

## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ou (young)

"This nonfiction story focuses on the 'ou' sound as in 'young.' Watch for words like 'country,' 'cousin,' and 'courage' as you learn what makes countries special!"



### What is a Country?

A country is a place where people live together.

Some countries are large, and some are small.

In each country, people speak, eat, and dress in special ways.

You might have a cousin in another country far away.

Even if countries are different, they can still be friends.

When countries help each other, they flourish with peace and courage.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

country

cousin

courage

young

flourish



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is a Country?

1. What is a country?

- A. A kind of food
- B. A place where people live
- C. A bird
- D. A story

2. Why might two countries be different?

- A. Because of weather, food, and culture
- B. Because they all speak the same
- C. Because no one lives there
- D. Because they have the same flag

3. Fill in the blank:

Even if countries are different, they can still be \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What are some things that make countries unique?

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5. Why is it important for countries to help each other?

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** *ou* as in "young" (/ŭ/ sound)

**Genre:** *Nonfiction – Social Studies / Geography*

**High-Frequency Words:** *they, each, with, live, far*

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## Before Reading

1. This story uses "ou" words like *country, cousin, courage, another, and flourish*.
  2. Do you know anyone who lives in a different country?
  3. What do you think life might be like in another part of the world?
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## During Reading

1. **Remind students to look for "ou" words with the /ŭ/ sound.**
  2. **What makes each country different and special?**
  3. **What happens when countries help each other?**
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## After Reading

1. Retell what a country is and how people around the world live.
  2. What's one way countries can work together to make things better?
  3. If you could visit a new country, what would you want to learn?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six "ou" words in the passage.
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again using a calm, thoughtful voice—like you're teaching someone about the world.
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## Activity Idea

Draw a map with two different countries side by side. Show flags or food from each place. Label with "ou" words like *country, cousin, flourish, courage, young, or another*. Write one sentence about what makes each place special.

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## Coaching Tip

Stories about the world help kids read with purpose—let every new word bring a wider view of others and themselves.

