

Lesson Skill: Understanding what you read — nonfiction

Strand Reading — Nonfiction

SOL 3.6

4.6

5.6

Materials

- Copies of Understanding What You Read chart (attached)
- Two nonfiction articles of interest
- Available technology
- Highlighters

Lesson

1. Select two nonfiction articles on topics of interest to students. Use one article as a model for the lesson and one for collaborative practice.
2. Open the lesson by asking students to brainstorm what they are curious about or do not understand, and talk about how asking questions can help them understand the things they are interested in. Explain that being curious and asking questions about reading follows the same line of thinking. Display the first article (or provide copies) and the Understanding What You Read chart (attached). Model the questioning process using think-aloud strategies, allowing plenty of time for student responses. Record answers so all students can view them as you complete the chart.
3. Guide students in a brief discussion about the questions the article did not answer and where they might find the answers.
4. Split students into groups of two or three, and give them copies of the Understanding What You Read chart and the second article. Have them work together to write five questions they would like to know about their topic, then continue using the same process that the class used for the first article.
5. When the reading is complete, ask students what they gained from this process in understanding what they read.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Assign roles for student teams or groups, e.g., scribe, reader, questioner, illustrator.
- Give students extra support by guiding them through the Before, During, and After reading process.
- Provide texts at different reading levels.
- Build background knowledge prior to reading text.

Understanding What You Read: Nonfiction

<u>K</u> Before Reading	<u>W</u> Before Reading	<u>W</u> During Reading	<u>L</u> After Reading
What do you KNOW about _____?	What do you WANT to know about _____?	WHERE did you find the answers to the questions?	What did you LEARN about _____?