

Lesson Skill: Table of contents, indices, charts, maps, graphs

Strand Reading — Nonfiction

SOL 3.6, 3.7

4.6

5.6, 5.9

Materials

- Presentation (attached) displaying the name, definition, and example of the following features of nonfiction: table of contents, index, chart, map, and graph
- Available technology or copies for each student
- Copies of Nonfiction Scavenger Hunt graphic organizer (attached)
- Student textbooks, online encyclopedia, and other nonfiction books that include features of nonfiction (table of contents, index, chart, etc.)

Lesson

1. Ask students to cite examples of nonfiction texts, such as biographies, autobiographies, informational books and articles, textbooks, and reference materials.
2. Discuss with students the features of nonfiction that help them sort out and understand what they read: table of contents, indices, charts, maps, and graphs. Present the elements of nonfiction using the name, definition, and an example of each.
3. Distribute copies of the Nonfiction Scavenger Hunt to individuals or groups. Direct students to skim the textbook or online encyclopedia to find examples of the following elements of nonfiction: table of contexts, indices, charts, maps, and graphs. Have them record the page and how this information helps the reader understand the reading. Review student progress, and help as needed.
4. Ask students to share their examples.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Give students several texts, and have them sort fiction from nonfiction.
- Have students participate in a “classroom quest” to reinforce understanding real vs. make-believe. For example, have students find an object in the classroom that is found in a familiar nonfiction text. On that object are directions to another object in the classroom that is found in a familiar fiction text (e.g., a poster of a character in the book). When the quest has ended, discuss the findings, and compare and contrast elements of fiction and nonfiction.
- Post examples of the features of nonfiction (table of contents, maps, graphs) as visuals for students.
- Have students share final examples through a Think-Pair-Share activity.

- Provide materials for students to cut out examples of the features of nonfiction to glue on the graphic organizer.
- Provide picture examples on the graphic organizer.

Nonfiction Scavenger Hunt

Element of Nonfiction	Page Number/ URL	How It Helps Reader to Locate Information
Table of Contents		
Index		
Chart		
Map		
Graph		

Elements of Nonfiction Presentation

Table of Contents

Definition

A list of the parts or chapters of a book or magazine in the order in which they appear



Index

Definition

A list of the specific information included in a book or article



Chart

Definition

A picture that organizes or represents data



Map

Definition

A visual representation (or picture) of an area



Graph

Definition

A picture that represents or explains more than one piece of data

