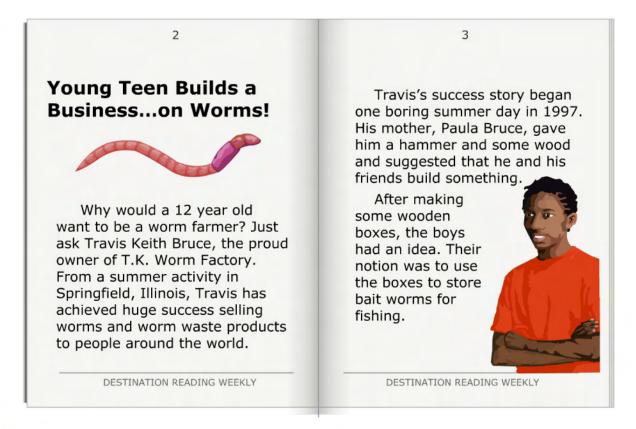
UNIT 16: Young Teen Builds a Business... on Worms!



- You can see that this article is about worms and worm farming. Make a K-W-L chart before you read any further. Under "K," type what you know about worms and worm farming. For example, perhaps you already know what worms eat. Under "W," type what you want to know about worms and worm farming. Maybe you're curious about whether one person can run a worm-farming business. Leave the L column blank for now. You'll fill that in after you've finished the article.
- The schwa vowel sound—pronounced "uh"—can be spelled with any vowel. It is contained in the words Ill-uh-nois, prod-uh-cts, s-uh-ggested, and wood-uh-n? Can you hear it? Find it in three other words in the selection.
- The main idea is the most important idea in a paragraph. Often the main idea is stated in one of the paragraph's sentences. Which sentence states the main idea of the second paragraph?

DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

UNIT 16: Young Teen Builds a Business... on Worms!

4 membered tha

Later, Travis remembered that his grandfather had once told him that worms love to eat almost anything. Now, Travis wanted to know more. On the Internet, Travis learned about vermicomposting, which means "worm composting". After worms eat, they eliminate waste materials called castings. This worm "manure" forms a natural fertilizer, or compost, that enriches soil and helps plants grow. The beauty of the system is that the worms will eat almost any natural substance. For example, you can feed worms garbage such as vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, bread, and even newspapers. Then, poof! From rubbish to riches—rich compost, that is!

DESTINATION READING WEEKLY



It's a Dirty Business, but Someone Has to Do It

Soon Travis realized he could make money from his wriggling pals. He decided to sell shipments of his worm fertilizer. He also decided to sell the animals themselves. His customers were people who bought the worms for their gardens, or to use as fishing bait.

DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

UNIT 16: Young Teen Builds a Business... on Worms!

6

Travis found that three types of worms worked best for composting: European night crawlers, African night crawlers, and red worms. These worms aren't picky. They eat a huge amount of debris. In return, they produce an abundant amount of manure. That meant good business for Travis!

Needed: More Wriggle Room

Travis quickly began receiving lots of orders for his products. The business was growing by leaps and bounds. Travis realized he needed more room for his wriggling workers and their compost. He rented space in a warehouse. By moving into this large, open building, Travis was able to expand his company. Besides selling to local customers, Travis started using the Internet to sell his products to people in other countries. Some of his shipments went as far as Ecuador and Japan.

DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

7

To meet the demands of his growing company, Travis needed some help. In addition to his mom, many of his classmates worked with Travis. His friend Decardos Maddox became the comanager of the worm warehouse. Together, the young men fed the worms, harvested the compost, and cleaned the warehouse. They also prepared shipments and explored better ways to run the business.



DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

not alwa Since th	ays stated. What e main idea is no	is the main ide ot directly state	main idea, but the main ea of the second parag ed, think about the top say about this topic a	raph ic of

DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

UNIT 16: Young Teen Builds a Business... on Worms!

8

In return for his friends' help, Travis made deals with them. Once, his schoolmates needed extra money to buy sports equipment for the school team. Travis used proceeds from his business to buy what was needed. Then, he employed his classmates, at the rate of \$5 per hour, to repay the loan.



DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

9

Travis Wins an Award

In 2000, Travis won a Kidpreneurs Award. This award honors young entrepreneurs, or people who have started their own businesses. Travis was invited to attend a special conference for 120 young African-American entrepreneurs at Walt Disney World® in Orlando, Florida. There, Travis and other Kidpreneurs took classes in finance and learned how to create business plans. They also learned methods for selling their products and services.

DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

first syllable of a word. Listen to the sound the first "a" make in these words: award. Attend.	n

The letter "a" often has the schwa sound "uh" when it is the

DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

UNIT 16: Young Teen Builds a Business... on Worms!

10 11 **Business Benefits** Most important, Travis became a role model. He proved how When Travis became a senior successful you can be when you in high school, he was very busy have a good idea and put it to with sports and other school work. activities. When he started making plans to attend college, he scaled back his business. But his mother says that the experience of running his own business was great for Travis. He learned how to put profits back in the business, rather than just spending the money he made. He also learned how to balance his time among school, sports, clubs, and business. DESTINATION READING WEEKLY DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

word profits?
Magazine articles usually have headings like this to tell you whathe different sections are about. Sometimes the headings give information but are also humorous. Which headings added som humor to this article?