

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Raz-Plus Resources &
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Standards Alignment
for
Unit Assessments**
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**CHECK OUT
NEW WRITING A-Z!**
writing-z.com

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ask a Learning A-Z Expert Join us on January 13th

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.

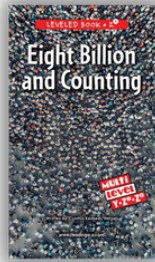
Join Live Webinars facilitated by our Certified Professional Learning Specialists.

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

Joanne.Sterling@learninga-z.com

Professional Learning Manager - Southeast Region

NEW ADDITIONS



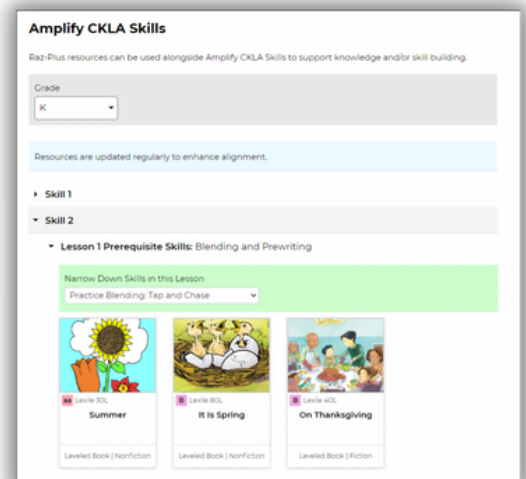
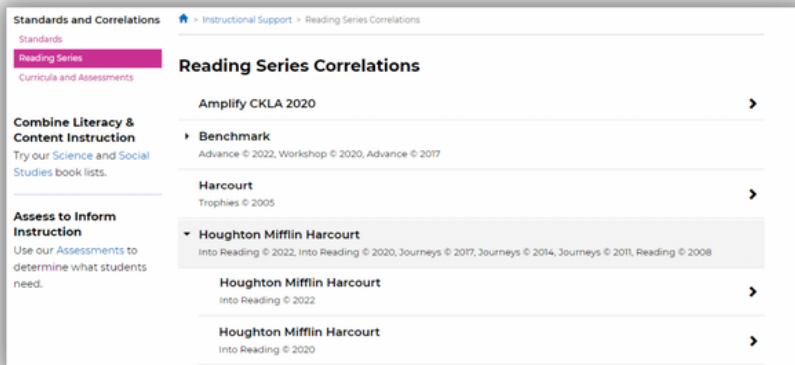
Level Y, Z1, Z2

- Cause and Effect Relationships
- Proper Use of Complex Sentences

CORRELATIONS

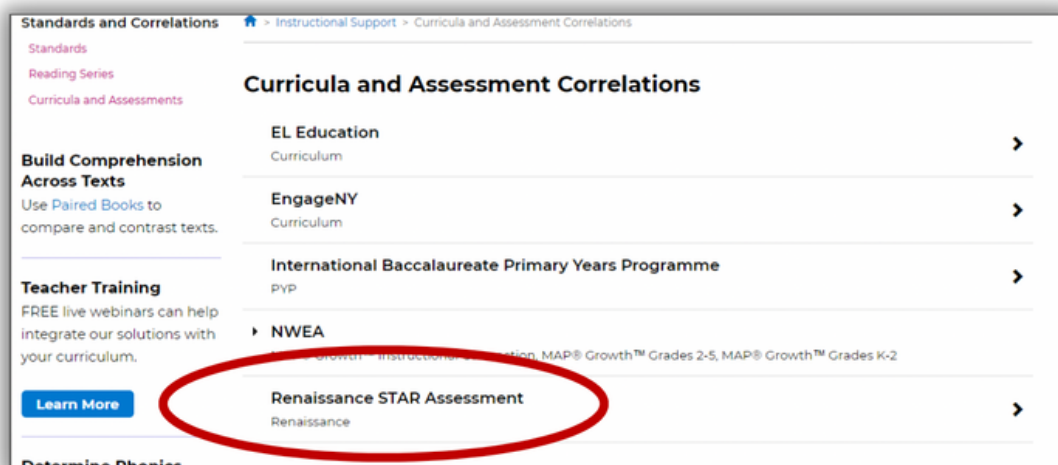
Reading Series Correlation Page Additions

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Reading 2020
- Amplify CKLA 2020



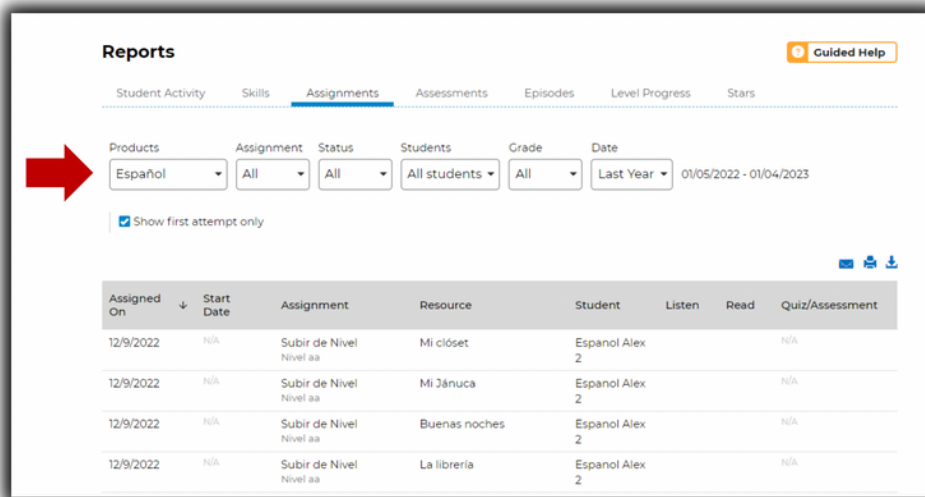
Curricula and Assessments Page Addition

- Renaissance Star Assessment

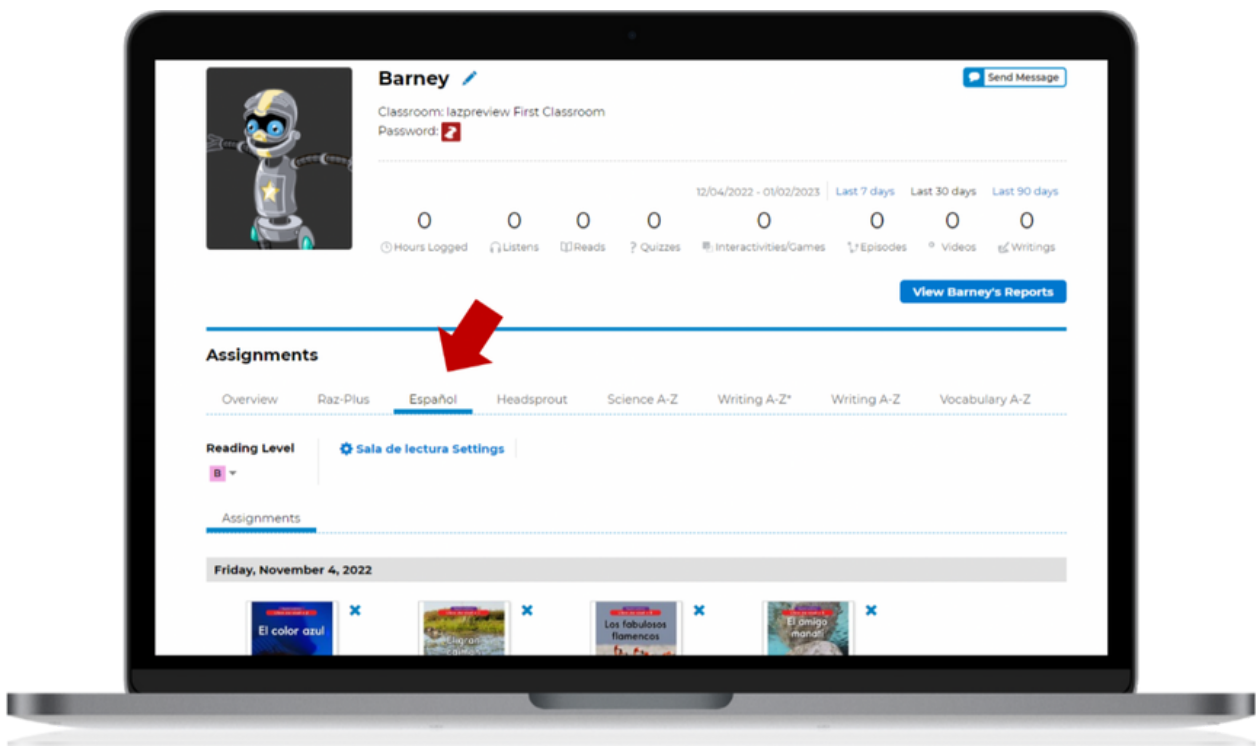


ADD-ON: RAZ-PLUS ESPAÑOL

The **Español add-on is adding a Classroom Assignment Report** to the Kids A-Z Student Management site, giving teachers a view of how students are progressing with their assignments, featuring the same great details and functionality found in the Raz-Plus (English) version of the report.



The other **Español reporting update** relates to the individual student landing page at the Kids A-Z Student Management site, where teachers can see how individual students are doing in their Spanish assignments.

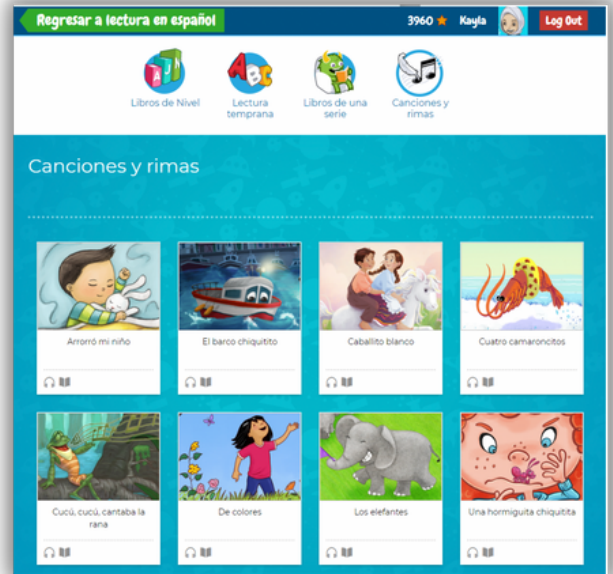


ADD-ON: RAZ-PLUS ESPAÑOL

Raz-Plus Español updated the Reading Room (or “Sala de Lectura”) to include:

- Books in a Series (“**Libros de una serie**”)
- Early Reading Books (“**Lectura temprana**”)
- Songs and Rhymes (“**Canciones y rimas**”)

Like their English counterparts, these collections can be **toggled on and off** by teachers using the Reading Room settings function at the Kids A-Z Student Management site.

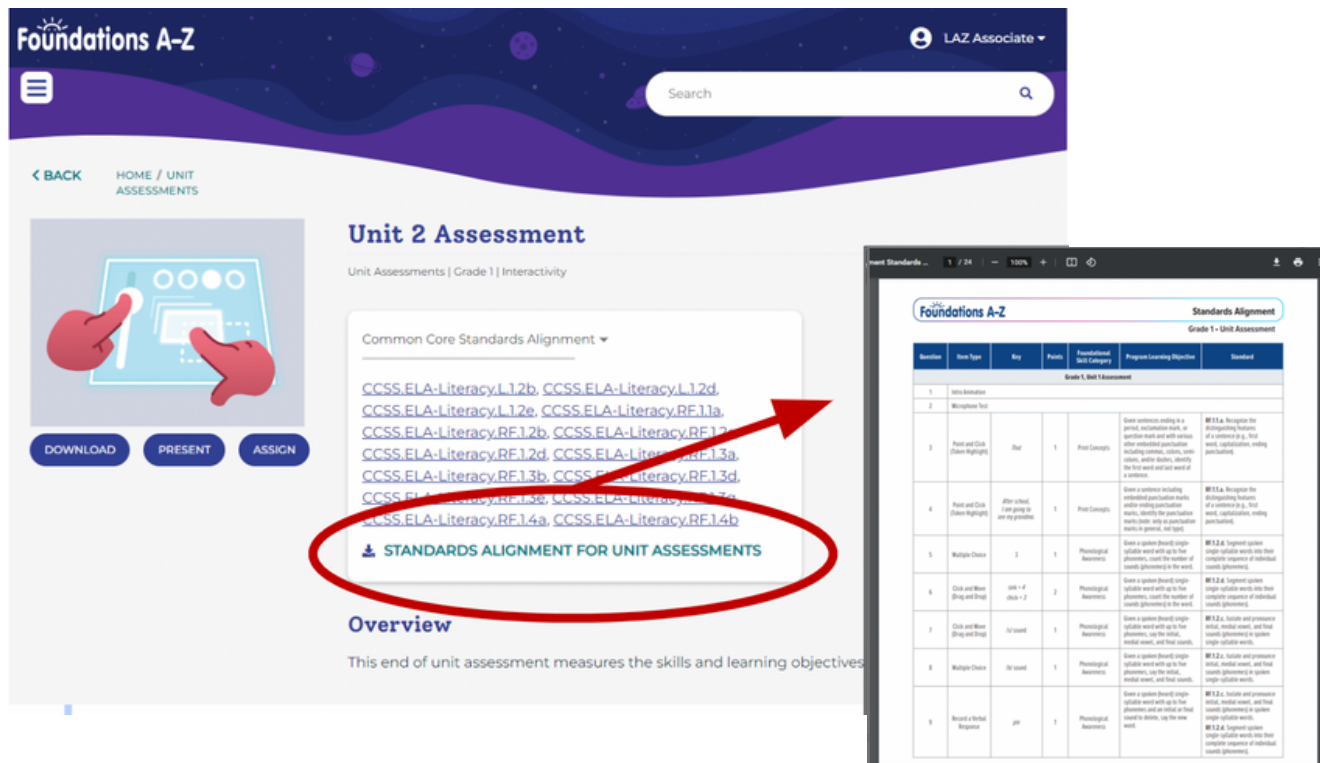


Spanish Close Read Passages have arrived for Raz-Plus Español, featuring an impressive 300 passages across five grade levels (Grades 2 through 6).

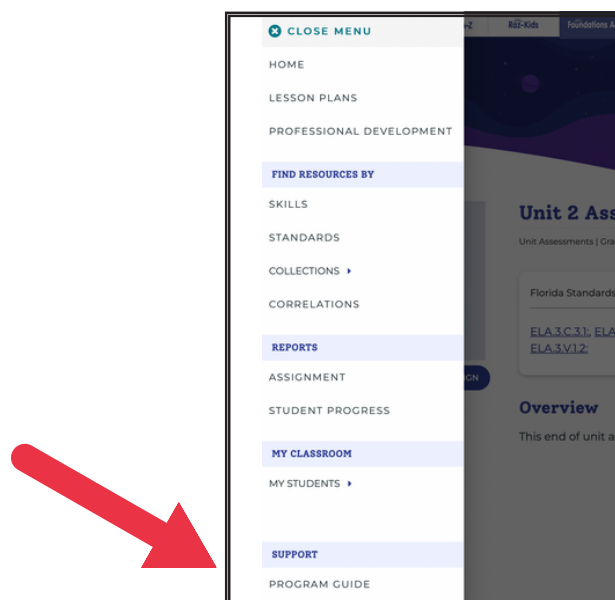


UPDATES

There is a new **“Standards Alignment for Unit Assessments” PDF download link** available on the Unit Assessment pages that provides a strong connection between every assessment item, type, points, skill category, learning objective, and standard for your state of choice resulting in very strategic planning, implementation, and assessment evaluation.



The Program Guide has been added to the primary site navigation, getting teachers to the information they need from any location in the product site.



SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

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

- People Toss Puffins into the Sea
- Ice Bucket Challenge Leads to New ALS Medicine
- DART Changes Asteroid's Orbit
- Malaria Vaccine Offers New Hope



SCIENCE IN THE NEWS January 2023

People Toss Pufflings into the Sea

Environment People in Iceland throw baby puffins, or pufflings, over the edges of cliffs. This may seem strange, but it's important! A gentle toss helps these little birds survive. Pufflings hatch on cliffs but spend most of their lives at sea. Newly hatched chicks must find their way to the sea to survive. Normally, moonlight helps them know which way to go. However, bright city lights sometimes confuse the birds. They can get lost around harbors and buildings.

If lost pufflings don't survive, they will not reproduce. This would lead to a drop in puffin numbers. People get the birds back on track by carefully picking them up and tossing them toward the sea. This also helps scientists, who collect data about the pufflings before people send them on their way.

Safety Be safe around wildlife.

- Never go near or pick up an animal without training and help from an adult.
- Wear gloves to keep both yourself and the animal safe.
- Never handle wildlife without a good reason.

The Westman Islands are part of Iceland, a country in Europe. Many Atlantic puffins lay their eggs there.

Ice Bucket Challenge Leads to New ALS Medicine

Life Science Social media trends are often just fun ways to pass time and make other people laugh. However, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge was different. People made videos of themselves or others dumping buckets of ice water over their heads. They did it to raise money. Many people came through in a big way. The trend raised \$15 million for the ALS Association!

ALS is a deadly disease. It affects cells in the spinal cord and brain. Thanks to the Ice Bucket Challenge, ALS research has sped up. Scientists used some of the money to create a new ALS medicine. Though the disease is still deadly, this drug slows it down. The Ice Bucket Challenge is just one example of people working together to make a difference.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS January 2023

Malaria Vaccine Offers New Hope

Life Science In some countries, a mosquito bite may cause more than an itchy bump. It may also leave behind a nasty parasite. A parasite is a living thing that grows on or feeds off another living thing. This parasite causes a serious illness called malaria. People with malaria may have a fever, chills, and body pain. Sadly, more than 400,000 people lose their lives to the illness each year. Most are children. Scientists are working hard to lower that number.

A Huge Problem Malaria is found mainly in warm, wet parts of the world. It is very common in many African countries. Billions of people are at risk. Hanging bug nets over beds prevents some bites. Putting poison on surfaces also helps. Many people still get sick, though.

New Hope Malaria parasites change during their life cycle. They change form and move to different parts of the body. This makes it hard to create a vaccine—a medicine to help prevent the illness. Even so, scientists rose to the challenge. A team at the University of Oxford in England made a new vaccine. It lowered the risk of malaria by 80 percent during a small test. It's not the first malaria vaccine. However, if larger tests show the same results, it may be the best one so far. The new vaccine is also cheap to make. That's good news for both the makers and users.

Making It Happen Early results look hopeful. However, the vaccine isn't yet ready for the public. Scientists need to test the vaccine with a larger group of volunteers first. If that test goes well, the vaccine may be ready for use sometime in 2023. Will the Oxford vaccine change the world? Only time will tell. It certainly brings hope that we can win the battle against malaria.

DO YOU KNOW? The earliest forms of malaria are at least 100 million years old. Some dinosaurs might have had malaria!

WHERE IS MALARIA FOUND AROUND THE WORLD?

Almost all deaths from malaria each year are in Africa.

More than three billion people are at risk for malaria. That's almost half of all people on Earth!

More than two-thirds of all malaria deaths are children under five years old.

Since 2000, the number of people who die each year from malaria has dropped by half, saving ten million lives.