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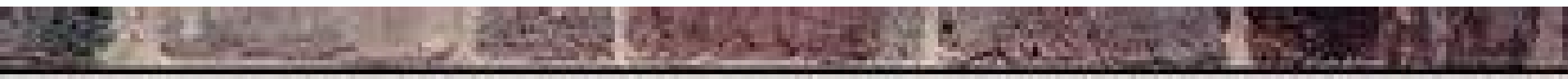

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Name _____	Date _____
Arctic Fox	
<small>After reading the text about arctic foxes, please write down one new fact from each of the paragraphs.</small>	
Fact #1 – Arctic Fox's Adaptations	


Fact #2 – Arctic Fox's Diet	

Fact #3 – Size of the Arctic Fox	



TASK CARDS

Focus on Key Close Reading Skills



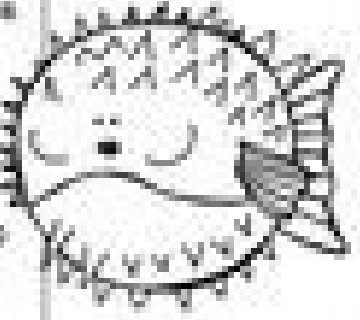
STUDENTS LEARN TO:

- **ANNOTATE**
- **IDENTIFY AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**
- **UNLOCK THE MEANING OF WORDS**
- **IDENTIFY CENTRAL IDEA**
- **ANSWER TEXT BASED QUESTIONS**

ALL ABOUT... Puffer Fish

The puffer fish lives in warm coastal waters. There are about 120 different species of puffer fish. They have big eyes and a long snout but are usually difficult to identify unless they feel threatened.

When sensing danger, a puffer fish can inflate its body very quickly, revealing poisonous spikes. These spikes are toxic to humans. The spikes are also toxic to some fish that try to eat puffer fish! Sharks, however, are immune to the venom.



Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Where would you find a puffer fish?

2) What do puffer fish do when they sense danger?

3) Why are puffer fish difficult to identify unless threatened?

4) Do you like the puffer fish's unique form of protection? Why/Why not?

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comprehension Assessment

Directions: Fill in the bubble for the best response to each question.

1. Which sentence best describes the caterpillar at the beginning of the story?

☐ A The caterpillar is huge.

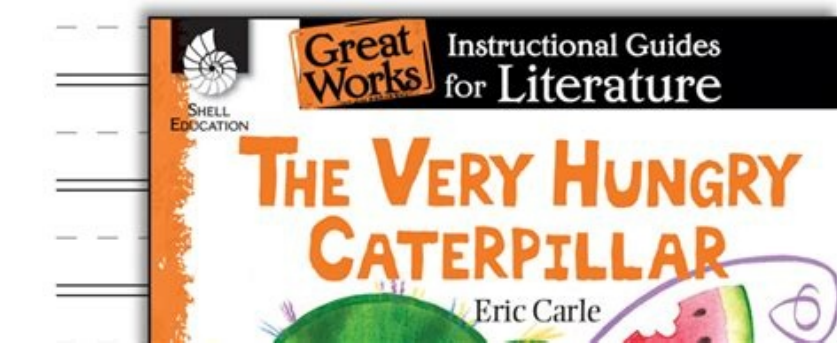
☐ B He is sleeping on a leaf.

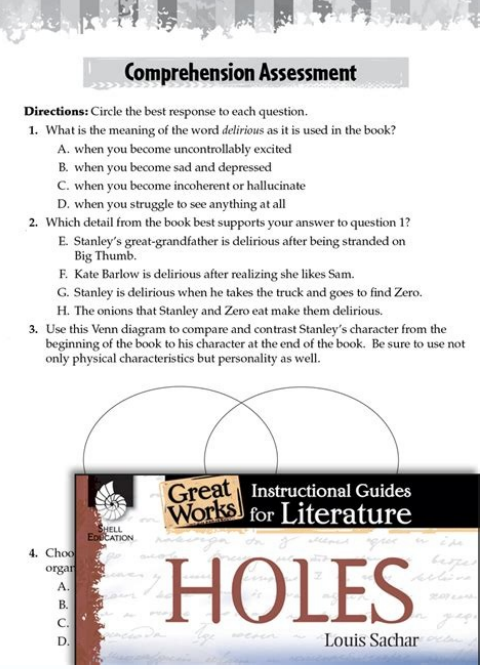
☐ C He is hungry and very small.

☐ D The caterpillar's stomach hurts.

2. Show how the caterpillar changes by writing these words in the correct order.

cocoon	big caterpillar	egg	butterfly	tiny caterpillar
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Begin with those that are easiest to identify and follow, such as sequencing or description. Allow each student to choose a book and search for and mark an identifiable text feature. As teachers in the primary grades, we love fairy tales and funny stories: mostly because the kiddos in our classrooms love reading them! Although those fictional favorites have an important place and are fantastic vehicles for teaching children to read, our kiddos also need to encounter informational non-fiction texts. As you do, you are helping them to build a strong foundation for the increasingly challenging texts they will encounter as they continue their learning. While your Early and Emergent readers will be more heavily immersed in phonics and decoding, your Transitional and Fluent readers are ready to begin looking at the structure of a nonfiction text. Much like a picture walk with a fictional text, take a "Text Feature Walk" to walk your students through the process of identifying various text features included within an informational text. Ready to Teach It? Teaching Informational Text Reading Strategies Here are a few guidelines to help you teach students to identify and analyze the structure and features of an informational or expository text: Model and Demonstrate Strategies to Help Students Navigate Text Features Within Informational Texts Start by providing whole group instruction using a big book that incorporates a number of recognizable text features. Next, they should learn to ask the right questions to uncover meaning from the text, whether fiction or non-fiction. Teach your students these specific text comprehension strategies; then show them how and when to use them in reading both fiction and non-fiction texts. For example: Ask the student questions such as "Why do you think the author included the (map, chart, etc.)? Make it Stick! Teach your students how to quickly locate and recall key words and sentences: have them place sticky notes as reminders. Teach them to notice and read the captions beneath pictures, and show them how the author uses print features such as bold, italics and underline to highlight important facts or key details. In Informational Text Reading Strategies, Content and Structure are Best Buds "From a classroom teacher's perspective, there is some comfort in knowing that content knowledge and text structure are naturally intertwined; after all, either or both represent legitimate curricular goals." - Nell K. As the student reviews the text in order to search for and identify these features, they will encounter information that the author laid out with the purposeful goal of making it easier to read, follow and understand. As a result, those kiddos will reap big benefits! They'll experience better recall and make deeper connections with the texts they read. Duke and P. "In general, the research suggests that almost any approach to teaching the structure of informational text improves both comprehension and recall of key text information." (Duke and Pearson) From early-on, students have a basic understanding of the structure of simple non-fiction texts. As Duke and Pearson explain with regard to these types of graphic organizers, "The point about visual representations is that they are re-presentations; literally, they allow us to present information again." (Nell K. Create an anchor chart to organize and record their thoughts. Help them learn to identify key details, and show them how to eliminate unnecessary points or redundant content. Give Your Students Guided Practice Time to Get Familiar with Informational Text Features Show your students how useful text features can be! Explain how the table of contents, headings and other features can help them locate and recall the information they read. Give them guided practice time: place students in groups of 3 or 4, and give each group a basket of nonfiction books. These concepts are foundational for "thinking about the texts"-analyzing and making meaning from non-fiction informational or expository texts. Self-monitoring for comprehensionRetellingVocabulary developmentAsking & answering questions based on key details in the textIdentification of main idea and/or central message in the textAnalyzing characters and their traitsMaking inferences and drawing conclusionsSummarizing main points of a story or textEvaluation of author's purpose, theme, and point of view (with text evidence)Comparing & contrastingAnalyzing cause & effect relationshipsIdentification and use of nonfiction text featuresUnderstanding text structure (sequential, chronological, descriptive, cause/effect, etc.)Understanding fact vs. The very process of evaluating the structure of an informational text naturally leads the reader to encounter and analyze the content. They begin with a foundation and build upon it in a purposeful, organized way. Point out various text features and lead the students in a discussion of each one. Click here to read it!) Help them learn to recognize and utilize text features. Although informational text features and text structures can be challenging to teach, they are among the most essential skills you can give your students. They'll be encountering these types of texts for years to come! My Read-It'sTM Paired Passages Yearlong MEGA Bundle contains a fiction and nonfiction passage trifold for each topic! There's also a Compare and Contrast Trifold where students will compare and contrast the Paired Passages on the specific topic. Text structure simply refers to the way a text is organized. Show them how the author builds or structures his or her ideas within the text. Keep doing what you're doing, and remember you are making a difference! Now I'm pleased and excited to share the news about something that will REALLY make a difference in your literacy instruction! Guided Readers is my brand new comprehensive online Guided Reading program that provides hundreds of leveled Guided Reading texts, rigorous lesson plans, and word work instruction, based on best practices in literacy instruction. Use carefully chosen texts to highlight various types of informational text structure. The structural elements in an informational text are designed to guide the reader through the content. Teaching students summarizing skills will serve them well. Just as an architect creates a floorplan for a home, an author creates a purposeful, planned structure. If the book has chapters, have them summarize a chapter and identify key words. The Digital Interactive Reader will also provide your students with oral comprehension, decoding, and fluency practice. Even prior to entering school, they have encountered narrative stories. But by way of review, here are the 14 strategies I believe are the most important for young readers to learn. The same holds true for other non-fiction text features such as graphs, charts, tables and illustrations. Like building a house with a wood frame, concrete blocks, logs or bricks, the author has a structure in mind when he or she begins to write. David Pearson (2002). Guided Readers will give you access to amazing lesson plans along with professionally illustrated printable & digital books and instructional materials. To teach text structure to your students, explain that authors organize their information in a purposeful way within the text. As your students read for information, they will build meaning and make connections. Give students discussion starters to guide them in identifying key details, retelling, and comparing and contrasting. Leaf through the text and show them how to identify and use features such as the Table of Contents, glossary, maps, and graphs. opinion Build on the Structure In What Research Has to Say About Reading Instruction (© 2002, National Reading Association) , Nell K. Help your kiddos understand how to use this "sticky strategy" to help organize their writing. First, help them understand that the various types of texts include differences in text structure, language and text features. To prepare your students for the various types of texts they'll encounter as they progress through subsequent grades, give them tools for understanding text structure, and teach them to read for information. Content and structure are not at odds with one another—rather, they build upon and support each other. Give them plenty of practice for asking questions, summarizing & restating, making inferences and drawing conclusions. Have them choose words from the glossary to highlight key facts from the text. David Pearson. Teach Students About the Text Genres... It's obvious that students need to learn to recognize the various types of text genres. From narrative fiction to poetry to non-fiction informational texts, students need to understand the wide variety of literacy forms. Let's take a look at how we can help our students build their comprehension skills by teaching them informational text reading strategies. Help Students Learn to Identify and Analyze Text Structure Within Informational Texts Start by explaining that text structure is simply the way an author has organized the information within a text. David Pearson explain that when students begin learning to analyze informational text structure, they gain valuable aids for both comprehension and recall. Introduce the signal words and phrases that are associated with a particular text structure, and allow the students to review the text and identify any of those words. 2002) Structure Helps Them Sum It Up When students understand the concept that there are various types of text genres and each genre utilizes certain recognizable text structures, they'll be better able to connect with a text and summarize it. The author uses words to form a structured framework that will house the information they want to share. (I called this our "Scavenger Hunt," and I explain how I did it in an earlier post. Then help them learn to identify the the various text structures of description, sequence, cause & effect, compare & contrast, problem/solution, and argument. To help guide your students through a text, help them learn to recognize and identify text structure. National Reading Association When you teach informational text reading strategies, you are not ignoring or sacrificing content. There are fun and engaging topics to get you through the whole year of Guided Reading! Each trifold includes the following activities: Read-It PassagePredict-ItHighlight-ItComprehend-ItDefine-ItAnalyze-It (non-fiction trifolds)Infer-It (fiction trifolds) The Compare & Contrast trifold includes: Compare-ItContrast-ItConnect-It (Making Text to Self/Text/World Connections) Keep at it! I've been where you are, teacher friend; and I know the struggle is real! But I also know that it's well worth it. Your students will build meaning and comprehension as they evaluate text structure and text features. What Research Has to Say About Reading Instruction. Ask them to show how the author used the structure of sequence, description, comparison, etc.; and be sure to instruct them to cite examples from the text. It organizes the contents of a text and guides the reader through it. You may want to give them graphic organizers to record the words and phrases they identify. Give them a Foundation of Targeted Strategies for Text Comprehension I've gone into detail about lesson plans for teaching text comprehension, or "What can you learn from this picture and the caption underneath it?" Although understanding text structure is a higher-level skill, your Fluent readers (and some Transitional readers) are up to the challenge! Give them opportunities to identify and describe the overall structure of a text. There are 3 affordable program plans for Guided Readers, and right now they're at special introductory prices! Click here for a video introduction to Guided Readers! Thanks for stopping by! When you give them comprehension strategies and teach them to understand text structure and text features, they'll begin to develop a basis for understanding. Remember: the challenges you present to students with regard to text structure and features will serve to prepare them. National Reading Association. Are you ready to teach informational text reading strategies to the kiddos in your classroom?

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