

English II

STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2016

RELEASED

ENGLISH II

1

Air Force One, an aircraft used by the United States Air Force, is an important plane.



SSGT Alex Lloyd, USAF

Air Force One, an aircraft used by the United States Air Force, is an important plane. This plane provides air transportation for the president of the United States.

2b



SSGT Alex Lloyd, USAF



National Archives

The Solar Schoolhouse Program, an organization that teaches how the sun can be used to produce electricity, invites students to participate in the Solar Olympics. On a sunny day in California, students cheer as the small model cars they have made speed along a track. Each model car has a different design, but people who look closely will see something unusual about the race cars. Each race car has a solar panel and is powered by the sun.



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4b

The Solar Schoolhouse Program gives each student who participates a solar-powered car.

The Solar Schoolhouse Program provides heat that can be used to produce electricity for race cars.

The Solar Schoolhouse Program provides opportunities to learn about solar energy.

How to Do a Google Search

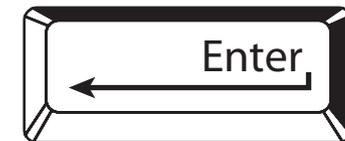
1. Open your Web browser



2. Type **www.google.com**



3. Press "Enter"



4. Type the topic



5. Click "Google Search"



How to Do a Google Search

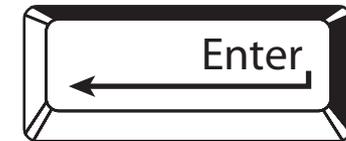
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to have a better chance of finding the topic you are researching

to find other topics related to the topic you entered in the search box

to go to the page with the most information about your topic

How to Do a Google Search

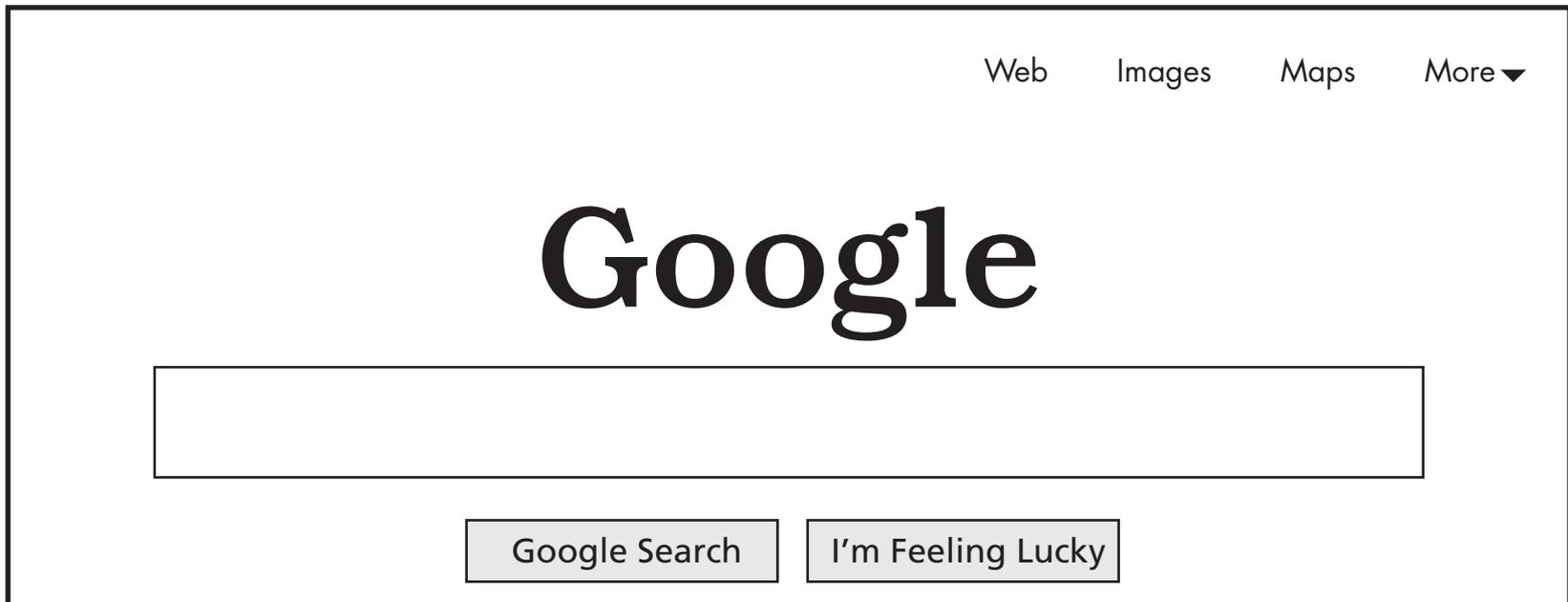
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8a

- To search for photographs or cartoons, select "Images" at the top of the Google page. Then follow Steps 4 and 5 to find the images you need.
- To search for the titles of books and magazines on your topic, click on "More" at the top of the Google page. Then select "Books."



to help the reader create a cartoon that will make the topic more interesting

to help the reader find different kinds of information on the selected topic

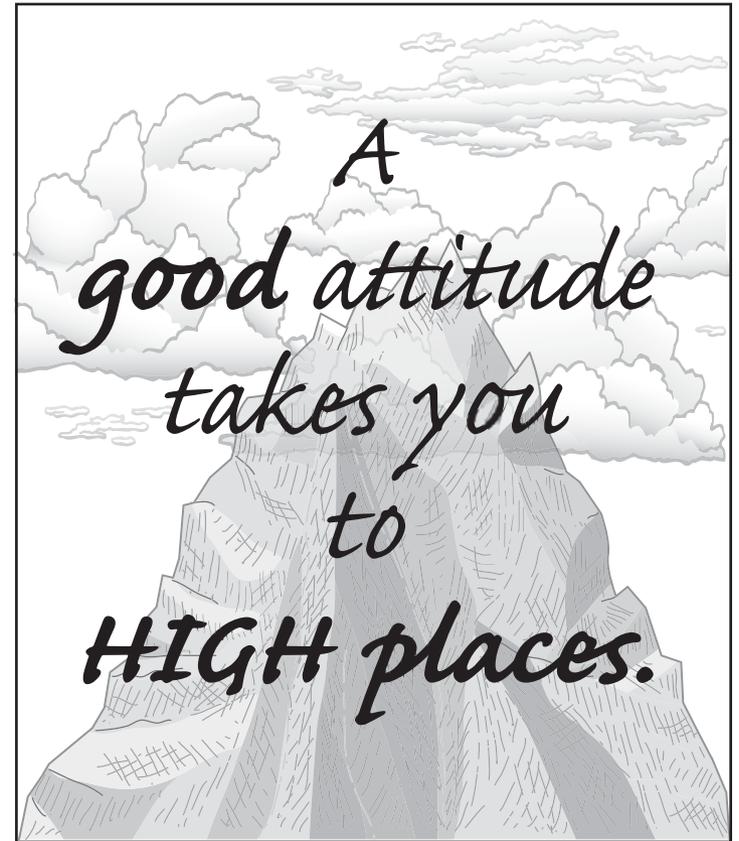
to help the reader organize resources on the selected topic

Changes in Attitude

Mike entered the locker room two hours before the basketball game. He knew he would be the only one there, and he liked it that way. He wanted his mind sharp, especially today with his team playing for the championship.



Mike sat in front of his locker. Taped inside his locker was a poster his coach had given him. Before every practice and every home game for nearly two years, Mike had read the words on the poster.





Mike remembered the day nearly two years ago when he was so close to giving up basketball. Early that day he went to the locker room with the intention of quitting the basketball team. He planned to get his things out of his locker and leave a note for Coach Smith.



But Coach Smith came in just as Mike was about to leave.

"What's up?" Coach asked. He thought there might be a problem because Mike's first day of practice had not gone well.

"I quit," said Mike.

"After one day? After only one practice?" Coach Smith asked.

Mike nodded his head. He was surprised that Coach didn't sound angry, even though his words were challenging.

"I thought you played well yesterday, Mike," Coach Smith said. "Most guys don't show up as ready on their first day."

"I haven't played like that since I was in third grade," said Mike with gritted teeth. "I used to dunk the ball."

"So what now, Mike? Are you telling me that you don't want to feel the thrill of scoring the winning point or leading your team to a championship? Do you think a man can't be a basketball player if he can't jump?"

Mike says he wants to quit the basketball team.

Mike challenges Coach Smith to a new basketball game.

Mike practices playing basketball with the team.

Coach Smith wheeled around and headed toward the gym. Just before he pushed through the door, he looked down at his own paralyzed legs and then back at Mike. "I can't jump, either, Mike, but I am a basketball player. I am a winner. It's not the legs that determine how high a man can rise. It's the heart. Attitude determines altitude."

Mike sat completely still after the coach left the locker room. He was stunned by the coach's words. He started to leave, determined to ignore Coach Smith's challenge. As he left the locker room he could hear the sound of a ball being dribbled. He shook his head from side to side because he did not want to hear that noise.

When Mike got outside the building, he stopped his wheelchair and sat still. He could still hear the faint sound of the basketball bouncing. Mike realized that it wasn't the basketball he was hearing. It was his own heart beating.

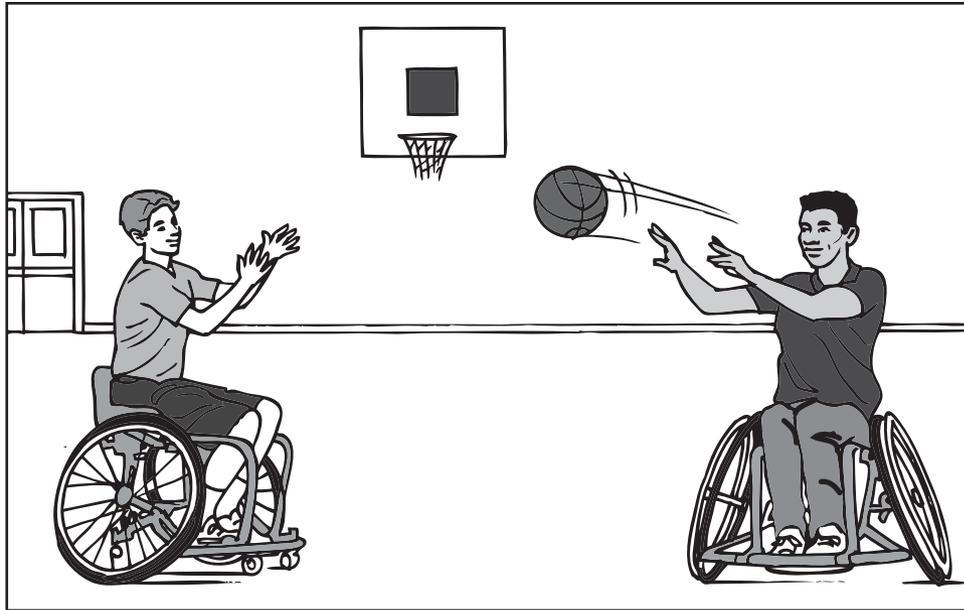
Mike turned his wheelchair around and headed toward the gym. With a hard push, Mike rolled onto the court. "Hey, Coach!" he shouted.

Coach Smith turned his wheelchair around to face Mike.

"You're right," Mike said.

Coach Smith threw the basketball to Mike so hard that it stung Mike's hands.

"Lesson number one," Coach Smith said with a smile. "The coach is always right."



That had been two years ago, and Coach Smith had been right about everything. Mike would always be grateful for what he had learned from Coach Smith, both on the court and off.

Coach Smith talks to Mike about his own physical challenges —

to describe how Mike can become a better basketball player

to explain why Mike should quit playing basketball

to inspire Mike to keep trying to play basketball

The giant panda is a typical bear. Its black-and-white coloring gives the panda a special look.



© Khoroshunova Olga/Shutterstock

The giant panda is a typical bear, but its black-and-white coloring gives the panda a special look.



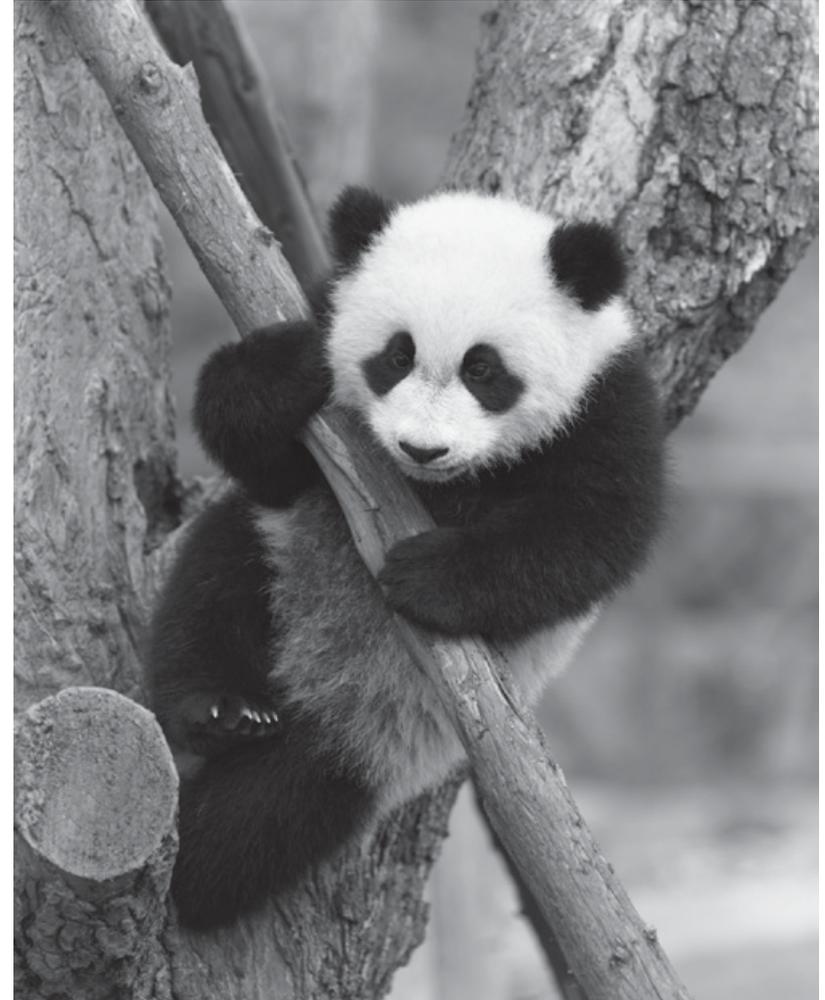
© Khoroshunova Olga/Shutterstock

Pandas live in bamboo forests in China. Much of the land where pandas live has been cleared for farming.

However, much of the land where pandas live has been cleared for farming.

The land has been cleared for farming.

Mother panda bears give birth to one or two babies every two years. The baby panda weighs three or four ounces at birth. It can weigh 75 pounds by its first birthday.



Instead the baby panda weighs three or four ounces at birth, and it can weigh 75 pounds by its first birthday.

Suddenly the baby panda weighs three or four ounces at birth, and it can weigh 75 pounds by its first birthday.

Although the baby panda weighs three or four ounces at birth, it can weigh 75 pounds by its first birthday.

16a

The newborn panda depends on its mother for several weeks after it is born. The mother spends all her time caring for the baby panda. The baby panda stays with its mother for two to three years. The mother panda teaches the baby everything it needs to know to take care of itself.

Pandas spend most of the day eating bamboo. A panda can digest only about a fifth of what it eats. It must spend more than 12 hours a day eating.



© Gang Liu/Shutterstock



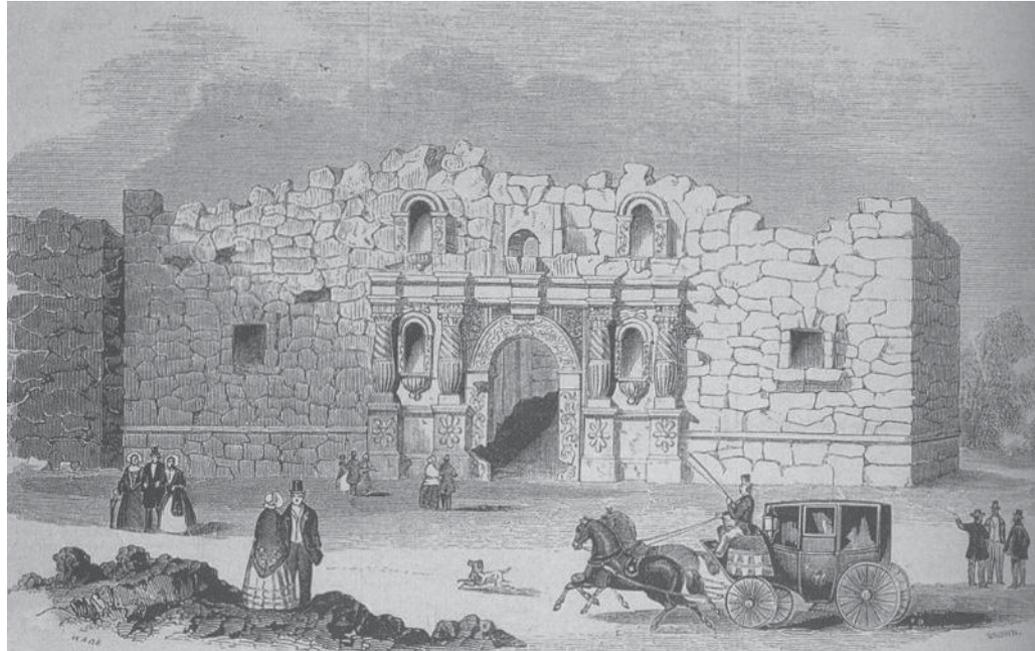
© Birdiegal/Bigstock.com

In the first place, some pandas have eaten 84 pounds of food by the end of the day.

As a result, some pandas have eaten 84 pounds of food by the end of the day.

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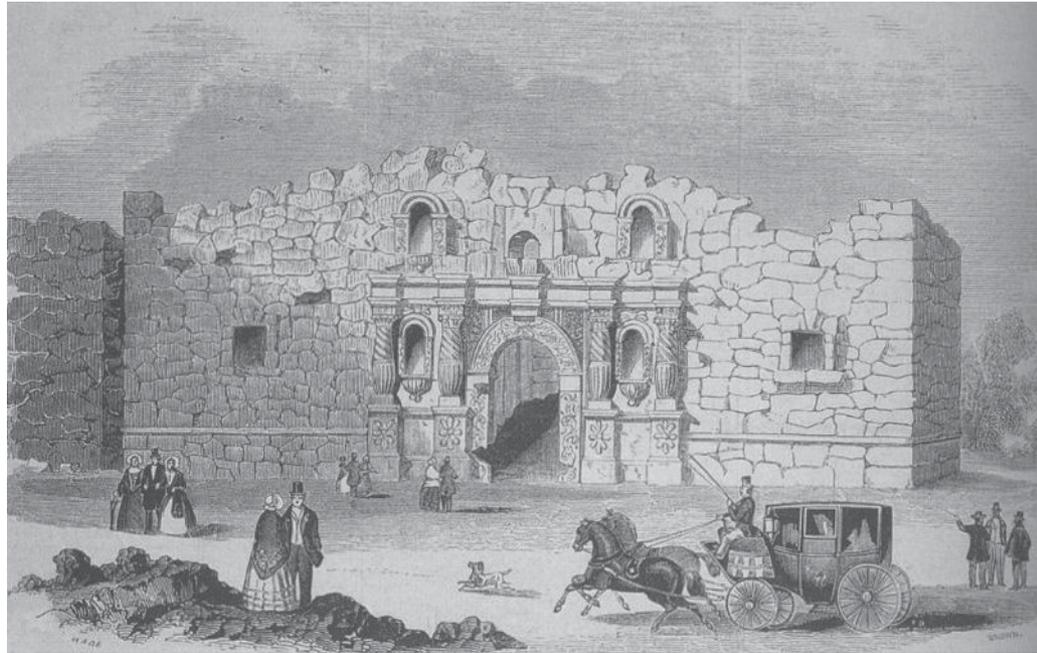
march 6, 1836



Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion

The Battle of the Alamo ended on March 6, 1836.

In 1836 the Alamo was in the town of san antonio, tx.



Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion

In 1836 the Alamo
was in the town of
San Antonio, TX.

In 1836 the Alamo
was in the town of
San antonio, Tx.

Several months before the Battle of the Alamo, the Texans had pushed the Mexican army out of Texas. About 100 Texas soldiers were stationed at the Alamo. On February 23, about 1,500 soldiers from Mexico led by General Santa Anna marched into San Antonio.

William b. Travis, a co-commander of the troops at the Alamo, knew his soldiers could not survive an attack by General Santa Anna's large army. On Feb. 24, 1836, Travis wrote letters from the Alamo begging for more men and supplies. Fewer than 100 more Texas soldiers arrived.

general Santa anna

William B. Travis

On feb. 24, 1836

The Battle of the Alamo lasted 13 days. Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna attacked the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. All the Texans at the Alamo were killed. This inspired many settlers from the United States to join the Texas army. The Texas army defeated the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. This ended the war between Texas and Mexico.

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