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# Meeting Standards



Listed below are the McREL standards for Language Arts Level 2 (Grades 3–5). All standards and benchmarks are used with permission from McREL.

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McREL Standards are in **bold**. Benchmarks are in regular print. All lessons meet the following standards and benchmarks (unless noted).

## **Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing**

- Uses a variety of sentence structures in writing (All lessons where writing a complete sentence option is followed.)

## **Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions**

- Writes in cursive (All lessons where teacher follows the option of writing a sentence using a new word or completion of beginning sentence options in cursive.)
- Uses conventions of spelling, capitalization, and punctuation in writing compositions (All lessons where teacher follows option of writing a sentence using a new word or completion of beginning sentence options.)

## **Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process**

- Previews text
- Establishes a purpose for reading
- Represents concrete information as explicit mental pictures
- Uses phonetic and structural analysis techniques, syntactic structure, and semantic context to decode unknown words
- Use a variety of context clues to decode unknown words
- Understands level-appropriate reading vocabulary
- Monitors own reading strategies and makes modifications as needed
- Adjusts speed of reading to suit purpose and difficulty of material
- Understands the author's purpose

## **Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of informational texts**

- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of informational texts
- Summarizes and paraphrases information in texts
- Uses prior knowledge and experience to understand and respond to new information

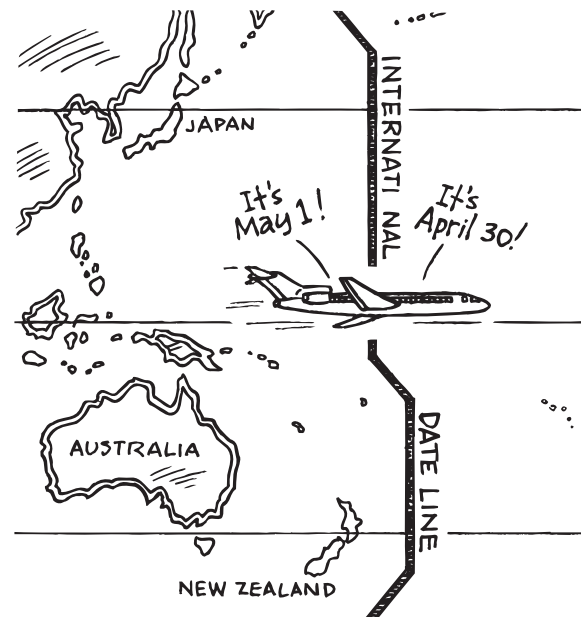
# Losing a Year for a Day



Debra was 10 years old. She had her birthday on May 1st. Then, she went back to being nine years old. After a day, she was 10 years old again. Debra lost a year for a day. She had two birthdays. How was it possible?

Debra crossed the International Date Line. The International Date Line is a hypothetical line. Something hypothetical is supposed. The date line is a supposed line. It is not real. It runs pretty much with the meridian  $180^\circ$  from Greenwich, England. The Date Line is fixed. It is fixed by international agreement. It is fixed as the place where each calendar day first begins.

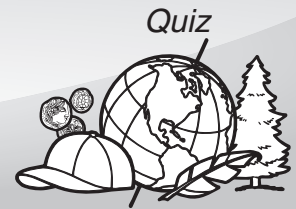
Debra crossed the line going east. If one crosses the line going east, one sets one's calendar back one day. Debra had two birthdays by being west of the date line on her birthday, May 1st. Then, Debra crossed the line going east. East of the line, the date was not May 1st. It was April 30th. Debra was no longer ten. She was nine again! She remained nine until it was May 1st on the eastern side of the date line.



Why is there a date line? Why is there international agreement about a hypothetical line? Think about business. Think about schedules. A schedule is a timetable. The world would be a very confusing place if everyone had their own time. What if a plane left and landed on its own time? How would people know when it was arriving or leaving local time? Schedules would be impossible to work out!

In 1884, nations agreed to divide the world into 24 time zones. Twelve time zones are east of Greenwich. Twelve time zones are west of Greenwich. There is one hour of time difference between each zone. Greenwich, England was chosen as "starting time" because most sailors around the world already used Greenwich as their prime meridian, or line of 0 degrees longitude on their maps. The date line does not run exactly at the  $180^\circ$  meridian because it jogs around some countries the line would divide.

# Losing a Year for a Day



After reading the story, answer the questions.  
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. How many time zones are there?

- (a) 10
- (b) 12
- (c) 24
- (d) 180

2. This story is mainly about

- (a) the starting point
- (b) a hypothetical line
- (c) Debra's two birthdays
- (d) birthdays around the world

3. If one traveled westward over the International Date Line, one would

- (a) move one's calendar back one day
- (b) move one's calendar ahead one day
- (c) keep one's calendar at the same day
- (d) keep one's calendar in the same time zone

4. What is not true about the International Date Line?

- (a) It is a hypothetical line.
- (b) It was agreed upon in 1884.
- (c) It runs along the line of  $0^\circ$  latitude.
- (d) It jogs around some countries it would divide.

5. Think about how the word *clock* relates to *time*. What words relate in the same way?

**clock : time**

- (a) zone : hour
- (b) east : west
- (c) start : begin
- (d) calendar : day