



## Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

### Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

The cousins in this book live so far away from each other that they're always doing different things at different times. Find out how they keep in contact.

### Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

Make links to any family or friends the student has who live far away, using a map to show the places and distances. Point out where California and Argentina are on a map and discuss such things as the different time zones and seasons. As you look through the book together, identify any unfamiliar words and discuss them (examples: swim, planting, snowboarding, vacation, breakfast).

## Conferencing

### Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
  - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
  - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
  - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
  - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

### Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

## Comprehension questions

1. In which parts of the Americas do the two cousins live?
2. When one cousin is swimming in summer, what is the other cousin doing?
3. What do the cousins do so that they don't seem so far away from each other?
4. Why are the cousins always doing different things?
5. What might the cousins write about in their emails to each other?

## Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. One lives in California in North America, and the other lives in Argentina in South America.
2. The other cousin is snowboarding in the winter.
3. They email each other.
4. Because of the different time zones and seasons they live in.
5. Answers will vary.

## Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

### Purpose

Use apostrophes to indicate contractions.

### Introduce the concept and practice

Contractions are made when two words are combined to make one, and an apostrophe shows that some of the original letters are missing.

When the student is familiar with *My Cousin Far Away*, teach the concept of contractions. Model how to make a contraction. Write up a list of common contractions and the two words used in each contraction. Ask the student to identify the contractions in *My Cousin Far Away* (we're, it's, she's, I'm, she'd, doesn't) and to write down the two words that were used to form each contraction.





**Name:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Introduction:** The cousins in this book live so far away from each other that they're always doing opposite things at different times. Find out how they keep in contact.

**Errors**  
**M S**

I live in California, in North America. My cousin lives far \_\_\_\_\_ .

My cousin lives in Argentina, \_\_\_\_\_ South America. When it's \_\_\_\_\_ in North America, it's winter \_\_\_\_\_ South America.

When I \_\_\_\_\_ leaves in the fall, \_\_\_\_\_ planting flowers in the \_\_\_\_\_ . When I swim in \_\_\_\_\_ summer, she's snowboarding in \_\_\_\_\_ winter. When I'm \_\_\_\_\_ vacation, she's in school. \_\_\_\_\_ wish I could visit \_\_\_\_\_ , but she'd be in school. The time \_\_\_\_\_ Argentina is five hours ahead \_\_\_\_\_ our time in California. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm eating breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ 7 a.m., she's eating lunch \_\_\_\_\_ noon. When I'm eating \_\_\_\_\_ at noon, she's making \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ hard to reach my \_\_\_\_\_ by phone. It's best \_\_\_\_\_ us to email each other. I write \_\_\_\_\_ before I go to bed. She reads my emails while I'm asleep. When I wake \_\_\_\_\_, I read \_\_\_\_\_ reply. Then, my cousin doesn't seem so far away at all.

<b>Accuracy Chart</b> (Exact word replacement only)		
Words Entered	Score	Level
More than 11 correct		Independent
10 or 11 correct		Instructional
Fewer than 10 correct		Frustration

**Errors**  
**M** = Meaning (makes sense) \_\_\_\_ **S** = Syntax (sounds right) \_\_\_\_

Heard  Seen  Unseen

Comments: .....





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I live in California, in North America.  
My cousin lives far away.  
My cousin lives in Argentina, in South America.  
When it's summer in North America,  
it's winter in South America.

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When I rake leaves in the fall,  
she's planting flowers in the spring.  
The time in Argentina is five hours ahead  
of our time in California.

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When I'm eating breakfast at 7 a.m.,  
she's eating lunch at noon.  
It's hard to reach my cousin by phone.

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It's best for us to email each other.  
I write her before I go to bed.  
She reads my email while I'm asleep.  
When I wake up, I read her reply.  
Then, my cousin doesn't feel so far away at all!

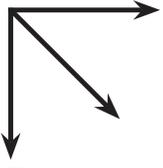
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Name: ..... Date: .....

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

b	b	w	f	b	y	w	m	u	s
r	a	e	i	a	f	h	y	p	e
e	w	g	f	s	r	e	i	n	e
a	a	i	o	o	h	n	t	o	m
k	y	i	f	v	r	w	i	t	h
f	w	r	i	t	e	e	o	d	f
a	s	c	h	o	o	l	n	i	a
s	t	i	m	e	a	t	e	d	l
t	c	o	u	l	d	t	h	e	l
d	i	n	n	e	r	l	i	v	e

**Words to find:**

- |       |        |        |           |      |
|-------|--------|--------|-----------|------|
| at    | away   | before | breakfast | by   |
| could | did    | dinner | fall      | far  |
| go    | if     | in     | live      | my   |
| on    | school | seem   | the       | time |
| to    | up     | when   | wish      | with |
| write |        |        |           |      |

Use the letters that are left to tell how many hours ahead of California the time in Argentina is.....





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

**START**  
You live in California, and your cousin lives far way in Argentina.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>19</b> You wish you could visit your cousin, but she'd be in school if you did. Miss a turn.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Time in Argentina is 5 hours ahead of time in California. Spin again. Go forward that number.	<b>4</b> You're always doing different things to your cousin. Spin again. If you spin a 3 or a 4, go back to 1.
<b>18</b>	<b>END</b> You email your cousin. Then she doesn't feel so far away at all.		<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b> You're eating your breakfast at 7 a.m. while your cousin is eating lunch at noon. Go back 3 spaces.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>16</b> You're on vacation. Name 2 numbers. If you spin one of those numbers, go on to 18.	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b> When your cousin is making dinner, you're eating lunch at noon. Spin again. Go back that number.	<b>8</b> You're raking the leaves in fall while your cousin is planting flowers in spring. Go on to 11.	<b>9</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b> With your different times, it's hard to keep in touch with your cousin. Go back to 23.	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b> Your cousin is snowboarding in winter while you're swimming in summer. Go forward 3 spaces.	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>



Name: ..... Date: .....

Write the emails that the cousins wrote each other.

To: .....

From: .....

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To: .....

From: .....

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Write on the back of this page if you need more space.



One cousin lives in North America and the other lives in South America. They will each want to know what the other is doing, what season it is, and what time it is.

