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**CHECK OUT  
NEW WRITING A-Z!**  
[writinga-z.com](http://writinga-z.com)

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### Ask a Learning A-Z Expert Join us on March 10th

During this 1 hour live session, a Learning A-Z expert will be available to answer any questions about the resources and features on Reading A-Z, Raz Plus and Raz Kids.

Engage parents/caregivers in learning how to support and encourage reading at home with our **English and Spanish Webinars.**

Teachers: Share registration links for [English](#) or [Spanish](#) parent/caregiver webinars.

**Join Live Webinars facilitated by our Certified Professional Learning Specialists.**

Click here for a list of Learning A-Z's live webinars including Ask an Expert.

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Professional Learning Manager - Southeast Region

## CORRELATION UPDATES

### Reading Series Correlation

- Benchmark Advance 2021 added

#### Benchmark Advance 2021

Raz-Plus resources can be used alongside Benchmark Advance 2021 to support knowledge and/or skill building.

Grade

2 ▾

Resources are updated regularly to enhance alignment.

▾ **Unit 1: Plants and Animals in Their Habitats**  
How do living things get what they need to survive?

- Week 1
- Week 2

### Curricula and Assessments Correlations

- i-Ready Correlations added

#### i-Ready

Raz-Plus resources can be used alongside i-Ready to support knowledge and/or skill building.

Grade

1 ▾

Resources are updated regularly to enhance alignment.

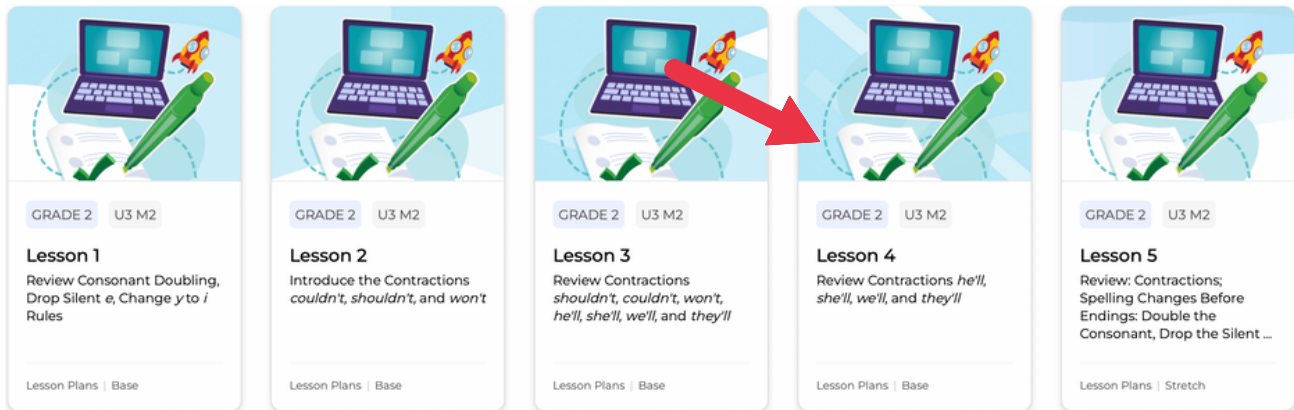
**Reading Series Literacy Blocks**

- Comprehension
- Comprehension: Informational Text
- Comprehension: Literature
- High Frequency Words
- Phonics
- Phonological Awareness
- Vocabulary

## LESSON PLAN RESOURCE CARDS

You can now understand where the resource lesson originates and what skill is specifically taught without having to open the card.

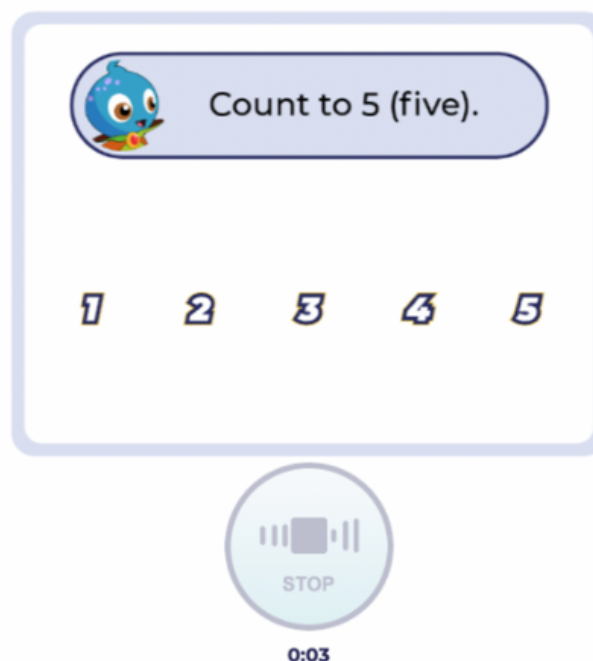
Lesson Plan Resource Cards now have more detail to distinguish the lesson including grade, unit, module it comes from as well as description.



## SPEECH RECOGNITION UPDATE

### Speech Recognition Software

- Eliminated "wait for the beep" step when calibrating headsets and microphones
- Improves speed at which students can begin recording themselves



### SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Science A-Z's **Science in the News** series builds on student engagement with a March issue containing articles such as:

- Dig Finds Unknown Queen
- Two Volcanoes Erupt in Hawaii
- How Can a Spider's Web Hold a Bird?
- Space Capsule Returns Safely to Earth



### Two Volcanoes Erupt in Hawaii

Many people stopped to watch the two volcanoes erupt. The Big Island has five volcanoes.

**Earth Science** People on the Big Island of Hawaii saw an odd sight not long ago. Two volcanoes erupted at once! Kilauea (KILL-uh-WAH-ah) was the first to go off. Its eruption began in September 2021. Then in November of 2022, Mauna Loa also erupted. The eruption was Mauna Loa's first in nearly forty years. Many people were excited to see the forces of nature at work. Others worried about the harm Mauna Loa might cause. It's Earth's largest volcano!

**Up and Out** The melted rock that feeds these volcanoes is from a "hot spot" deep underground. This magma may even come from near Earth's core! From there, it travels upward. Over time, it collects in large underground spaces. Lava that flows out of Mauna Loa and Kilauea comes from these spaces.

**Respect for Volcanoes** The eruptions were more than just a pretty light show. For many, they were a reason to celebrate. Native Hawaiian stories say the goddess Pele (PEH-lay) created the volcanoes. During the twin eruptions, many Native Hawaiians honored her with songs, chants, and dances. These things help keep the old ways alive.

**So Far, So Good** Thankfully, no roads, buildings, or people were harmed by the eruptions. In fact, neither volcano upset island life much at all. It was a welcome change from Kilauea's 2018 eruption. Hundreds of homes burned back then.

For now, Mauna Loa's eruption seems to be over. Both volcanoes went quiet on December 13. Quiet volcanoes don't always stay that way, though. On January 5, 2023, Kilauea started up again. The good news is that Kilauea isn't a danger to any homes or buildings at this time. Mauna Loa isn't known for stop-and-start eruptions. Scientists expect it to stay quiet for some time. ❖

**HOW THE HAWAIIAN "HOT SPOT" BUILDS VOLCANOES AND ISLANDS**

As the Pacific Plate slowly moves over the hot spot, new islands form.

### Can a Spiderweb Hold a Bird?

**Life Science** A man in Atlanta, Georgia, saw a cardinal in a spiderweb. He worried the bird was stuck, but it wasn't. The bird was standing on the strong web of a job spider and stealing its food. It was the first time scientists ever heard of this happening.

Scientists already knew that spiderwebs are super strong. Could the spider's web really hold a cardinal? A science fair experiment showed that it could.

Scientist Andy Davis and his son tested how much weight job spiderwebs can hold. It turns out the webs can hold up to 69 grams (2.4 oz.). That's a lot more than a cardinal weighs.

Joró spiders are large. They came from East Asia to Georgia in 2014. Since these spiders don't seem to cause harm, scientists suggest leaving them alone. ❖

**With their legs, job spiders can be as big as the palm of a person's hand.**

### Orion Capsule Returns Safely to Earth

**Space Science** On December 11, 2022, NASA ended its Artemis I mission with a splash. The Orion space capsule returned to Earth. It landed in the Pacific Ocean near Mexico.

The test flight had no crew. Instead, it had dummies. They each had sensors attached. The dummies will help scientists decide if Orion is safe enough to carry real astronauts.

The mission took twenty-five days. The capsule flew within 130 kilometers (80 mi.) of the Moon. So far, NASA scientists think the mission went well. For the next few months, they will study its data to be sure.

The next Artemis mission will carry a crew. However, it won't land on the Moon. That will come as part of a later mission. It will be the first time people land on the Moon since 1972! ❖

Parachutes helped slow down the capsule as it got close to Earth.

U.S. Navy crew helped get the space capsule out of the ocean.



## SPRING SEASONAL AVATARS

The **Spring Seasonal Avatars** will be cycling into the avatar builder with this release. Students who purchase any of these parts get to keep them, even after the Summer Seasonal Avatars roll out next year.

In addition to the usual Spring collection, this season will see a fun and varied assortment of all new seasonal parts!

