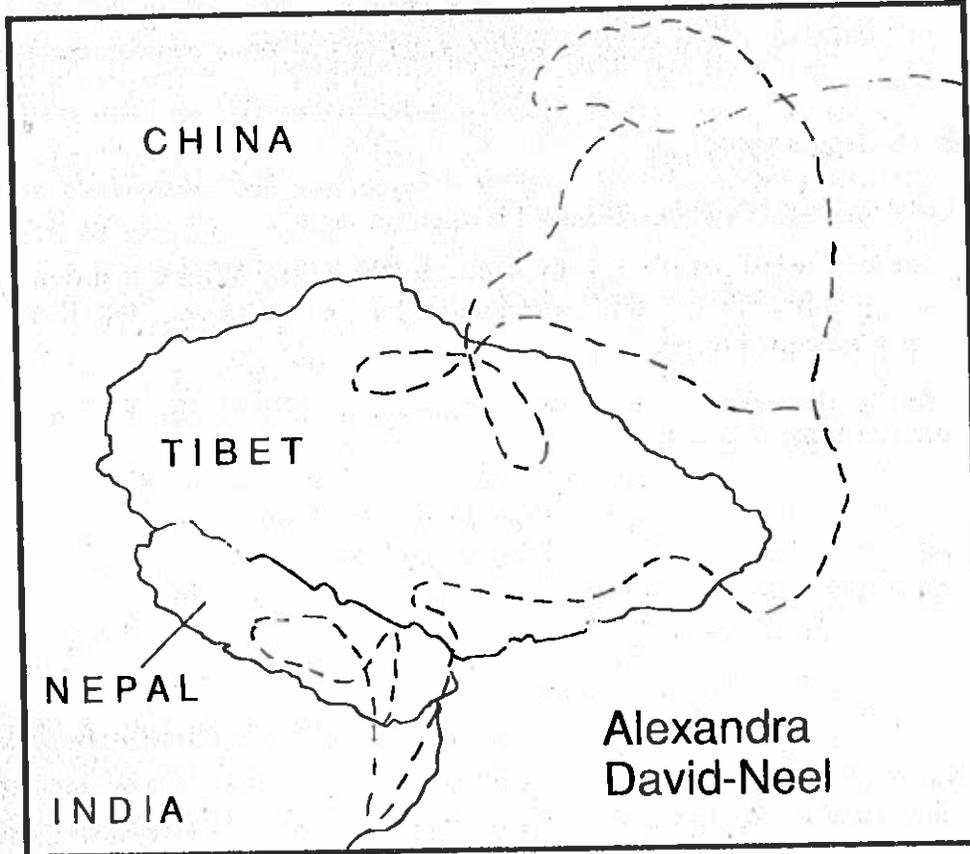




Alexandra David-Neel— A French Woman in Tibet



LESSON

2

Pre-reading Questions

1. Are you a Buddhist, or do you know someone who is?
2. Do you know someone who has visited Tibet?
3. Where would you go if you wanted to study your religion?



Context Clues

It is not necessary to look up every new word in the dictionary. You can often tell what the word means from the sentence it is in, or from the sentence after it. For example, the word **aborigines** in line 6 on page 3 is explained in the next sentence. What are aborigines?

Always look for this kind of sentence when you are reading. Try not to look up the word in your dictionary.

Here are some sentences from the lessons in this unit. Tell what each word in **bold** print means. Do all of the Context Clues exercises in the book this way.

1. She started working as a **journalist**, writing articles about Asia and Buddhism for English and French magazines and newspapers.
2. Scott took **ponies** (small horses) and a few dogs.
3. She helped to start **anthropology**, the study of people's customs and lives, in Africa.
4. Europeans bought elephant **ivory** and other things from Africans.
5. She met **traders** there, Europeans who bought ivory and other things from Africans and sold them things from Europe.
6. **Missionaries** went to Africa to teach Christianity.



2



Alexandra David-Neel—A French Woman in Tibet

Tibet has been a secret and **mysterious** place to the rest of the world for several centuries. It is on a high **plateau** in Asia, **surrounded** by even higher mountains, and only a few foreigners were able to cross its **borders** until recently.

high, flat land

lines between countries

One of these foreigners was a French woman named Alexandra David-Neel (1868–1969). She traveled by herself in India, China, and Tibet. She studied the Buddhist **religion**, wrote **articles** and books about it, and collected **ancient** Buddhist books. She also became a Buddhist herself.

very old

Alexandra always said she had an unhappy childhood. She **escaped** her unhappiness by reading books on **adventure** and travel. She ran away from school several times and even ran away to England when she was only sixteen.

got away from

She was a singer for several years, but in 1903 she started working as a **journalist**, writing articles about Asia and Buddhism for English and French magazines and newspapers. The next year, when she was thirty-seven, she married Philippe-François Neel. It was a strange marriage. After 5 days together, they moved to different



25 cities and never lived together again. **Yet** he **sup-**
ported her all his life, and she wrote him hun-
 30 dreds of letters full of **details** about her travels.

but
 gave her money to live on

35 She traveled all over Europe and North
 Africa, but she went to India in 1911 to study
 40 Buddhism, and then her real travels began. She
 traveled in India and also in Nepal and Sikkim,
 the small countries north of India in the
 Himalaya Mountains, but her goal was Tibet.
 She continued to study Buddhism and learned
 45 to speak Tibetan. She traveled to villages and
 religious centers, with only an interpreter and a
 few men to carry her camping **equipment**. For
 several months, she lived in a **cave** in Sikkim
 and studied Buddhism and the Tibetan lan-
 50 guage. Then she **adopted** a fifteen-year-old
 Sikkimese boy to travel with her. He remained
 with her until his death at the age of fifty-five.



cave

55 For the next 7 years, she traveled in **remote**
areas of China. These were years of **civil war** in
 60 China, and she was often in danger. She traveled
 for thousands of kilometers on horseback with
 only a few men to help her—through desert
 heat, sandstorms, and the rain, snow, and **freez-**
ing temperatures of the colder areas.

remote areas = far from towns and
 civil war = war between people in
 same country

65 In 1924, David-Neel was fifty-six years old.
 She darkened her skin and dressed as an old
beggar. She carried only a beggar's bowl and a
 backpack and traveled through hot lowlands
 and snowy mountain passes until she reached
 70 the border of Tibet. Because she spoke Tibetan
 so well, she was able to cross the border and
 reach the famous city of Lhasa without anyone
 knowing that she was European and **forbidden**
 75 to be there. It was often freezing cold, and some-
 times there wasn't enough food. Sometimes she
 was sick, and once she nearly died. This was the

0° C or colder



beggar

not allowed



most dangerous of all her journeys, but she reached her goal and collected more information about Tibetan Buddhism.

65 She returned to France in 1925. She spent several years writing about her **research** and adventures and translating ancient Tibetan religious books. When she was sixty-six, she returned to China and the Tibetan border area for 10
70 years. In 1944, the Second World War reached even that remote area, and at the age of seventy-six, she walked for days, sometimes without food, until she was able to reach a place where she
75 continued writing and translating until she died, just 7 weeks before her 101st birthday.

search for new information

Most explorers traveled to **discover** and map new places. David-Neel went to do research on Buddhism. She said that freedom
80 was the most important thing in life for her, and like many other explorers, she lived a dangerous, exciting, free life.

A Vocabulary

Write the correct word in each blank. Use each word only once, and use capital letters if they are necessary.

civil war
mysterious
caves
equipment

temperature
article
journalist
adventure

freezes
ancient
remote
beggars

border
discovered
forbidden
plateau

1. It would be a great _____ to travel in Tibet on horseback.
2. There is an interesting _____ in the newspaper today about Tibet.
3. You can find _____ asking for money in most countries.
4. When Ali got to his car, he _____ that he had a parking ticket.
5. Some ancient North Americans lived in _____. Others built houses.



6. Smoking is _____ in most airplanes.
7. When water _____, it turns into ice.
8. Did you bring all the sports _____ for our picnic?
9. The Himalayas are on the _____ between China and India.
10. A _____ collects information and then writes articles about it for magazines and newspapers.
11. The language of _____ Egypt was different from the modern Egyptian language.
12. The United States had a _____ between the northern and southern states from 1861 to 1865.

B Vocabulary

Remember to underline the words you don't know as you read the text, and then test yourself when you finish the lesson.

plateau	escaped	area	mysterious
details	surrounded	support	journalist
yet	research	border	religion
adopted	temperature	remote	frozen

1. It's hot today. What is the _____?
2. Northern Siberia is _____ from Russian cities.
3. A _____ noise woke me up in the middle of the night.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson _____ a baby because they couldn't have any children of their own.
5. What is your _____? Are you a Christian?
6. Most English paragraphs have a main idea and supporting _____.
7. Parents usually _____ their children until the children finish school. The parents pay for everything the children need.
8. Dr. Garcia is doing _____ for space exploration.
9. Tibet is a remote place, _____ tourists go there now.
10. A man _____ from prison last night. He is dangerous.
11. Our house is _____ by big trees.



12. Tibet is on a _____ north of the Himalayas.
13. There are a lot of apartment buildings in the _____ around the university.

C Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer. An asterisk (*) means it is an inference or opinion question, and you cannot find the answer in a sentence in the text.

1. Alexandra David-Neel went to Asia to _____.
 - a. study Buddhism
 - b. lead an expedition
 - c. adopt a son
2. When she was a child, she read to _____.
 - a. become a Buddhist
 - b. escape her unhappiness
 - c. learn about Europe
3. After she got married, _____.
 - a. she lived in Europe with her husband for several years
 - b. her husband supported her
 - c. her husband traveled in Europe with her
- *4. It is possible that she _____.
 - a. took photographs during her travels
 - b. had a car when she lived in a cave
 - c. spoke Tibetan to her Indian friends
5. The place she wanted most to visit was _____.
 - a. India
 - b. China
 - c. Tibet
6. Her travels in China were dangerous because _____.
 - a. there was a civil war
 - b. she was traveling on horseback
 - c. she was a beggar



7. David-Neel said that _____.
- a. she wasn't afraid of danger
 - b. freedom was very important to her
 - c. she wanted her husband to travel with her

D Comprehension Questions

Always answer the comprehension questions with complete sentences.

1. Why is Tibet a mysterious place?
- *2. Why did Alexandra run away from school?
3. What is a journalist?
4. Why was her marriage strange?
5. What did she do when she was living in a cave?
6. What does *remote areas* mean?
7. Why didn't the Tibetans know she was a foreigner?
8. What kind of work did she do after her last trip?
- *9. Do you think she lived a free life? Why?

E Main Idea

What is the main idea of paragraph 3 (lines 13–17)?

1. Alexandra read books on travel and adventure.
2. Alexandra ran away from school several times.
3. Alexandra had an unhappy childhood.



F Word Forms

Choose the right word form for each sentence. Use a word from line 1 in sentence 1, and so on. Use the right verb forms and singular or plural nouns. There are blanks on the chart because there are not 4 forms for every word.

Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
1. mystify	mystery	mysterious	mysteriously
2. surround	surroundings		
3. beg	beggar		
4.	religion	religious	religiously
5.	adventure	adventurous	adventurously
6. supply	supply		
7. equip	equipment		
8. adopt	adoption		
9. discover	discovery		
10. decide	decision		decidedly

1. I saw an exciting television program last night. It was a _____.
2. Dan drove so fast on his vacation trip that he hardly saw his _____.
3. Small children often _____ to go with their parents when the parents go out at night.
4. Alexandra David-Neel was a very _____ person.
5. David-Neel was also very _____.
6. The company was unable to _____ most of the things we ordered.
7. The Browns are going to _____ their truck with a telephone.
8. It is very difficult to _____ children in the United States today.
9. Captain James Cook is famous for the _____ of many Pacific islands.
- 10a. Sometimes it is difficult to make a good _____ about a difficult problem.
- 10b. David-Neel was a _____ adventurous person. There is no question about it.



G Articles

A and **an** are used to show that the noun after it is one of a group.

John Burke was **an** explorer. (He was one of all the explorers in history.)

Maria is **a** student. (She is one of all the students in the world.)

There is **an** apple in the refrigerator. (This is one of all the apples in the world.)

The is used to show that the noun is one special, particular, specific noun or nouns.

John Burke and William John Wills were **the** first explorers to cross Australia.

Maria is **the** best student in the class.

There is **an** apple in **the** refrigerator. (We know that we are talking about the refrigerator in our kitchen.)

Put the right article in the blanks.

1. Australia is _____ huge country.
2. _____ journalist who wrote this article is a friend of mine.
3. David-Neel was _____ journalist.
4. Please close _____ door.
5. Her office is _____ first one on the left.
6. _____ professor called you today, but I don't know who it was.
7. Who was _____ worst teacher you ever had?

in sen-
There

isly

usly

he

e.
lay.
ic

cult



Compound Words

Compound words are common in English. They are two words put together, and the meaning of the compound word is related to the meanings of the two words. They are not like two-word verbs where the meaning is different from the meaning of each word by itself. Put these compound words in the right blanks.

horseback
mailbox

sandstorm
sidewalk

snowstorm
doorbell

keyhole
weekend

1. Barbara couldn't drive to her parents' last week because there was a bad _____ and it was very cold.
2. Abdullah looks in his _____ every day, and he usually finds a letter.
3. A _____ is a place for people to walk at the side of the street.
4. When you unlock a door, you put your key in the _____.
5. The _____ rang, and Susan went to answer the door.
6. Did you ever go _____ riding?

Guided Writing

Write one of these two short compositions.

1. You are Alexandra David-Neel. Write a letter to your husband. Describe one or two of your adventures in some detail. Add your own ideas about what you saw, heard, felt, touched, or smelled.
2. Describe an adventure you had or an unusual trip you took. Use details about what you saw, heard, felt, touched, or smelled.

