

Lesson 1: Utopia

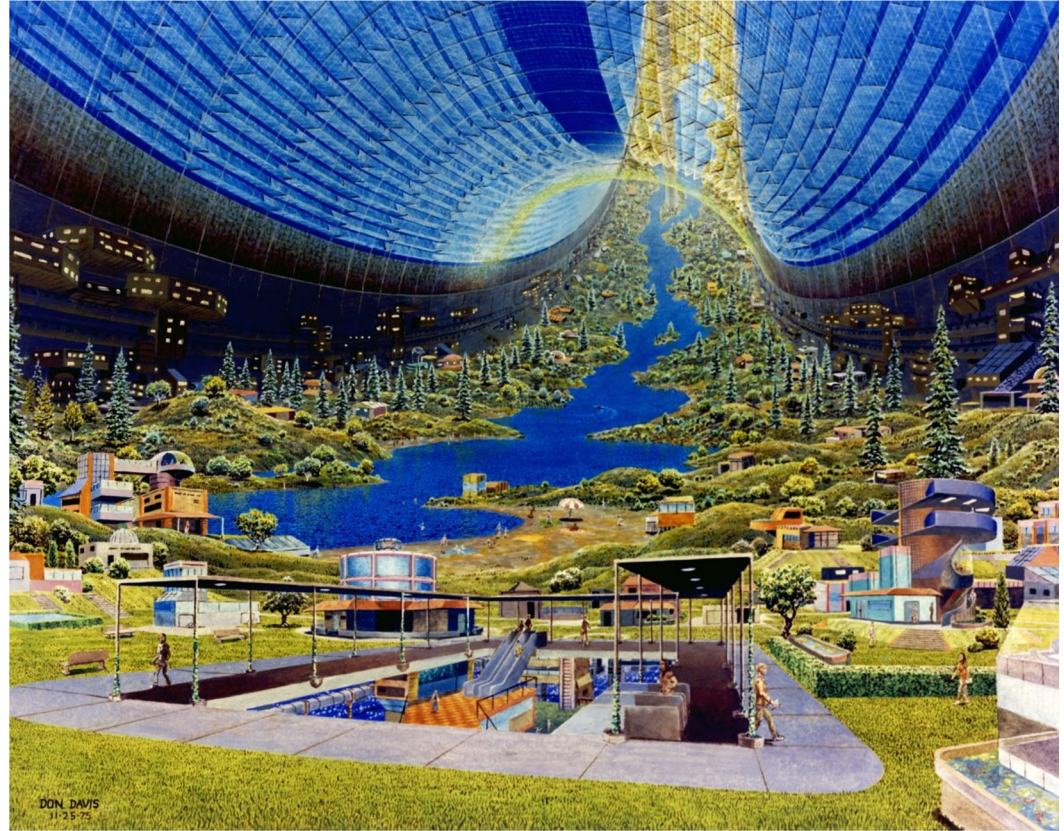
Unit 5
Grade 4

Utopia

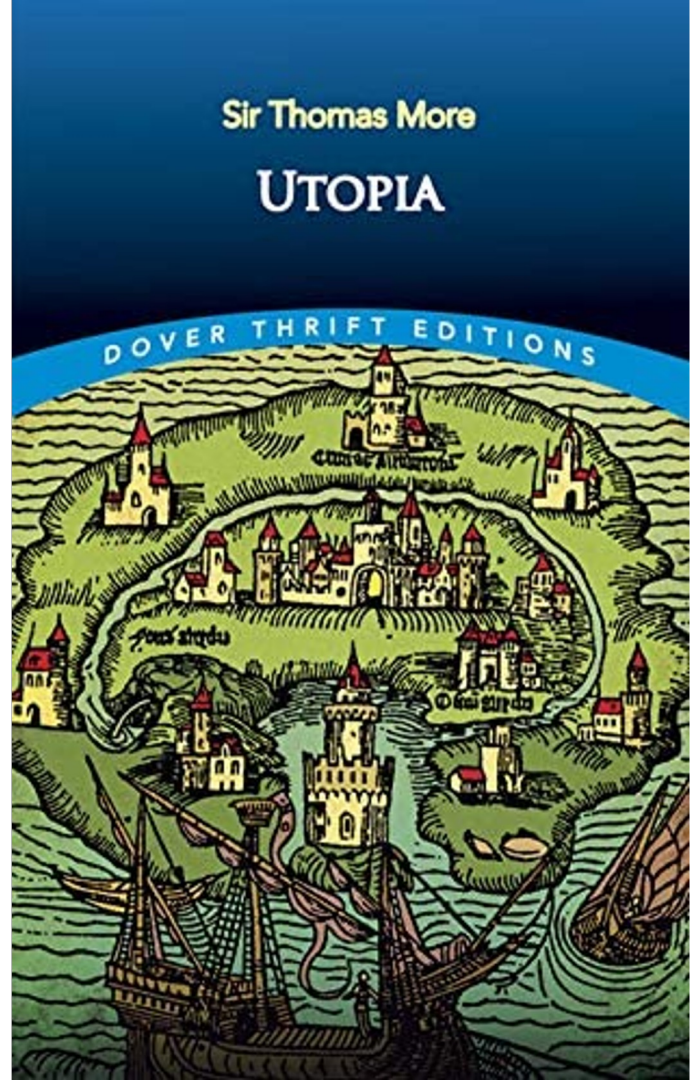
u·to·pi·a

Has anyone heard of the
word utopia?

Utopia is an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect.



Utopia was first used in the year 1517 by a famous person named Thomas More. More wrote a book entitled *Utopia* in which he described a place that some believed was a perfect place. More also drew an illustration of what it looked like.



Let's read about Thomas More's Utopia

What effect do you think Thomas More's book Utopia might have on the people of England who are poor, who want to practice a different religion, and who are sick of fighting wars?

Which text structure did the author of Resource 2 use to summarize Thomas More's Utopia?

How does the drawing included in the reading contribute to your understanding of the reading?

Resource 2: Summary of Thomas More's Utopia

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia_\(book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia_(book))

Utopia was an imaginary island in the New World that Columbus discovered and that is now called America. It was built on an island so that it was separated from the problems of the rest of the world. It was a place that was very different from England. It was a perfect place. The drawing to the right is the Utopia that appeared in More's book. |

In England there were a lot of very, very poor people. Meanwhile, a very small group of people owned almost everything. In Utopia, no one was richer than anyone else and people shared almost all of the island's resources.

In England, a person could be put to death if he stole something. In Utopia, this punishment was considered too harsh.

If a person was sick or injured in England, the government did not take care of her. In Utopia, every sick and injured person was cared for.

In England, the law said that a person could be thrown in jail or put to death if he did not belong to England's official religion - the Anglican religion. In Utopia everyone was allowed to practice many religions.

It seemed like England was always fighting very bloody wars. The people of Utopia hated war and if they had to fight, they tried to not injure others severely.

In England, the king or queen claimed that God gave them the right to rule the country and only members of their family were allowed to have power. In Utopia, the people choose their leaders.

Times have changed since the time when Thomas More wrote Utopia. So, it may not be what you consider a utopia but it was to the people who lived in England when the book was written.

Time to Think! What effect do you think Thomas More's book Utopia might have on the people of England who are poor, who want to practice a different religion, and who are sick of fighting wars?



One reason why people move is the dream for a better life.

Thomas More's Utopia made some people who lived in 16th Century England believe that they might have an opportunity to create their own utopia in America.

