

Unit 14 - Why the Sea is Salty

assist / circular / crafty / demonstrate / envy / generosity / hardship / humble / lack / portion

14A Introduction

Before there was such a thing as science, people made up stories to explain why things are the way they are. Some people thought the moon was made out of cheese. Some people thought that a man on a horse pulled the sun across the sky every day. Other people wondered why the water in the ocean is so salty. This is the story that they created.

14B Song Lyrics

Flocabulary answers the question everyone wants to know: Why the sea is salty...

Once upon a time, in a faraway land
Lived a lady, and her name was Ann.
Ann had a tough life, understand.
She had no money; needed someone to give her a hand.
Lived a **humble** life, didn't have riches or power,
Plus she was **humble**, wasn't rude or too proud or mean.
But her life was full of **hardships**, difficult things,
She wanted something different, you see.
So one day Ann was walking through the woods,
Hungry and not really feeling very good,
When she came upon a **circular** box,
The box was round and it was on the ground.
And then a tiny man jumped from behind a tree,
Ann was like, "Oh my Lord, who's he?"
The dude said, "Ann, I know your life is bad,
And there's a lot of things I know you wish you had.
Well, this little box will **assist** you with that,
It will help you get the things that you wish that you had.
To start it, just say something like this:
'Magic box, make ice cream, lickety-split!'"
And then Ann was shocked as she watched the box,
As ice cream started coming out the top.
The dude said, "Oh, and to make it stop,



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Just say, 'Stop—stop now, now, magic box!'"
And then the ice cream stopped.
And the dude disappeared, leaving Ann with the box.
She took the box home, she could hardly believe it,
Thanks to this box, she had whatever she needed.

Now Ann **lacked** nothing; there was nothing that she didn't have.
You wanted juice? She could make it in a minute, man.
She gave a **portion** to the people she knew, hey,
She gave a part of whatever she made that day.
Because she had **generosity**—she liked to give,
She thought that giving back was the nicest thing.
But one guy had **envy**,
He was mad that Ann had something that he didn't,
Something he was missing.
This envious dude, Hugh, was a captain on a boat,
He was thinking, "If I had that box as my own,
I wouldn't have to go all over the globe
Just to bring people spices and gold."
Hugh was **crafty**, sneaky like a fox,
He needed to know how Ann started the box.
So he snuck to her window and heard her say this:
"Magic box, make me milk, lickety-split!"
So Hugh just left, but came back the next day,
While Ann was away visiting her friend Dave.
And Hugh stole the box, hid it in his coat,
Then walked down and got straight on his boat.
Now, at the time, salt was really hard to find,
I mean, one grain of salt probably cost a dime.
So Hugh sailed to sea, and then said this:
"Magic box, make me salt, lickety-split!"
Salt came pouring out of the box real quick,
And Hugh thought, "Ha! I'm going to be rich."
Now the pile of salt was reaching the top
Of the ship; Hugh needed it to stop.
He yelled, "Magic box, stop quick!"
But no one had **demonstrated** or shown him how to stop it.
"Stop!" he screamed, but it kept coming!
If he was on dry land, he would've started running!
So the boat sank along with Hugh and the box,
It sits at the bottom of the sea, and it never stops.
It goes on and on, and so some say,
That's why the sea's so salty to this day...

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14C Words Defined

assist / circular / crafty / demonstrate / envy / generosity / hardship / humble / lack / portion

assist

(verb) To give help or support. *Tony was hurt, so I **assisted** him in walking to the car.*



assist

circular

(adj) Looking like, forming, or moving like a circle; round. *It was hard to hang pictures in the **circular** room.*

crafty

(adj) Skilled at tricking others. *The man was so **crafty** that he tricked me into giving him \$20.*

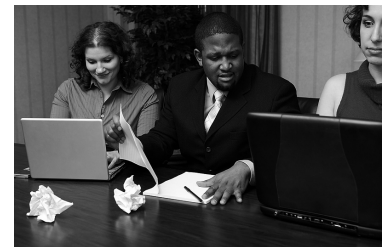
demonstrate

(verb) 1. To clearly explain, show, or prove with examples. *I can **demonstrate** to you how gravity works by dropping my pencil.* 2. To gather with people in public to support a cause; to protest. *Jean was against the war, so she and her friends spent their Saturdays **demonstrating** in front of the state house.*

envy

(noun) A feeling of unhappiness caused by wanting what someone else has; jealousy. *When Russell found out he was the only one in the room without a laptop, he was filled with **envy**.*

(verb) To wish you had something that someone else has. *I **envy** Leo: He's smart, tall, and he always dresses in nice clothes.*



envy

generosity

(noun) A willingness to give things to others. *Pedro, always willing to share his lunch, won an award for his **generosity**.*

hardship

(noun) Something that causes suffering or difficulty; a condition that is hard to bear. *Growing up poor in the hills of Pakistan, Abbas faced many **hardships**.*

humble

(adj) Not proud or full of yourself; modest. *Even though Lateef had won the poetry competition, he stayed very **humble** about it.*

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lack

(noun) A shortage. With a **lack** of options and time running out, James launched the ball through the air toward the basket.

(verb) To be without; to not have. They said I couldn't take the diving class because I **lacked** basic swimming skills.

portion

(noun) A part or share of the whole. I always save a **portion** of my allowance: I'm trying to buy a robot.

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14D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

assist / circular / crafty / demonstrate / envy / generosity / hardship / humble / lack / portion

1. modest	crafty	circular	humble
2. to give help or support	demonstrate	envy	assist
3. a part of the whole	lack	hardship	portion
4. something that causes difficulty	hardship	envy	lack
5. skilled at tricking others	generous	crafty	humble

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14E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

assist / circular / crafty / demonstrate / envy / generosity / hardship / humble / lack / portion

1. Karen's _____ is amazing: She gives half of her allowance to charity every week!

generosity

envy

portion

2. I sometimes _____ my brother because he gets so much attention from our parents.

envy

lack

assist

3. I saved a _____ of my lunch to eat as an afternoon snack.

portion

hardship

lack

4. The _____ fox snuck into the henhouse when the farmer was asleep.

generous

circular

crafty

5. John acts _____ about his tennis skills, but I know he's one of the best players in the state.

circular

crafty

humble

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14F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. Before we play the game, let me show you how to play it.

2. I forgot my roller skates, but Missy was nice enough to lend me hers.

3. Ben spun the hula hoop around and around his waist in a steady motion.

4. The store doesn't have the comic I want; I hope they get some more.

5. Why does everyone think Martin's so great? I'm jealous of him!

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14G Applying Meanings*Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.*

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1. Which object is usually **circular**?
(A) a stop sign
(B) a clock
(C) an ice cream cone
(D) a TV
2. What was a **hardship** faced by early Americans?
(A) no running water
(B) lots of clean air
(C) a sense of adventure
(D) fresh fruits and vegetables
3. What's one way to **assist** your teacher?
(A) Pass notes in class.
(B) Ask for a ride after school.
(C) Ignore your homework.
(D) Clean the chalkboard.
4. Who or what could **demonstrate** a magic trick?
(A) a rabbit
(B) an audience
(C) a magician
(D) a magic wand
5. If you had a **lack** of water, you would
(A) be thirsty
(B) go swimming
(C) need a bathroom
(D) be clean

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14H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

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Dikembe Mutombo

It is hard to believe there was a time when Dikembe Mutombo (pronounced “Da-kim-bee Moo-tom-bow”) did not like playing basketball. Mutombo grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country in Africa. Mutombo grew and kept growing. By the time he was in high school, he was seven feet tall!

Even though he was tall, Mutombo had a **lack** of interest in basketball. He really wanted to be a doctor so he could **assist** sick people. Still, his parents begged him to try basketball. He finally agreed. He quickly became very good. At 19, he joined the DRC’s national team. While playing for this team, he was seen by an American named Herman Henning. Henning helped Mutombo get accepted at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

When Mutombo arrived at Georgetown, he did not speak any English. He studied for six hours a day with an English coach. Mutombo worked hard at basketball, too. He became a star of the team. Mutombo still did not want to play basketball for a living, but he was just too good! He was picked to play for the Denver Nuggets, an NBA team.

Mutombo played professional basketball for 18 years. He became famous as a basketball player. But he also became known for his **generosity**. Mutombo wanted to fix the **hardships** he saw in his home country, the DRC. He saw that they especially needed good hospitals. Mutombo used a **portion** of his fortune to build a hospital in the DRC. He named the hospital after his mother.



Today, Mutombo is a hero in the DRC. He is a hero in America, too. In 2007, President George W. Bush honored Mutombo in a speech. Afterward, the **humble** basketball player said, “My heart was full of joy. I didn’t know the president was going to say such great remarks.”

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1. Why does the author write "it is hard to believe there was a time when Dikembe Mutombo did not like playing basketball"?

2. What did Mutombo want to do for a living?

3. Where did Mutombo go to college?

4. Why did Mutombo have to take English lessons when he came to America?

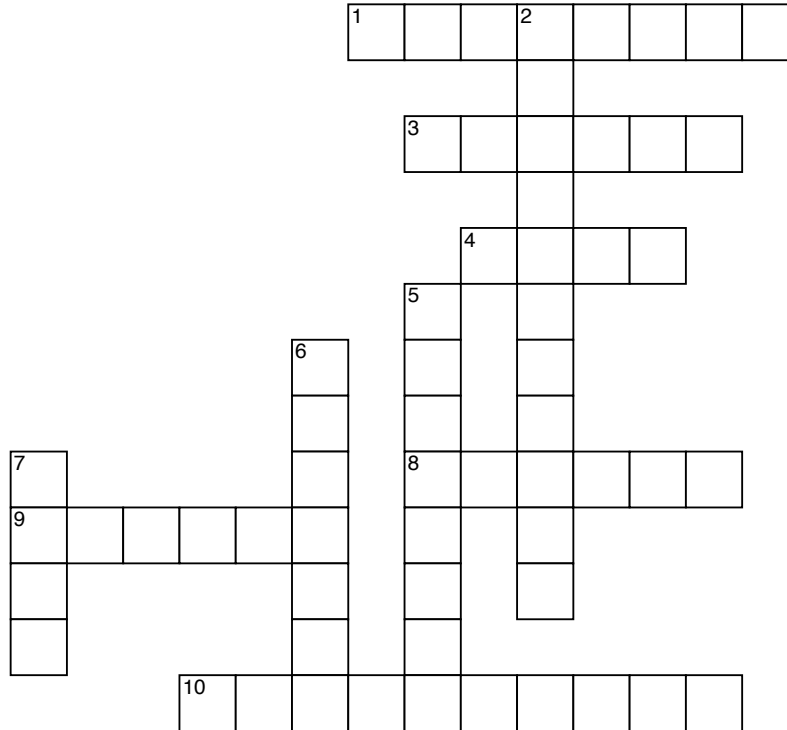
5. How did Mutombo help his home country?

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.

assist / circular / crafty / demonstrate / envy / generosity / hardship / humble / lack / portion



ACROSS

- 1 The mountain climber suffered great _____ when he was trapped inside the frozen cave.
- 3 Not full of yourself.
- 4 I _____ Michael Jordan; I hope I can have a life like his someday.
- 8 Sami is so _____! She tricked every kid in the class into giving her a dollar for lunch.
- 9 To help or support.
- 10 Mrs. King's _____ is well known around town. I wonder if she ever gets tired of people asking her for favors.

DOWN

- 2 I asked my teacher to _____ how to solve the math problem on the board.
- 5 In the shape of a circle.
- 6 A small _____ of the audience tonight will get to go backstage after the show.
- 7 Our school has a _____ of money, so we can't afford classes like art or music.