

## More Key Words

Use these words to talk about “A Better Way” and “The Ant and the Grasshopper.”

### alternative

*noun*



An **alternative** is another choice. An apple is a healthy **alternative** to candy.

### conservation

*noun*



**Conservation** means the opposite of waste. **Conservation** of water is important.

### future

*noun*



The **future** is what will happen tomorrow or sometime after that. My birthday is in the **future**.

### method

*noun*



A **method** is a way of doing something. Is using your fingers to count a good **method**?

### sustain

*verb*



To **sustain** means to keep something or someone alive or in existence.

### Talk Together

Write a sentence for each **Key Word**. Use context clues. Put a blank for the **Key Word**. A partner fills in the word.

We give the plants food to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

## Learn to Summarize

Look at the picture. What does it show? Determine which parts are important. Then think of a sentence or two to briefly tell, or **summarize**, what the picture shows.



When you read, you can **summarize**, too.

### How to Summarize



1. Identify the topic.



2. Take notes as you read. Jot down important details.



3. Use your notes to retell the important ideas in your own words.

This part is about \_\_\_\_\_.

I should remember \_\_\_\_\_.

This part \_\_\_\_\_.

## Language Frames



This part is about \_\_\_\_\_.



I should remember \_\_\_\_\_.



This part \_\_\_\_\_.

## Talk Together

Read the speech. Identify what Clara wants the reader to do. Then read the sample summary. Use **Language Frames** to summarize parts of the text.

## Persuasive Speech

### Window Dressing

This week, my mom and I planted two herb boxes outside our kitchen windows. I think everyone should have herb boxes. They have so many benefits. Today, I'm going to tell you what some of those benefits are.

First, herb boxes are tiny gardens. They are easy to plant and to **sustain**. All you need is a container full of planting soil, seedlings, sunlight, and water. You don't need much water either. These tiny gardens are great for water **conservation**.

Fresh herbs are also great for cooking. Mom's spaghetti topped with basil sauce is the best! Freshly grown herbs give cooks a wonderful **alternative**. They are always handy. Sure, you can buy herbs in a bottle. But these are never as fresh as the herbs you grow yourself. It's the best **method**.

Finally, herb gardens smell wonderful! Sweet, sharp smells float on the air. Herb gardens look pretty, too. Imagine all those tiny green leaves outside your window.

As I prepared this speech, I hoped that I could persuade you to plant herbs. I really hope that each of you has your own herb garden in the **future**.

### Sample Summary

"This part is about planting an herb garden. I should remember the things you need."

This part says that you just need soil, seedlings, sunlight, and a little water for an herb garden."

◀ = A good place to summarize

# **Vowel Sounds and Spellings:** *al, aw, au*



chalk



paw



launch

## Listen and Learn

Listen to each sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

1. I need to add \_\_\_\_\_ to the stew.



sand sight salt

2. The bank keeps money in a \_\_\_\_\_.



vat vault vest

3. We watched a \_\_\_\_\_ fly high in the sky.



heart hunk hawk

4. We saw the rocket \_\_\_\_\_.



lunch launch latch



## Talk Together



Listen and read. Find the words with the vowel sound you hear in the word *saw*.

## Over to You

### An Island in Trouble

The small island of Kokota lies off the coast of East Africa. People on the island once made their living from cutting trees and selling lumber. They cut down almost all of the trees. Losing the trees caused big problems. Without tree roots, the soil couldn't hold water. It turned to dust.

A man on a nearby island thought he had the answer. "You must grow trees," he said. He launched a program to grow trees. He showed the people of Kokota how to build water tanks to catch rain water. Then they planted many trees.

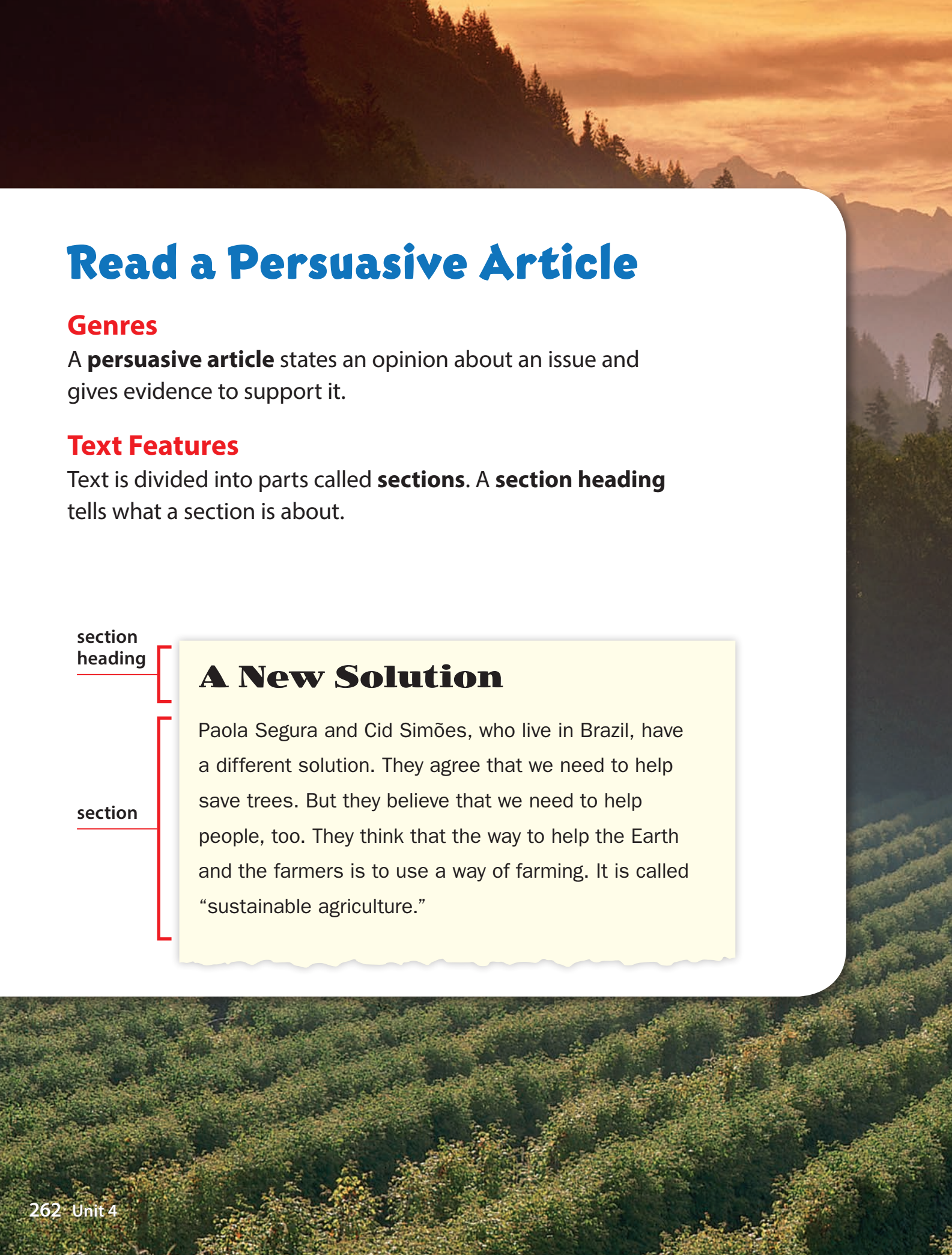
Agriculture on the island has changed. People can now draw water from water tanks to grow nuts, fruit trees, and other crops. Thanks to its conservation methods, the island of Kokota has a good future.

### Work with a partner.

Point to a word with the vowel sound you hear in the word *saw* and have your partner say it.



◀ Practice reading words with the vowel sound you hear in the word *saw* by reading "An Island in Trouble" with a partner.



# Read a Persuasive Article

## Genres

A **persuasive article** states an opinion about an issue and gives evidence to support it.

## Text Features

Text is divided into parts called **sections**. A **section heading** tells what a section is about.

section  
heading

### **A New Solution**

section

Paola Segura and Cid Simões, who live in Brazil, have a different solution. They agree that we need to help save trees. But they believe that we need to help people, too. They think that the way to help the Earth and the farmers is to use a way of farming. It is called “sustainable agriculture.”





NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
EXCLUSIVE

# A Better Way

by **Juan Quintana**



### ► Set a Purpose

Learn about a **method** of farming that helps both the land and people.

## Losing Trees

Every year, many **acres** of Earth's precious forests are cut down. Sometimes people cut down the forest for wood. Other times, they cut it down to make room for **cattle** or large farms. Often, poor **farmers** burn a small area of forest to **clear it of** trees. In the cleared area, they plant **crops** to feed their families. This is called **slash-and-burn agriculture**.

### Slash-and-Burn Agriculture



1. **Farmers** cut down trees.



2. Farmers burn the dry trees to clear the land.



3. Farmers plant **crops**. When the land wears out, they clear new land.

**acres** large areas

**cattle** cows

**clear it of** get rid of the

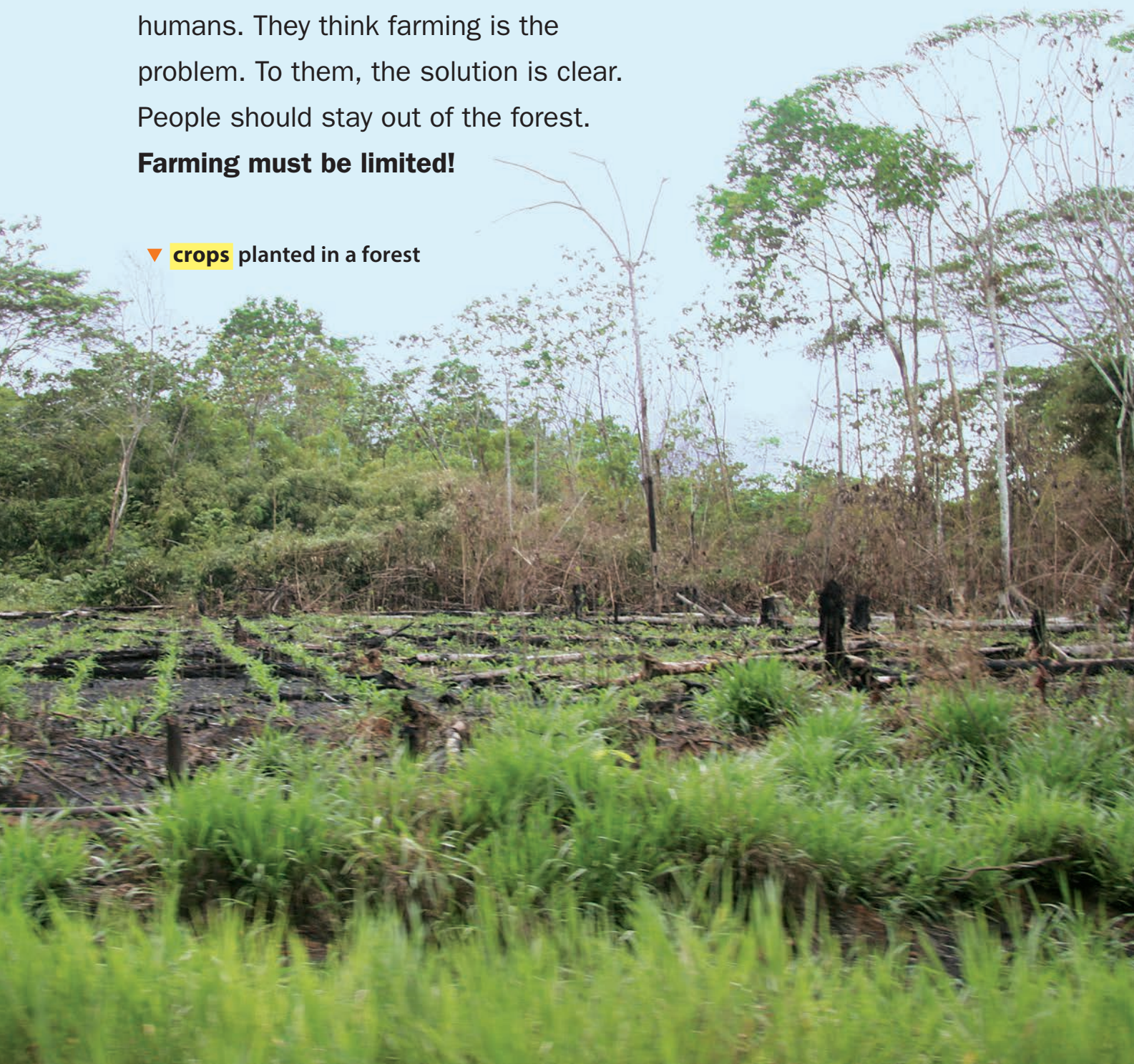
**slash** cut



For all of these reasons, forests have been disappearing. Some people blame humans. They think farming is the problem. To them, the solution is clear. People should stay out of the forest.

### **Farming must be limited!**

▼ **crops** planted in a forest



### **Farming must be limited!**

People must not farm too much!

### **► Before You Continue**

1. **Summarize** In your own words, retell the important ideas in this section.
2. **Steps in a Process** What is the second step in slash-and-burn **agriculture**? Point to where you found the information.



## A New Solution

Paola Segura and Cid Simões, who live in Brazil, have a different solution. They agree that we need to help save trees. But they believe that we need to help people, too. They think that the way to help the Earth and the **farmers** is to use a way of farming. It is called “sustainable **agriculture**.”



- ▲ Segura and Simões were named “Emerging Explorers” by the National Geographic Society. The Society wanted to thank them for their work.

Segura and Simões met in Costa Rica at Earth University. There they studied sustainable agriculture. They believe that farmers can earn money from a small piece of land. They can live there and **raise** their families. They can have healthy land and a community that **lasts**.







Using sustainable **agriculture**, **farmers** use the same small piece of land over and over again to grow **crops**. That way, they don't have to find new land and cut down more forests.

**raise** take care of

**lasts** stays together for a long time

### ► Before You Continue

1. **Use Text Features** Does the heading on page 266 give you a good idea of what this section is about? Explain.
2. **Summarize** Tell a partner the most important ideas on this page.



# Helping Farmers

Today, Segura and Simões teach **farmers** about **crops** that grow well in the forest. Fruit trees and flowers can provide a good **income**. Fruit trees don't have to be replanted every year. Their deep roots help keep water and healthy nutrients in the soil. Some flowers, such as orchids, grow on less land than other crops. Farmers can sell their flowers to markets around the world.

People like to buy beautiful flowers. These are orchids. ▶



▲ Inside the fruit of a cocoa tree are seeds. The seeds can be sold to make chocolate.

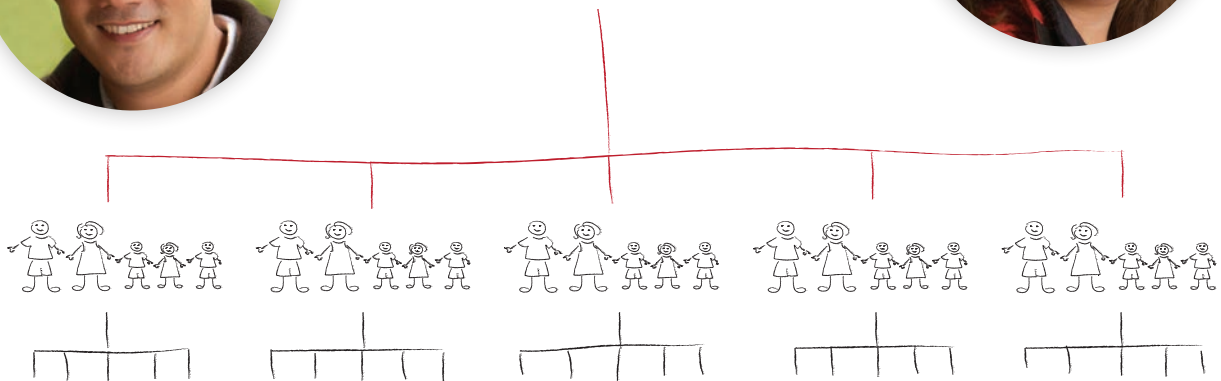
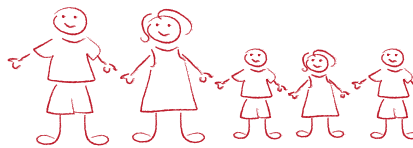


**income** way to make money

# Branching Out

To make a difference, many **farmers** need to grow **crops** this way. Segura and Simões use a special plan to teach more farmers. It is called the  $5 \times 5$  System. First, they teach one family how to grow crops that don't ruin the land. Then that family teaches five new families what they learned. Each new family teaches five more families. Think of all the land that could be saved in the **future**!

## $5 \times 5$ System



### ► Before You Continue

1. **Details** What are two types of sustainable **crops** for a forest?
2. **Summarize** Explain briefly in your own words how the  $5 \times 5$  System works.



# Let's Help Farmers Save Land!

Sustainable **agriculture** is good for the **farmer**. It is also good for the land. Here are three reasons why you should **support** this kind of farming.

First, sustainable agriculture lets farmers grow **crops** on the same land year after year. This is much better than slash-and-burn agriculture. When farmers stay on the same land, they build strong communities.

Palm hearts like these can grow on the same tree year after year. ►



**support** help





Soybeans are a high-value **crop**. ▶



▲ Orchids grow naturally in the forest.

Secondly, sustainable **agriculture** is better for the forest. **Farmers** don't need to clear new land every year. Instead, they can grow **high-value crops**. That way, they can make money from a small amount of land. Some crops grow right in the forest. Farmers don't have to clear any land at all!

**high-value crops** crops that are grown easily that people will always buy

### ▶ Before You Continue

1. **Opinion/Evidence** What is the author's opinion about slash-and-burn **agriculture**? How do you know?
2. **Use Text Features** Look at the photos. Name two plants that help save land.



Finally, sustainable **agriculture** keeps **farmers farming**. Every year, many poor farmers leave the land. They move to the city. This causes problems, such as **unemployment**. It also leaves the land without people to care for it.



▲ If they can't farm, some **farmers** have to move to the city to find work.

**keeps farmers farming** lets farmers continue to farm  
**unemployment** too few jobs for people in the city



To save forests and help **farmers**, we must support people like Paola Segura and Cid Simões. We must be part of the sustainable way of farming. What can you do to help? ❖



◀ unshelled Brazil nuts



▲ Brazil nuts can be a sustainable **crop**.

### ► Before You Continue

1. **Author's Purpose** What is the author's purpose for writing the article? How do you know?
2. **Cause and Effect** According to the text, what can happen when **farmers** are not able to keep farming?



## Talk About It



1. Do you think this was a strong **persuasive article**? Give two reasons to support your opinion.

It was/was not strong because \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Imagine you are a **farmer**. What is the best farming **method**? **Persuade** another farmer. Use evidence from the article.

The best method is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

3. What kind of people are Paola Segura and Cid Simões? Tell about their personalities and ideas.

Segura and Simões are \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_.

### Key Words

agriculture

alternative

conservation

crop

farmer

field

future

harvest

method

plow

sustain

## Write About It



Segura and Simões teach farmers about an **alternative** farming method. What are some benefits of this kind of farming to the whole community? Write two sentences. Use **Key Words** to explain your ideas.

One benefit is \_\_\_\_\_.

Another benefit is \_\_\_\_\_.



## Reread and Explain

# Opinion and Evidence

Make an opinion chart for pages 270–273 in “A Better Way.” Identify what the author is trying to persuade people to think or do. List the supporting reasons, or evidence.

### Opinion Chart

**Opinion:** Sustainable agriculture is good for the farmer and good for the land.

**Evidence:** It lets farmers grow **crops** on the same land year after year.

Now use your opinion chart to explain the author’s opinion and evidence to a partner. Use the sentence frames and **Key Words**. Record your explanation.

The author thinks \_\_\_\_\_.  
One piece of evidence is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Another reason is \_\_\_\_\_.

# Fluency

Practice phrasing as you read. Rate your reading.

### Talk Together

What’s the best way to grow **crops**? Give a persuasive talk to a group of classmates. State your opinion and give at least two reasons to support it. Use **Key Words**.