You won't need all the words.

experiences      goals      impact      individual      project

1. Many people have \_\_\_\_\_ or objectives that they want to accomplish in their lives.
2. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is carefully planned work that has a special purpose.
3. Something that is \_\_\_\_\_ is related to one person or thing.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are event that happens to you.

**B.** Match one of the bold words from the passage on page 12 with each definition.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. motivated or stimulated
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. a powerful effect
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. the ways you think and feel about someone or something
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. good, beneficial

## GETTING MEANING FROM CONTEXT

**A.** After watching a TED Talk, Kylie Dunn says she was inspired to “shake up her life.” What did she mean by this? Choose the best answer.

- a. She decided to move to a different country.
- b. She decided to make changes in her life.
- c. She decided to write a book about life changes.

**B.** Can you think of another person who decided to “shake up their life”? Who or what inspired that person?

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## CRITICAL THINKING

1. **Interpreting.** Chris Anderson says that many people think the future is “an unstoppable force.” What do you think he means? Choose the best answer.

- a. People believe the future is too far away.
- b. People think they can't change the future.
- c. People feel excited about the future.

2. **Reflecting.** Who or what has inspired you to make a change in your life? What change(s) did you make?

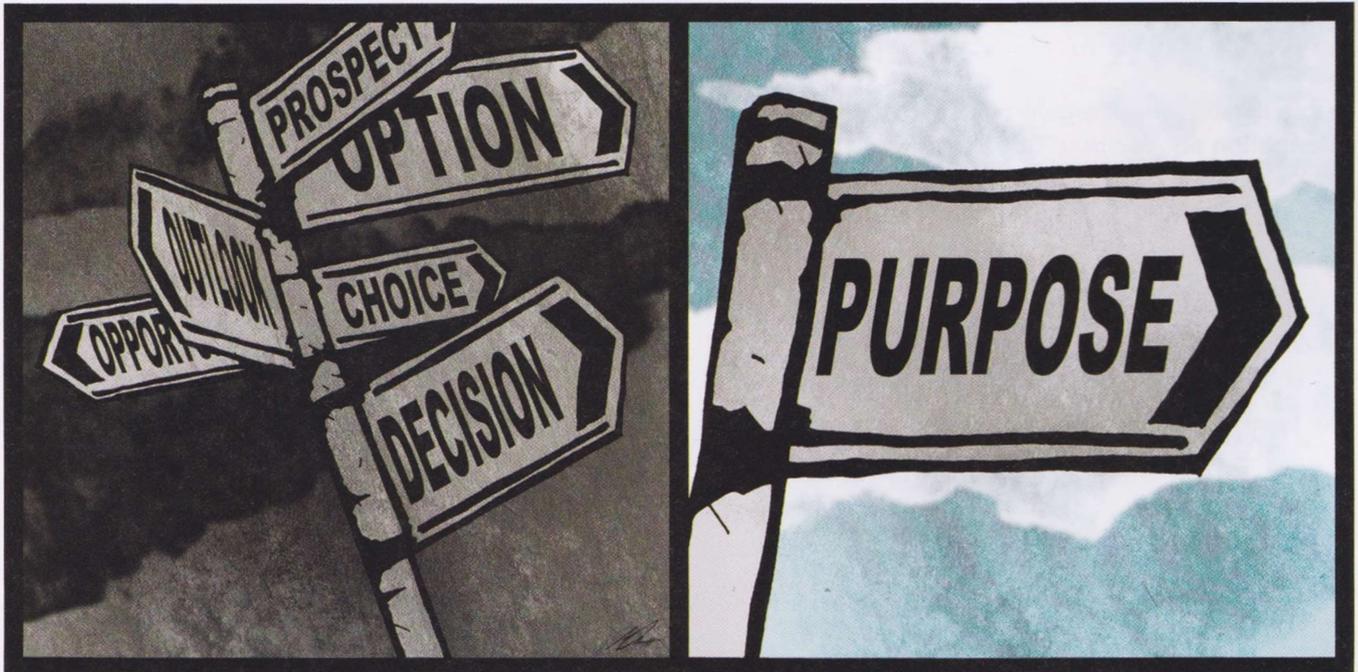
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## EXPLORE MORE

Read Kylie Dunn's “My Year of TED” blog at [blog.TED.com](http://blog.TED.com). What other changes did she make? Share what you learned with the class.



Artwork by Kylie Dunn's brother, Matthew Dunn, to accompany one of her challenges. Dunn spent 30 days trying to figure out what she wanted to do with her life.

# TRY SOMETHING NEW FOR 30 DAYS

**MATT CUTTS** Software engineer, TED speaker

In 2009, Matt Cutts decided to make some changes to his lifestyle.

Cutts was inspired by documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock. Spurlock decided to eat only fast food for 30 days to see how his body changed—mostly in bad ways. Cutts followed the same 30-day time period but made positive changes to his life. He blogged about what he learned in the process. Cutts not only changed his life, he inspired many other people to change their lives, too.

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**lifestyle:** *n.* a way of living, a person's habits

**documentary:** *n.* a movie or TV program about real people or events

**In this lesson, you are going to watch Cutts's TED Talk. Use the information above about Cutts to answer each question.**

1. When did Matt Cutts begin to make changes in his life?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who inspired Cutts to change?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Cutts tell people about his project?

\_\_\_\_\_





Cutts's **idea worth spreading** is that we can become better versions of ourselves if we try something new—30 days at a time.

**PREVIEWING**

**A.** Scan the excerpt below from Cutts’s TED Talk. What should you think about when choosing a 30-day challenge?

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**B.** Complete the excerpt using the words below. Then watch (▶) Cutts’s TED Talk, and check your answers.

idea                      something                      time                      try                      years

“A few \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> ago, I felt like I was stuck in a rut. So I decided to follow in the footsteps of the great American philosopher, Morgan Spurlock, and try \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> new for 30 days. The \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> is actually pretty simple. Think about something you’ve always wanted to add to your life, and \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> it for the next 30 days. It turns out, 30 days is just about the right amount of \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> to add a new habit or subtract a habit—like watching the news—from your life.”

**stuck in a rut:** *idiom* to feel trapped or bored by routine

**turns out:** *v.* happens, ends, or develops in a particular way

The average American consumes over 600 teaspoons of sugar a month. For a 30-Day Challenge, Matt Cutts set out to survive a month without any.

