

MOMENTS AND MEMORIES

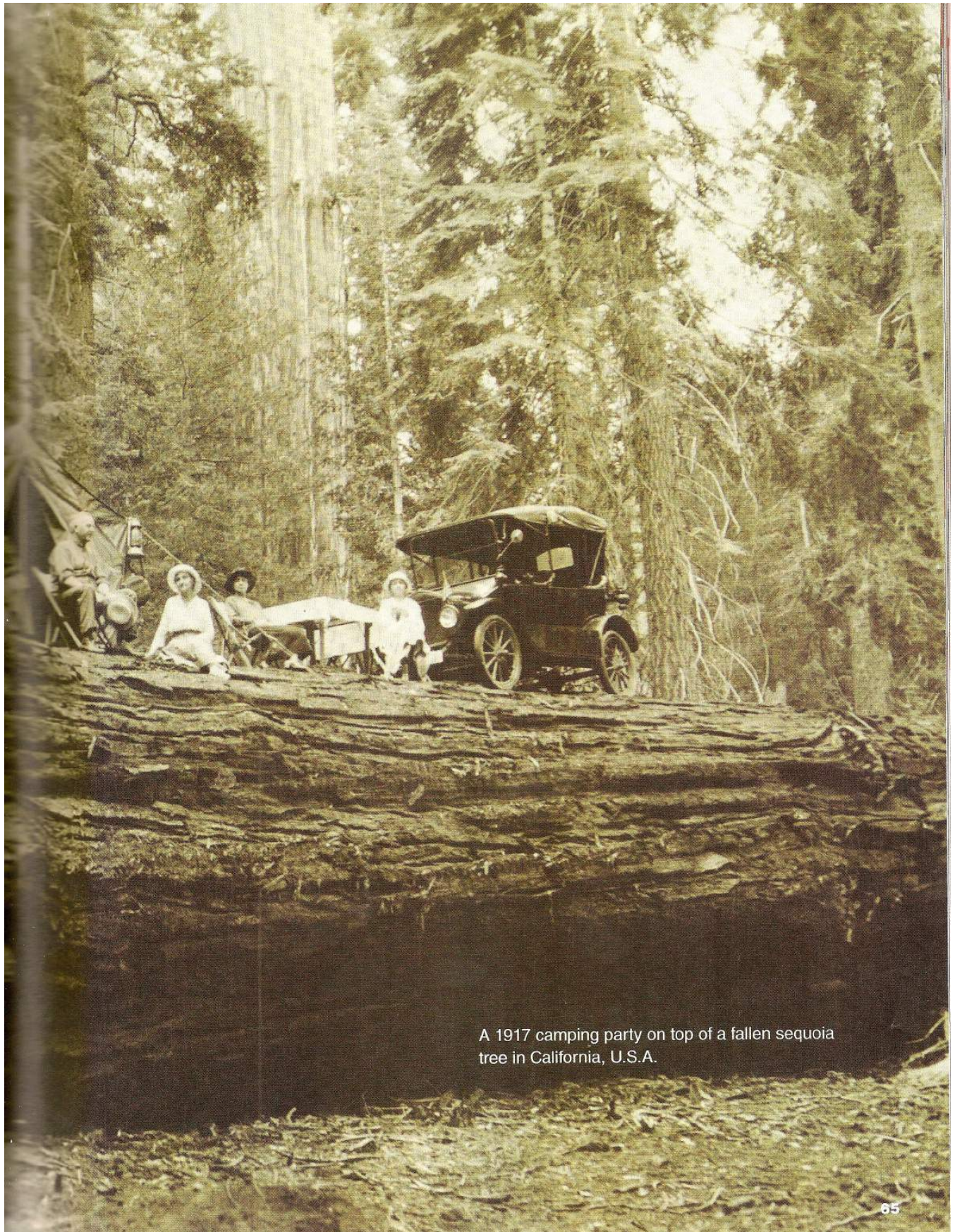
GOALS

IN THIS UNIT, YOU WILL:

- Read about a place that stores millions of memories.
- Learn how one man is recording his memories.
- Explore other people's memories.

THINK AND DISCUSS

1. How often do you take photos or shoot video?
What events do you record?
2. Would you want to remember every day of
your life? Why or why not?



A 1917 camping party on top of a fallen sequoia tree in California, U.S.A.

Lesson A

PRE-READING

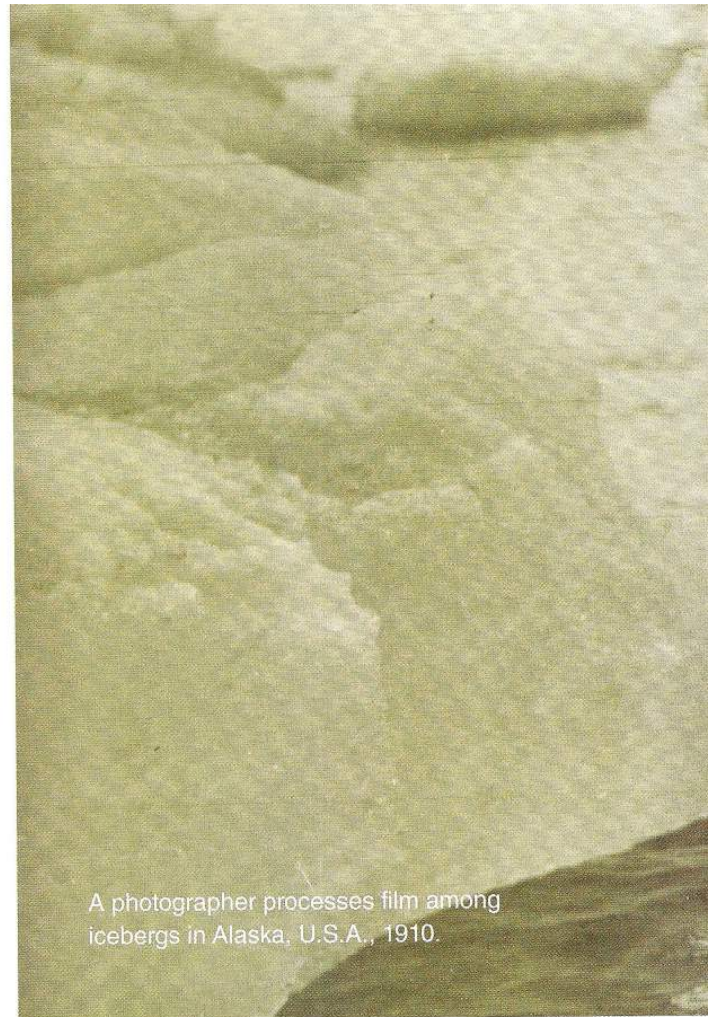
- A.** Look at the title and headings on pages 66–67. Complete the statement.

This passage is mainly about ____.

- a. a family's photos
- b. how old photos help us to remember the past
- c. the story of an old photographer

- B.** Read the first paragraph and choose the correct answer for each question below.

1. What do people worldwide do about 6 billion times every month?
 - a. Send photos to their friends
 - b. Post photos on the Internet
 - c. Watch videos on the Internet
2. According to the writer, we sometimes forget that photographs are ____.
 - a. expensive
 - b. common
 - c. special



A photographer processes film among icebergs in Alaska, U.S.A., 1910.

-  1 Every month, people worldwide upload about 6 billion photos to the Internet. Photography is now so common, it is easy to forget that photographs—and the memories they hold—can be very **precious**.

MEMORY ARCHIVE

- 2 In a cold, windowless basement in Washington D.C., there is a man who knows the real value of a photograph. Since 1983, Bill Bonner has **looked after** *National Geographic's* photo archive. The archive holds around 8 million prints—many over 100 years old.



PRESERVING THE PAST

3 In his long career, Bonner has looked at hundreds of thousands of photos. He believes each **image** holds a memory. Some of the pictures **record** moments in history. Many others, he says, show “people like us, just doing our thing, living our life.” Many of these memories have been forgotten by the outside world. But they still have the power to tell us a lot about the past.

IMAGES FROM THE PAST

4 When the archive’s earliest photos were taken, photography was difficult and expensive. Photographers needed special **equipment** and chemicals to develop their pictures. **Cameras** were large and heavy—some weighed 20 pounds (9 kilos) or more. Early explorers used these massive cameras to photograph people

and places that most people had never seen. Photography expeditions took several months, or even years. “They dedicated their lives to this,” Bonner says.

5 Bonner feels **responsible** for keeping these memories alive, for people now and in the future. Many of the images are fragile, and he has to be very careful to **preserve** them. For Bonner, these figures from the distant past are almost like his ancestors. “For me,” he says, “it’s like opening your grandparents’ family album for the first time.”

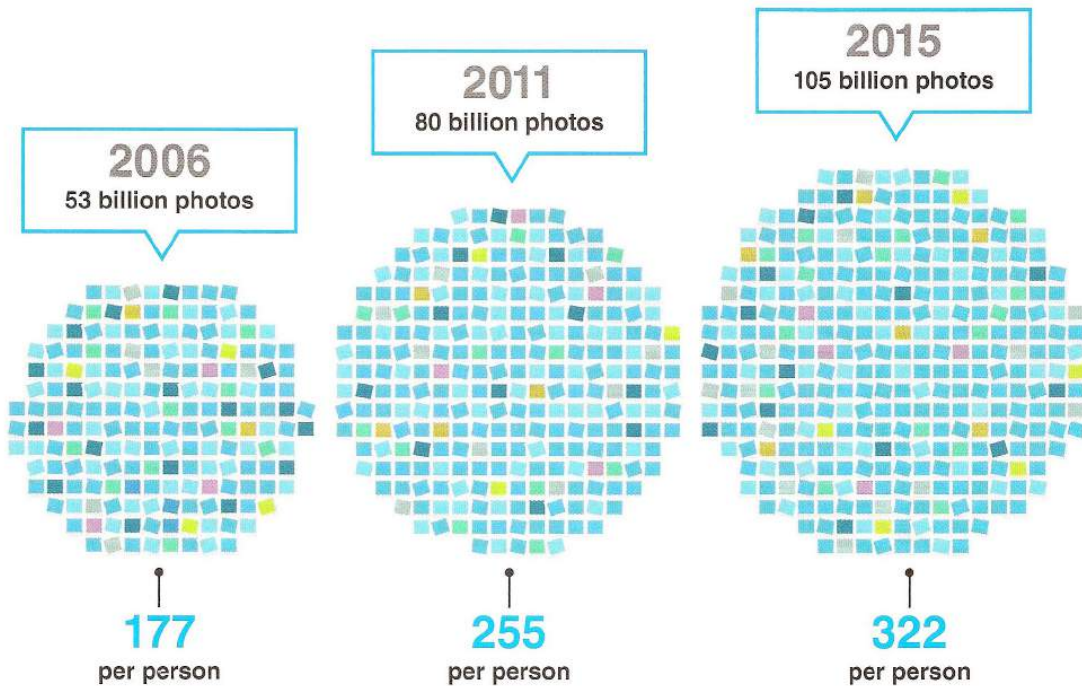
archive: *n.* a place that stores historical material

develop: *v.* to make a photograph using a special process

ancestor: *n.* someone related to you who lived in the past

dedicated: *v.* to give something your complete effort

DIGITAL PHOTOS TAKEN BY AMERICANS



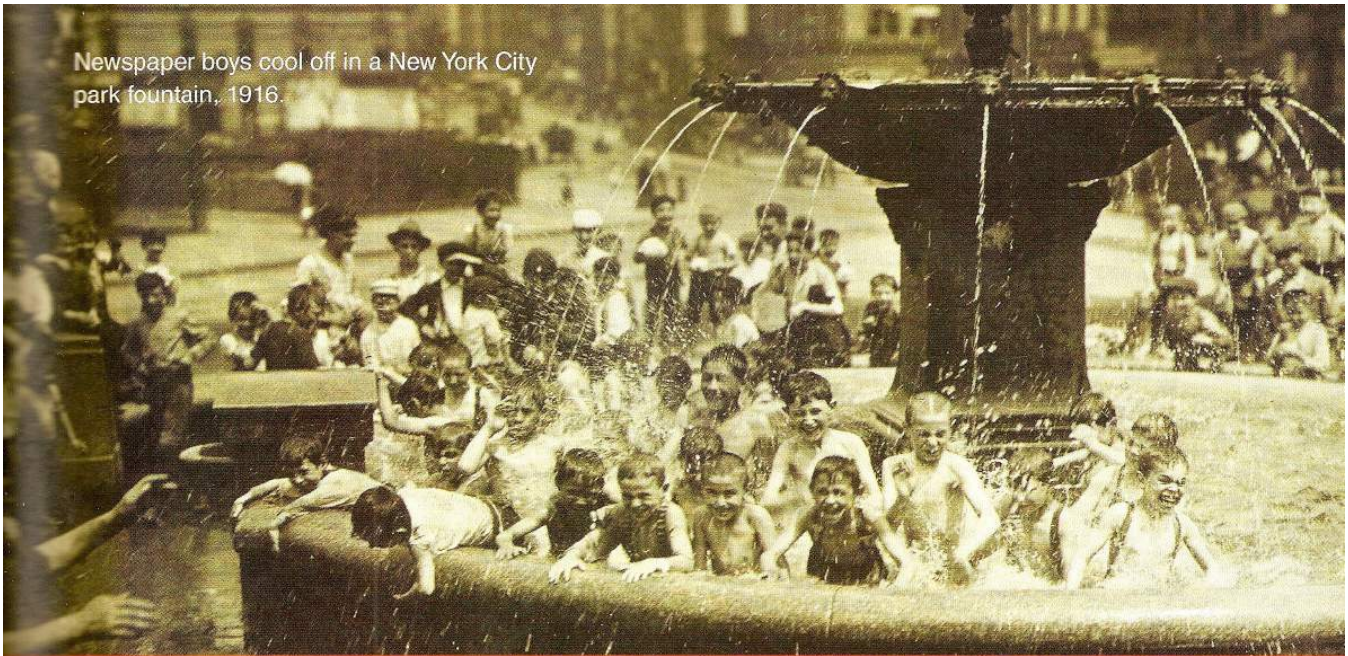
Just under half of all digital photos in the United States are taken with smartphones.

Image-Obsessed

Surveys show an explosion in the number of photos Americans have taken since 2006. The movement from film to digital means that consumers are less worried about cost and can be more creative. What's the downside? Sorting and keeping track of all those digital files. And, with fewer people printing their photos, storing images in a safe place is critical.

Source: NGM, Infotrends

Newspaper boys cool off in a New York City park fountain, 1916.



Developing Reading Skills

GETTING THE MAIN IDEAS

Use information from the passage on pages 66–67 to answer each question.

1. What is the main idea of the passage? Complete the sentence below.

The photos in the *National Geographic* archive _____.

- a. keep Bill Bonner very busy
 - b. are kept in a cold basement
 - c. tell us stories about the past
2. Why are the archive's photos special to Bill Bonner? Check (✓) two reasons.
☐ a. They show ordinary people doing ordinary things.
☐ b. They are mostly black-and-white images.
☐ c. They are the work of dedicated photographers.

IDENTIFYING APPROXIMATE NUMBERS

Writers use approximate numbers (*about 3 million years ago, nearly a month long*) if the exact number is not known or not important. These words signal that a number is approximate: *about, almost, approximately, around, nearly, (just) over / under.*

Look back at the reading passage on pages 66–67 and underline the approximate numbers and circle the signal words. Then answer the questions below.

1. How many photos are put on the Internet every month?

2. How many photos are in the archive?

3. How old are some photos in the archive?

4. How much did some early cameras weigh?

UNDERSTANDING VISUALS

Look at the infographic and text about digital photographs on page 68. Then answer the questions by writing *T* for True or *F* for False. Correct the false statements.

- ___ 1. The number of digital photos taken by Americans has decreased since 2006.
- ___ 2. In 2011, Americans took approximately 80 million photos.
- ___ 3. In 2006, Americans took an average of 177 photos per person.
- ___ 4. In the U.S.A., over half of digital photos are taken using a smartphone.
- ___ 5. People tend to be less worried about the cost of digital photography.

BUILDING VOCABULARY

A. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

Looking at an old **image** / **equipment** lets us visit a world that has disappeared. Early explorers took heavy **camera** / **equipment** with them to **record** / **look after** people and places that other people had not seen. Now these photographs are **recorded** / **preserved** by archivists such as Bill Bonner.

B. Complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase. One item is extra.

cameras look after precious records responsible

- 1. Photographs from the early 19th century are _____. Not many photos survive from that time.
- 2. A photo _____ a memory of a person, a place, or an event.
- 3. Photo archivists _____ old images. These images are often kept in environmentally controlled rooms so the photos aren't damaged.
- 4. The first _____ were large, heavy, and expensive.

GETTING MEANING FROM CONTEXT

- 1. Bonner thinks the archive's photos have been forgotten by "the outside world." What does that phrase mean? How else could you express this idea?

- 2. The writer says that "Many of the images are *fragile*, and [Bonner] has to be very careful to preserve them." What does *fragile* mean?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. **Inferring.** Bill Bonner says that looking at the photos in the archive is “like opening your grandparents’ family album for the first time.” What do you think he means?

2. **Reflecting.** Think about the photos you take. What kinds of photos would you preserve for future generations?

EXPLORE MORE

Look at images from the archive at photography.nationalgeographic.com. Choose an image that you think is interesting, and tell your class about it. Give reasons for your choice.



Bill Bonner, archivist at *National Geographic*, at work.