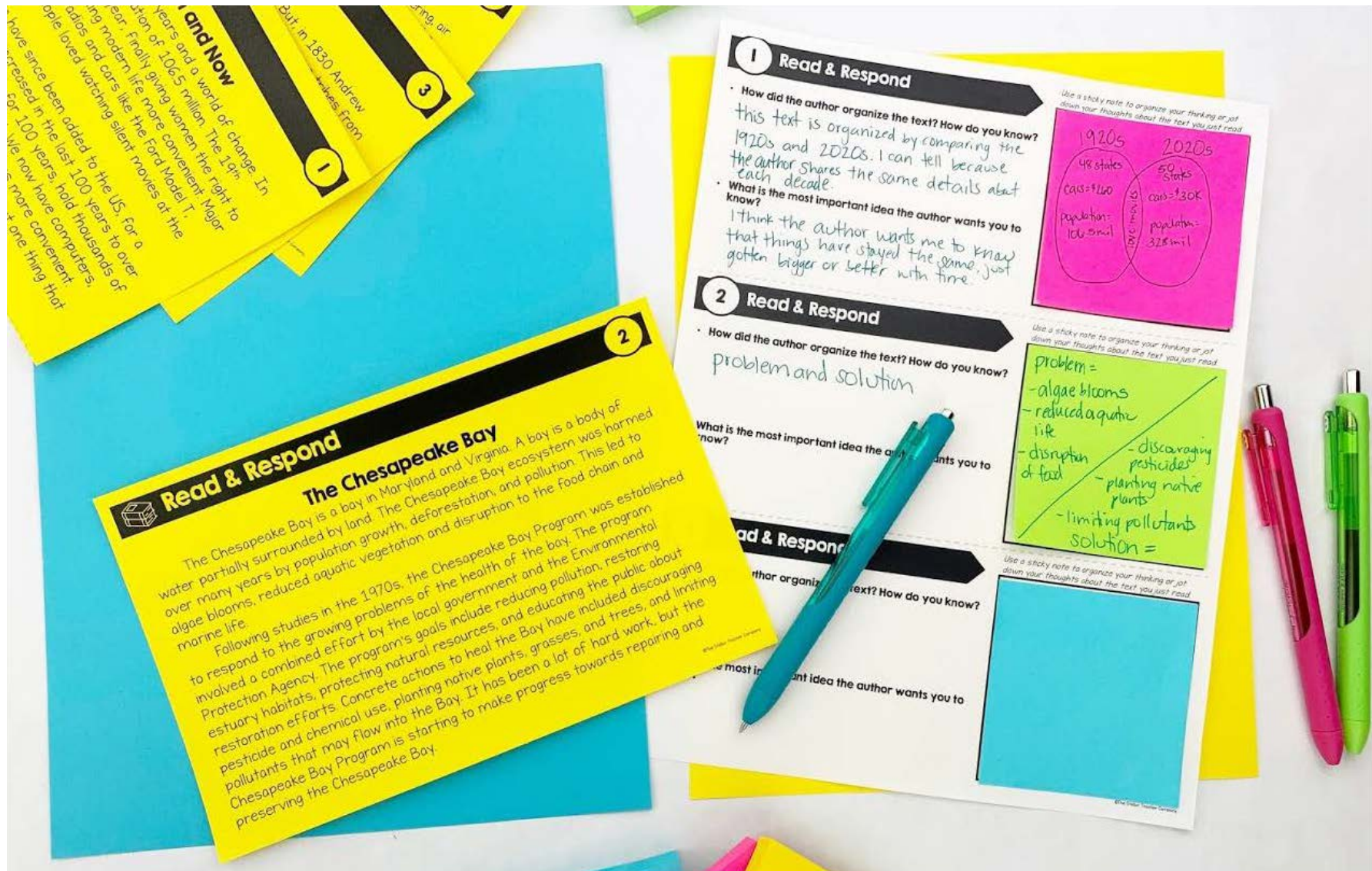


TEXT STRUCTURE TASK CARDS

20 Short Reading Passages to Teach Text Structure



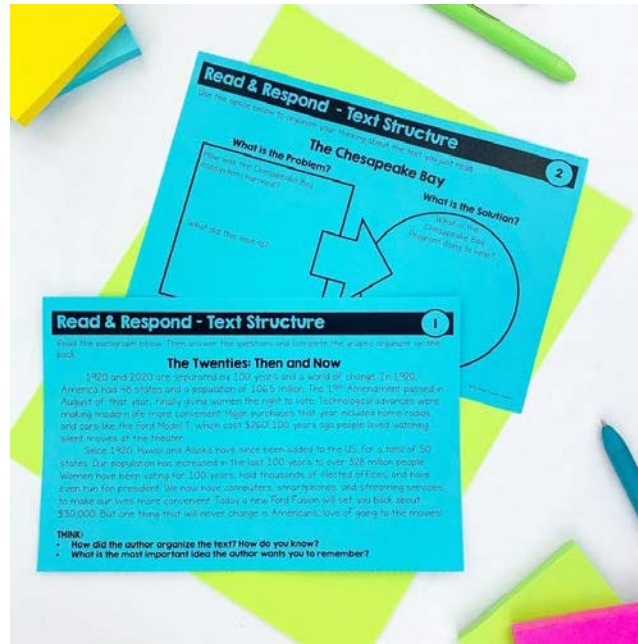
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short informational passages that will help you teach, practice, and reinforce the 5 types of non-fiction text structure.

Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



Option #1 - Just the text



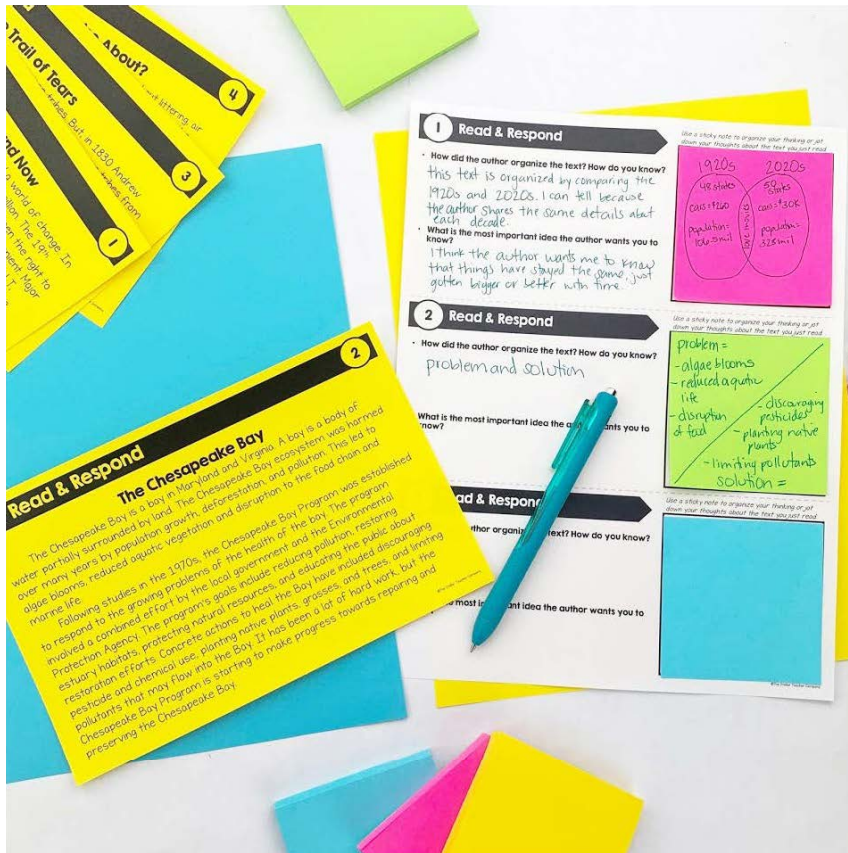
Option #2 - Text and Graphic Organizer



Option #3 - Text and Response Questions

Option #1 - Just the Text

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short non-fiction reading passage (takes up half a page). The passages lend themselves to identifying the 5 types of non-fiction text structure, but you really could use them to teach ANY nonfiction skill.

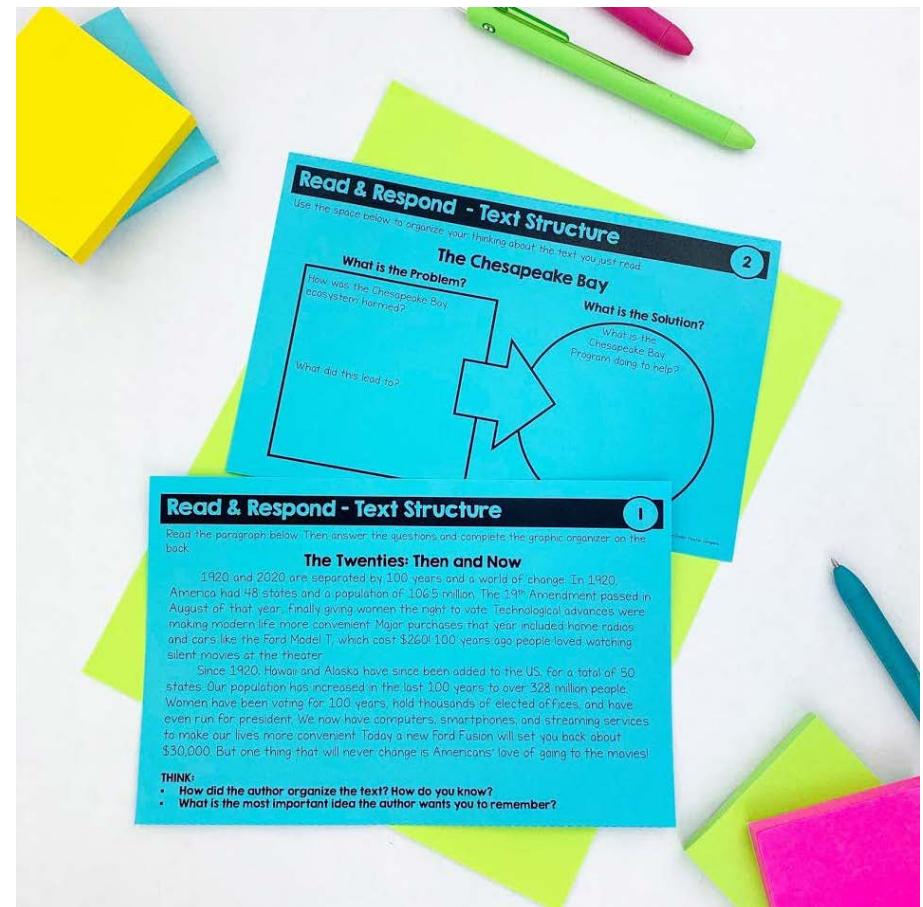


- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on card stock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passage and respond on a separate page.

Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

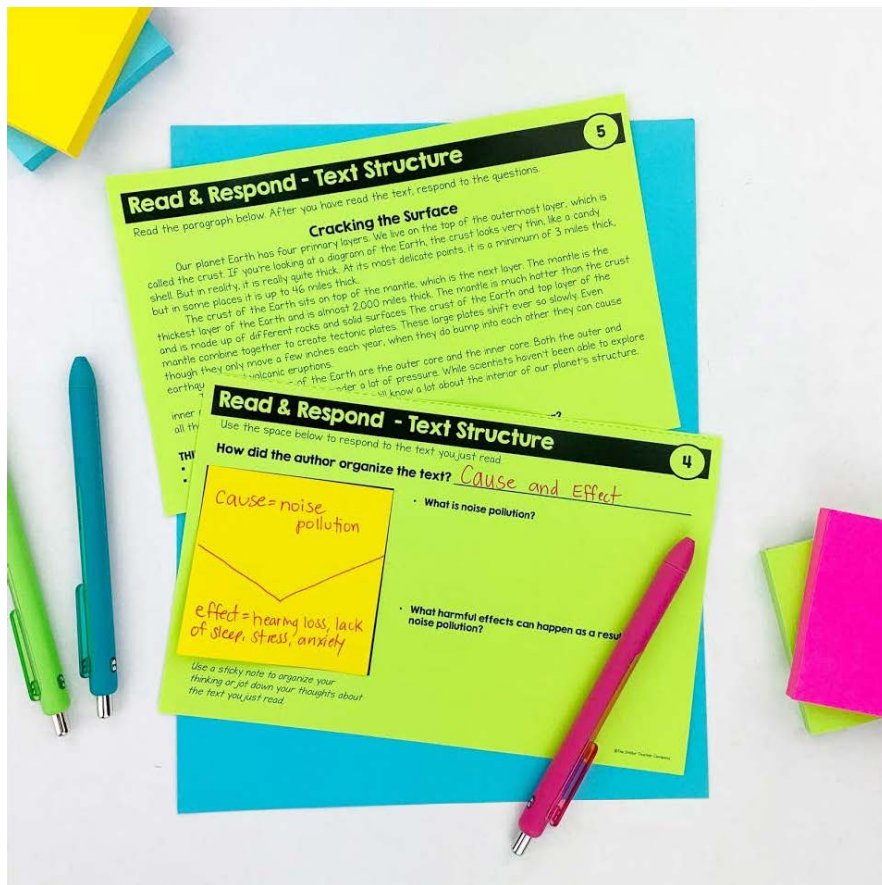
One of the printing options include the passage and a graphic organizer template. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.

- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students thinking about text structure.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that matches the text structure. This is a perfect tool to help students organize their thinking about the text.



Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

One of the printing options include the passage and reading response questions. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.



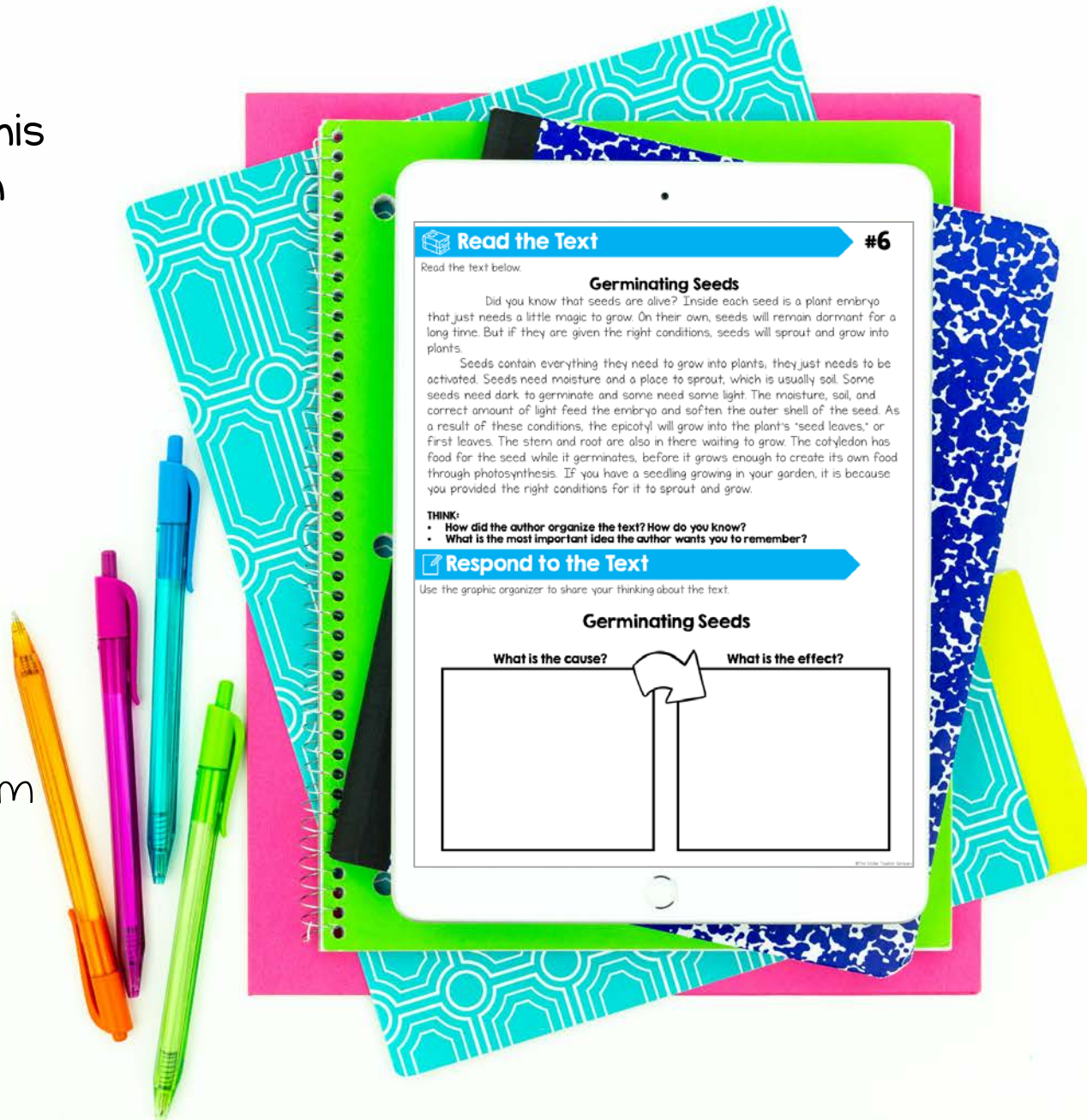
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students thinking about text structure.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can create their own graphic organizer. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital versions in my resource. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

There are three different digital versions includes (to match the three different printing options).

- **Option 1:** The text with a generic space for student response.
- **Option 2:** The text with the graphic organizer at the bottom (this one is pictured to the right).
- **Option 3:** The text with the text-based comprehension questions on the bottom.



A LOOK INSIDE... (option 1)

Read & Respond 1

The Twenties: Then and Now

1920 and 2020 are separated by 100 years and a world of change. In 1920, America had 48 states and a population of 106.5 million. The 19th Amendment passed in August of that year, finally giving women the right to vote. Technological advances were making modern life more convenient. Major purchases that year included home radios and cars like the Ford Model T, which cost \$260! 100 years ago people loved watching silent movies at the theater.

Since 1920, Hawaii and Alaska have since been added to the US, for a total of 50 states. Our population has increased in the last 100 years to over 328 million people. Women have been voting for 100 years, hold thousands of elected offices, and have even run for president. We now have computers, smartphones, and streaming services to make our lives more convenient. Today a new Ford Fusion will set you back about \$30,000. But one thing that will never change is Americans' love of going to the movies!

Read & Respond 2

The Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is a bay in Maryland and Virginia. A bay is a body of water partially surrounded by land. The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was harmed over many years by population growth, deforestation, and pollution. This led to algae blooms, reduced aquatic vegetation and disruption to the food chain and marine life.

Following studies in the 1970s, the Chesapeake Bay Program was established to respond to the problem. The program involved a combined effort by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state and local government, and private industry. Restoration efforts include reducing agricultural and urban runoff, pesticide and chemical pollutants that may harm the bay, and preserving the Chesapeake Bay.

Read & Respond 3

Read & Respond 3

The Trail of Tears

America used to belong to Native American tribes. But, in 1830 Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act which allowed him to move tribes from within state borders to unclaimed lands in what is now Oklahoma.

The forced migration that became known as the Trail of Tears first started with the Choctaw in 1831. The Choctaw people were moved from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Then, the Seminole Tribe in Florida was forcibly relocated in 1832. The theft of Indian land continued on for almost 10 years. The Creek people were moved in 1834 from Georgia and Alabama. The Chickasaw and Cherokee followed in 1837 and 1838. Over 4,000 Cherokee died during the march.

The relocation took tribes from their geographic homes, climate, and food sources. Many tribes were dumped close to each other, even though they were completely different Indian nations. The Trail of Tears was named because of the horrific conditions Native Americans had to endure while marching hundreds of miles. Many died from harsh weather conditions, disease, and starvation.

Read & Respond 4

What's All That Noise About?

When you think of environmental dangers, you probably think about littering, air pollution, and the excessive burning of fossil fuels. But did you ever think about the damage that is done by extremely loud noises? Noise pollution, while invisible, can have a negative impact on both humans and animals.

Noise pollution is defined as any unwanted or excessive sound that causes physical harm to humans and animals. In humans, exposure to loud noise can cause high blood pressure, heart disease, and hearing loss. In animals, exposure to loud noise can cause stress, anxiety, and even death.

Read & Respond 5

Read & Respond 5

Cracking the Surface

Our planet Earth has four primary layers. We live on the top of the outermost layer, which is called the crust. If you're looking at a diagram of the Earth, the crust looks very thin, like a candy shell. But in reality, it is really quite thick. At its most delicate points, it is a minimum of 3 miles thick, but in some places it is up to 46 miles thick.

The crust of the Earth sits on top of the mantle, which is the next layer. The mantle is the thickest layer of the Earth and is almost 2,000 miles thick. The mantle is much hotter than the crust and is made up of different rocks and solid surfaces. The crust of the Earth and top layer of the mantle combine together to create tectonic plates. These large plates shift ever so slowly. Even though they only move a few inches each year, when they do bump into each other they can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The next two layers of the Earth are the outer core and the inner core. Both the outer and inner core are extremely hot and under a lot of pressure. While scientists haven't been able to explore all the layers of the Earth in person, they still know a lot about the interior of our planet's structure.

Read & Respond 6

Read & Respond 6

What is a Tsunami?

Can you imagine sitting on the beach enjoying the calm ocean breeze when all of the sudden a giant wall of water comes rushing towards you? It's hard to picture or imagine, but tsunamis are giant waves that keep growing and growing. They have the capability of wiping out and destroying entire coastal cities.

Tsunamis occur as a result of any action that creates a disturbance in the ocean. They can form as a result of earthquakes, landslides, or even volcanic activity that takes place under the surface of the water. Tsunami waves start off being very small in height, but they travel very quickly. As they approach land, they start to slow down. This reduction in speed causes the wave height of the tsunami to increase. Tsunami waves can be well over 100ft by the time they reach shore.

As you can probably imagine, the impact of a tsunami can be catastrophic. When a 100ft wave comes crashing to shore, it can easily knock down trees and buildings. If a structure is able to survive the initial wave, it more than likely will be destroyed by the large volume of water that rapidly flows inland behind the wave.

It is unlikely you will ever experience a tsunami first hand, but it's not a bad idea to understand the power they possess.

Read & Respond 7

Read & Respond 7

The History of the Orchestra

Music has been around for thousands and thousands of years. It was during the Italian Renaissance of the 1500s that the term "concerto" was first used to refer to a group of musicians who played music together. These musical formations just continued to grow and change over time.

Claudio Monteverdi was an Italian composer in the 1600s. He was one of the first composers to write different parts of music for different instruments. He could "hear" in his mind how they would all sound when played together. His method of composition changed the way music for instruments was written.

During the 1800s many advances were made in instrument construction. Instrument sounds became more individualized. This allowed composers to write even more specialized parts for different instruments. Composers were the first conductors. They wanted to make sure the musicians performed their music in the way they intended. Over time, conductors became an integral part of the orchestra.

Orchestras continue to advance and change in the 21st century. Today, conductors experiment with different sized sections of the various instruments and are much more visible with their conducting. But their goal is still the same as it was 500 years ago - create music that people will enjoy.

Read & Respond 8

Read & Respond 8

Cracking the Surface

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Read & Respond 9

Read & Respond 9

Germinating Seeds

Did you know that seeds are alive? Inside each seed is a plant embryo that just needs a little magic to grow. On their own, seeds will remain dormant for a long time. But if they are given the right conditions, seeds will sprout and grow into plants.

Seeds contain everything they need to grow into plants, they just need to be activated. Seeds need moisture and a place to sprout, which is usually soil.

Read & Respond 10

Read & Respond 10

Earth and Jupiter

Earth and Jupiter are both planets in our solar system. Earth is the only life-sustaining planet in the Milky Way. Earth is the third planet from the sun and is about 93 million km away. The atmosphere protects the Earth from the full force of the sun, while allowing life on Earth to use its oxygen. Extreme temperatures on Earth range from about -100°F to 130°F, but most average temperatures around the globe will support some form of life. Seasons are dictated by Earth's orbit around the sun, which takes about 365 days.

Jupiter, on the other hand, is the fifth planet from the sun. At 778 million km from the sun, its average temperature is -234°F! That is way, way too cold to support carbon-based life forms. Jupiter is a gas-based planet so there isn't even a surface to support life. It takes Jupiter 12 Earth years to orbit the sun! Don't pack your bags for a Jupiter any time soon.

Read & Respond 11

Read & Respond 11

Seeds: A Tiny Universe

There are many different shapes, sizes, and types of seeds. Each seed carries inside of it a tiny plant just waiting to grow. An outer coating protects the inner parts of the seed while it waits to be planted. Some outer coatings are hard, while some are soft or smooth.

Inside the seed, most of the space is taken up by the cotyledon, which is food for the baby plant. Curled up in the corner of the seed, the embryo parts each have a job to do. For instance, the radicle will grow down into the soil and turn into the roots. The hypocotyl straightens out into the stem, lifting the epicotyl closer to the surface. The epicotyl will then develop and release the soft, green seed leaves into the light.

Some seeds take a long time to go through the sprouting process and some do it quickly, but the most important thing is they have everything they need wrapped in a neat little package.

A LOOK INSIDE... (option 2)

Read & Respond - Text Structure 1

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

The Twenties: Then and Now

1920 and 2020 are separated by 100 years and a world of change. In 1920, America had 48 states and a population of 106.5 million. The 19th Amendment passed in August of that year, finally giving women the right to vote. Technological advances were making modern life more convenient. Major purchases that year included home radios and cars like the Ford Model T, which cost \$260! 100 years ago people loved watching silent movies at the theater.

Since 1920, Hawaii and Alaska have since been added to the US, for a total of 50 states. Our population has increased in the last 100 years to over 328 million people. Women have been voting for 100 years, hold thousands of elected offices, and have even run for president. We now have computers, smartphones, and streaming services to make our lives more convenient. Today a new Ford Fusion will set you back about \$30,000. But one thing that will never change is Americans' love of going to the movies!

- THINK:**
- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
 - What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 2

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

The Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is a bay in Maryland and Virginia. A bay is a body of water partially surrounded by land. The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was harmed over many years by population growth, deforestation, and pollution. This led to algae blooms, reduced aquatic vegetation and disruption to the food chain and marine life.

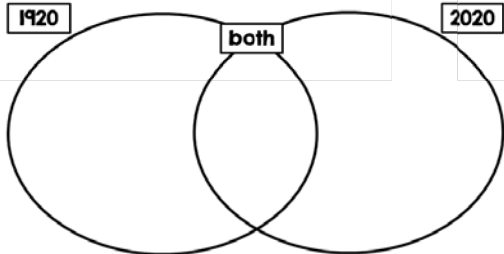
Following studies in the 1970s, the Chesapeake Bay Program was established to respond to the growing problems of the health of the bay. The program involved a combined effort by the local government of reducing pollution, restoring public about restoration pesticide and chemical that may flow into the bay.

- THINK:**
- How did the author...
 - What is the most in...

Read & Respond - Text Structure 1

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

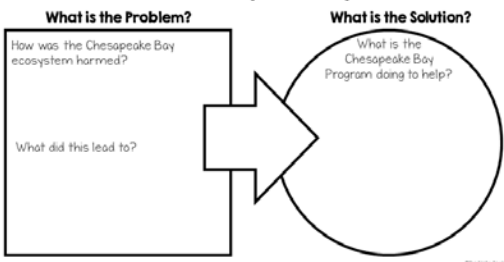
The Twenties: Then and Now



Read & Respond - Text Structure 2

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

The Chesapeake Bay



Read & Respond - Text Structure 3

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

The Trail of Tears

America used to belong to Native American tribes. But, in 1830 Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act which allowed him to move tribes from within state borders to unclaimed lands in what is now Oklahoma.

The forced migration that became known as the Trail of Tears first started with the Choctaw in 1831. The Choctaw people were moved from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Then, the Seminole Tribe in Florida was forcibly relocated in 1832. The Trail of Indian land continued on for almost 10 years. The Creek people were moved in 1837 from Georgia and Alabama. The Chickasaw and Cherokee followed in 1837 and 1838. Over 4,000 Cherokee died during the march.

The relocation took tribes from their geographic homes, climate, and food sources. Many tribes were dumped close to each other, even though they were completely different Indian nations. The Trail of Tears was named because of the horrific conditions Native Americans had to endure while marching hundreds of miles. Many died from harsh weather conditions, disease, and starvation.

- THINK:**
- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
 - What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 4

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

What's All That Noise About?

When you think of environmental dangers, you probably think about littering, air pollution, and the excessive burning of fossil fuels. But did you ever think about the damage that is done by extremely loud noises? Noise pollution, while invisible, can have a negative impact on both humans and animals. Noise pollution is defined as any unwanted or excessive sound that causes physical harm to humans and animals. In humans, exposure to loud noise can cause high blood pressure, heart disease, disrupted sleep, and extreme stress and anxiety. Constant exposure to loud noises can also have a

Read & Respond - Text Structure 3

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

The Trail of Tears

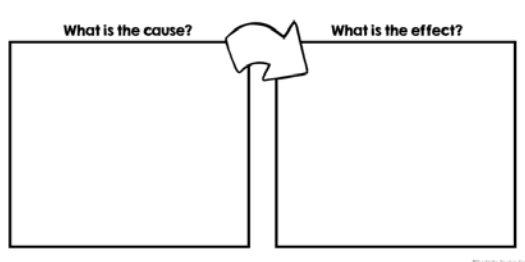
Year Use the text to list the significant events that happened in each year.

1830	
1831	
1832	
1834	
1837	

Read & Respond - Text Structure 4

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

What's All That Noise About?



Read & Respond - Text Structure 5

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

Cracking the Surface

Our planet Earth has four primary layers. We live on the top of the outermost layer, which is called the crust. If you're looking at a diagram of the Earth, the crust looks very thin, like a candy shell. But in reality, it is really quite thick. At its most delicate points, it is a minimum of 3 miles thick, but in some places it is up to 46 miles thick.

The crust of the Earth sits on top of the mantle, which is the next layer. The mantle is the thickest layer of the Earth and is almost 2,000 miles thick. The mantle is much hotter than the crust and is made up of different rocks and solid surfaces. These large plates shift ever so slowly. Even though they only move a few inches each year, when they do bump into each other they can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The next two layers of the Earth are the outer core and the inner core. Both the outer and inner core are extremely hot and under a lot of pressure. While scientists haven't been able to explore all the layers of the Earth in person, they still know a lot about the interior of our planet's structure.

- THINK:**
- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
 - What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 6

Read the text below. Think about the questions and complete the graphic organizer on the back.

Germinating Seeds

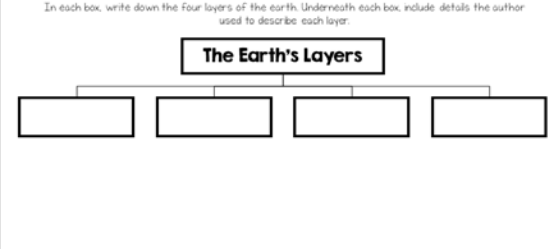
Did you know that seeds are alive? Inside each seed is a plant embryo that just needs a little magic to grow. On their own, seeds will remain dormant for a long time. But if they are given the right conditions, seeds will sprout and grow into plants.

Seeds contain everything they need to grow into plants, they just need to be activated. Seeds need moisture and a place to sprout, which is usually soil. Some seeds

Read & Respond - Text Structure 5

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

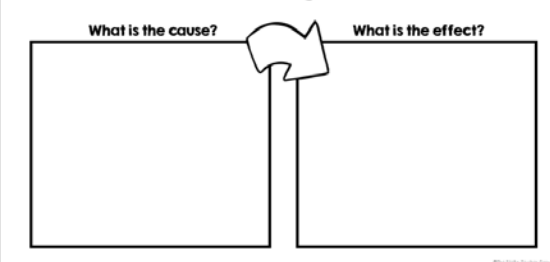
Cracking the Surface



Read & Respond - Text Structure 6

Use the space below to organize your thinking about the text you just read.

Germinating Seeds



A LOOK INSIDE... (option 3)

Read & Respond - Text Structure 13

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

Moths and Butterflies

When you see an insect with large, colorful wings fly by, you probably think it is a butterfly. But did you know that there are actually far more kinds of moths than butterflies. Moths and butterflies are both flying insects with wings that can be colorful and showy. They are both born as caterpillars from eggs, and completely transform before maturity. Butterflies undergo their change in a chrysalis, which is a hard, protective case. Whereas moths spin silken cocoons to complete their transformation.

Butterflies are usually diurnal (awake during the day) and moths are usually nocturnal (awake during the night), although there are exceptions to both cases. Butterflies have smooth, club-shaped antennae, while moths' antennae have jagged edges.

A better way to tell them apart is by their wings. When butterflies land, they hold their wings straight up. Moths droop their wings down so they lay flat. Butterflies can have more colorful wings with more intricate patterns, but there are many beautiful moths, too. Now you'll know exactly what to look for the next time you are wondering if you are looking at a moth or a butterfly!

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 14

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

Migratory Bird

Have you ever looked up at the sky and saw a flock of geese flying in their classic V-shaped pattern? Have you ever wondered where they were headed? Geese are just one of the many bird species that will migrate and relocate with the changing of the seasons.

More than half of the birds that live in North America are migratory birds. This means they will move between their breeding homes and their nonbreeding homes when the seasons change. Some birds will migrate short distances, while others will fly half way across the globe to get to their second home.

There are two main reasons why geese migrate. Geese are one of the few birds that can fly north to take advantage of the warmer weather. As the seasons change and winter comes, the weather becomes too cold and the food runs out. It is pretty amazing to consider that these birds can travel so far.

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 13

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- Why do people commonly confuse moths and butterflies?

- What do you think is the most significant difference between these two insects?

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

Read & Respond - Text Structure 14

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- What are the two main reasons that cause birds to migrate?

- Why aren't all birds migratory birds?

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

Read & Respond - Text Structure 15

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

The Luna Moth

Luna moths are spectacular! They are arguably one of the most beautiful types of moths and have some incredibly distinctive features.

One of the most impressive attributes of the Luna moth is their unique wings. Their mint green, translucent wings can spread up to 4.5 inches - think the length of your iPhone - which makes them one of the largest moth species. In addition, each wing has its own tail-like feature and eyespot which helps confuse their predators.

Another really unique characteristic of the Luna moth is their missing mouth. Adult Luna moths don't have a mouth because they never eat as adults. When they are in the larvae stage they will feed on plant leaves, but once they become full adults they don't even eat. The average adult life of the Luna moth is just 7-10 days. During their very short adult life, they will mate and lay eggs. Females will lay up to 200 eggs.

You can learn many interesting facts about Luna moths, but their appearance and short life are sure to fascinate you.

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 16

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

Are the Smoky Mountains on Fire?

If the Smoky Mountains were on fire, they would have been burning for millions of years. A part of the Appalachian Mountains, the Smoky Mountains stretch diagonally to the east along the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. Miles and miles of gently rounded mountains covered in forest stretch as far as the eye can see. The mountains appear layered and provide views that are famous around the world. But if they aren't on fire, why are they called the Smoky Mountains?

The Smoky Mountains were named "Shoconage" by the Cherokee. "Shoconage" means the blue smoke that rises from the mountains. The mountains are covered in mist and are tinted blue. The mist is tinted blue because of the smoke that rises from the mountains. The mountains are covered in mist and are tinted blue because of the smoke that rises from the mountains.

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 15

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- What are some of the unique attributes of the Luna moth?

- Which feature do you think is the most interesting? Explain why.

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

Read & Respond - Text Structure 16

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- How did the Smoky Mountains get their name?

- What causes the hazy fog in the mountains?

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

Read & Respond - Text Structure 17

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

Environmental Activism

Environmental pollution was at its worst in the late 1950s. In the 1960s people became more aware of issues like pollution, and they began to question how people were damaging the Earth. The corporations that were responsible for pollution did not want to decrease their profits to reduce or prevent pollution, so environmental leaders stepped up to promote and encourage change.

One major event that contributed to educating people about the effects of pollution was the publication of Silent Spring in 1962. Author Rachel Carson documented the damage done by the use of pesticides to beneficial insect populations, ground water, and human health. Carson highlighted how the pesticide industry used misleading information to encourage the use of pesticides.

Work by activists like Carson led to government involvement in pollution issues. As a result, the Clean Air Act of 1963 and formation of the Environmental Protection Agency can be traced to the activism of early environmental pioneers like Rachel Carson.

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 18

Read the text below. After you have read the text, respond to the questions.

The Difference Between Vaccinations and Immunizations

The words vaccination and immunization are often used interchangeably, but does that mean they have the same meaning? Vaccination and immunization both refer to how humans (and domestic animals) get protected from infectious diseases. Long ago people were sickened, disabled, and often killed by common diseases. But, today we are protected from most of these diseases.

Vaccines are a medical product that gets put into the body. Vaccines stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies that can fight off future infections. Immunization is the process of making someone immune to a disease. Immunization can be done in many ways, including through vaccines, but it can also be done through other means like natural exposure to a disease or through a medical procedure.

THINK:

- How did the author organize the text? How do you know?
- What is the most important idea the author wants you to remember?

Read & Respond - Text Structure 17

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- What caused Rachel Carson to write Silent Spring?

- How did this publication help the problem of environmental pollution?

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

Read & Respond - Text Structure 18

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

How did the author organize the text? _____

- What is the difference between the terms vaccination and immunization?

- Why do you think people use these two words interchangeably?

Use a sticky note to organize your thinking or jot down your thoughts about the text you just read.

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