

Weekly Concept Transformations

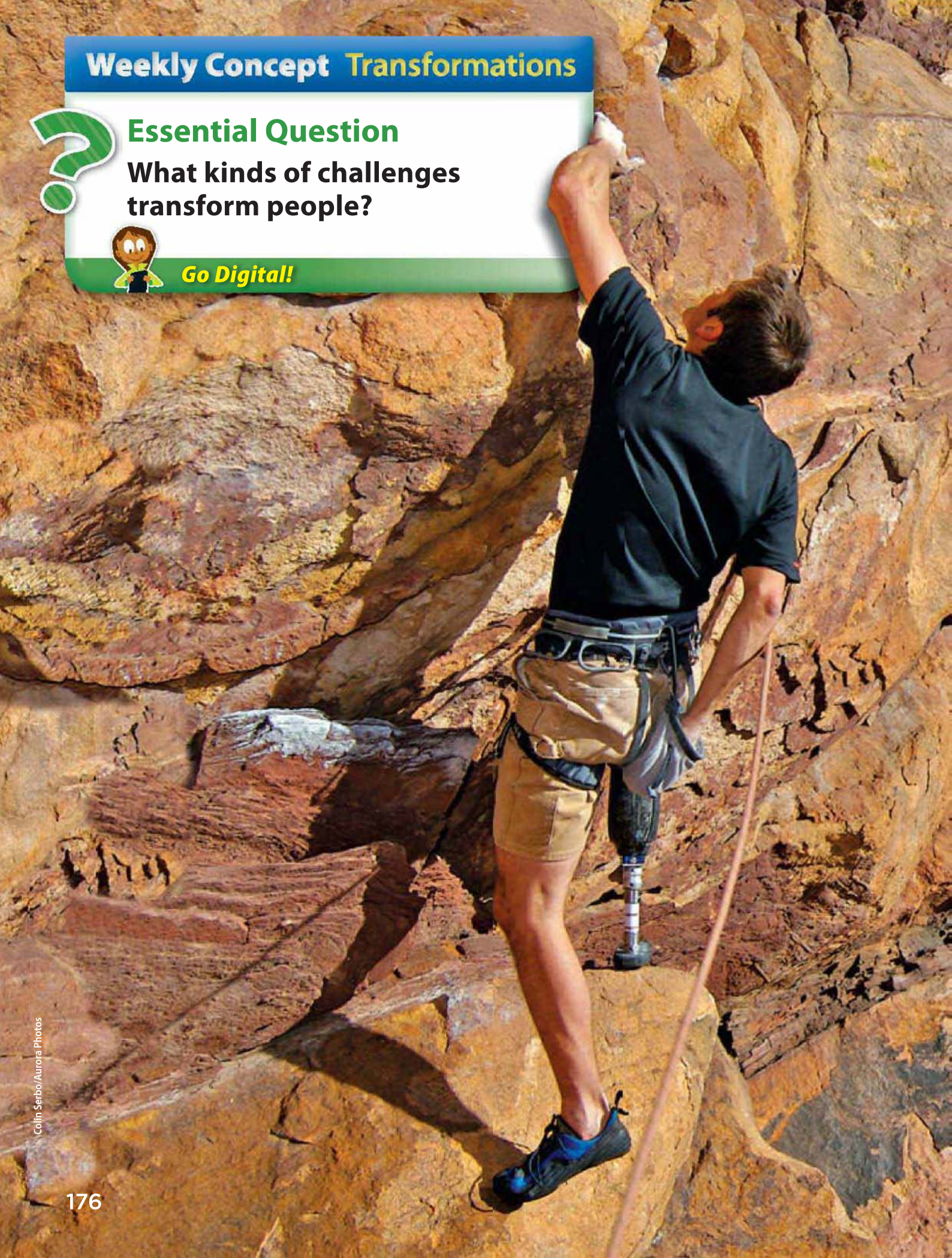


Essential Question

What kinds of challenges transform people?



Go Digital!



Challenges That Transform Us

I'd often thought about giving rock climbing a try. It seemed like a challenge I'd enjoy. But it wasn't until my best friend suggested we take lessons that I finally got started.

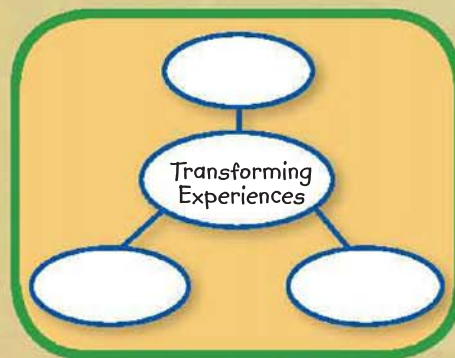
- ▶ Sometimes it was slow going. There was more to learn than either of us had imagined. But he and I always motivate each other.
- ▶ Each time I mastered a climbing skill, it was like solving another dilemma. It felt great.

So, after months of persistent practice, here I am! It's been a truly transforming experience.

Talk About It



Write words you have learned about transforming experiences. Then talk with a partner about a time when you were motivated to meet a challenge.



Vocabulary

Use the picture and the sentences to talk with a partner about each word.



dilemma

Joe found himself in a **dilemma** when he couldn't decide which puppy to choose.

Describe a dilemma you have faced.



feebly

The weak, newborn pony **feebly** tried to stand.

When might a person do something feebly?



persistent

The baby's parents could not stop her **persistent** crying.

What persistent noises are heard in a city?



recoiled

Hudson **recoiled** from the needle when it was time to get her booster shot.

Describe a time when you recoiled from something.



roused

The alarm clock **roused** the girl from a deep sleep.

How are you roused from sleep in the morning?



skewed

To avoid the horse-drawn wagon, the car **skewed** to the side of the road.

How are the meanings of *skewed* and *swerved* related?



summon

Jon was able to **summon** a burst of energy and win the race.

When might you need to *summon* a burst of energy?



vastness

The **vastness** of the crowd made it hard for me to find my friends.

What is a synonym for *vastness*?

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

Go Digital! Use the online visual glossary



Facing the STORM



Essential Question

What kinds of challenges transform people?

Read how a severe weather threat transforms a shy and timid girl.



Isabel Moreno sat carefully inserting papers into a folder. She had been at the Gateway Nature Center's office all morning and was weary of filing. She wanted desperately to work with the animals, especially the injured birds that the center rehabilitated. But her mom, who was the assistant director of the center, said Isabel was too young and there was no time to supervise her.

"I've been a weekend volunteer this whole school year," Isabel thought. "I know more about birds than almost anyone here," she said to herself with conviction, recalling as evidence the extensive research she had done reading books and web sites on natural history. Then she sighed. She had never been good at speaking up for herself, and who would listen to a shy seventh grader anyway?

Suddenly, the quiet was shattered by Amy Jensen bursting in and letting the door slam. Isabel felt herself shrink. Amy, who had been a volunteer a bit longer than Isabel, was 16 and strutted around like she owned the place. "Hey, Isabel, I've got a job for you," she barked, planting a hand on Isabel's shoulder.

Isabel **recoiled** from Amy's touch, but she willed herself to remain still. "Don't make trouble," she reminded herself, though she would have loved to brush Amy's hand off. "I have to finish this filing," she squeaked **feebly**.

Just then, Isabel's mother rushed into the room with Mr. Garza, the custodian. "The hurricane forecast for Miami has **skewed** to the south and is entering the Gulf," Mrs. Moreno reported. "We should be okay up here in the inlet, but we'll likely get some fierce and **persistent** winds. I've sent the other volunteers home, but I need you girls to help Mr. Garza get the storm shutters down in here and in the aviary. Then I'll take you home." Isabel leaped to her feet, excited to have an opportunity to help the birds.



Mrs. Moreno's cell phone jangled, and she answered it at once, listening intently. "Change of plans," she announced as she hung up. "The winds are worse than expected along the coastline, so the Gulf Shore Preserve needs help preparing for the storm. I've got to go down there with the staff. We'll take the inlet bridge, so we shouldn't be gone long. Stay inside with Mr. Garza after you get the storm shutters down. And call me on my cell if there are any problems," she directed as she dashed out.

Amy crowed that she was now "in charge." Isabel groaned inwardly, but said nothing. Mr. Garza and the girls worked quickly and were soon back inside, listening to the wind batter and rattle the shutters. When Mr. Garza found an emergency weather report on the computer, a worried expression crossed his face. "A storm surge is heading our way, right up the inlet," he announced. "We're in for some flooding."

Authoritative as ever, Amy called Isabel's mother to tell her the news, but she sounded flustered when she hung up. "The surge has flooded the bridge, and they're stuck there!" she gasped. "What do we do?"

Isabel was unnerved that both Mr. Garza and Amy seemed so panicked, but after silently considering the **dilemma** for a few seconds, she **roused** herself and said calmly, "We should move the birds to the reptile house. It's on higher ground." As she strode out of the building with Mr. Garza and Amy following, she caught a glimpse of the satellite image on the computer. The **vastness** of the storm nearly filled the entire Gulf now.

Once inside the aviary, Isabel watched Amy lunge from cage



to cage, agitating the birds. “Don’t jump around so much!” Isabel instructed. “They’re scared enough as it is, and your sudden movements aren’t helping.” Amy meekly calmed down, but she was shaking.

“Just think about the birds,” Isabel said as they carried each cage up to the reptile house. The hawks screeched and beat their wings when they felt the wind. Isabel spoke soothingly to them, and they soon grew calmer. Amy watched in awe and tried to mimic Isabel’s tone. Just as the water in the bird house had risen to their shins, they finished relocating the birds and waited inside the reptile house for the storm to subside.

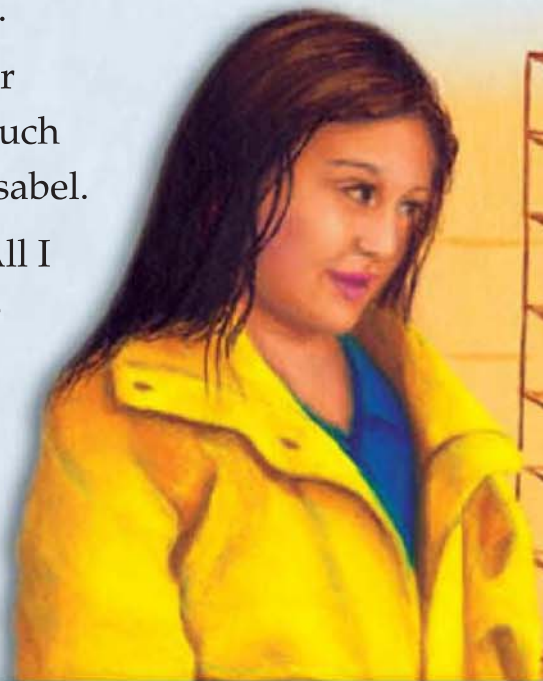
After several hours, the water had receded, and Mrs. Moreno was able to return to the center. She expressed concern that she’d left them alone for so long, but Mr. Garza reassured her that Isabel’s foresight and cool thinking had saved the birds.

Mrs. Moreno gazed at her daughter admiringly. “How did you **summon** such confidence and courage?” she asked Isabel.

“I’m not sure,” Isabel admitted. “All I could think about was how scared the birds must have felt in their cages, and I just took charge.”

“I’m proud of you, Isabel,” said Mrs. Moreno.

Isabel paused a second. “I guess I’m proud of myself, Mom!”



Make Connections



Talk about how Isabel was transformed during the hurricane. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Describe a time when you showed unexpected courage. **TEXT TO SELF**