

6 Reading Passages & Response Pages

SUMMARIZING NONFICTION

★ Easy to Follow
4 Step Reading
Process



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction

Step 1: Read the Passage

From Fins to Fans: How Humpbacks Improve Wind Turbines

Animals have a lot to teach us about science. Scientists have discovered that animals that moved most easily through air or water had a feature called a tubercle. A scientist named Dr. Frank Fish saw a sculpture of a whale's fin that had wavy bumps on the front of the fin. He thought the bumps were on the wrong side. They had not, and Dr. Fish began researching. He discovered that tubercles, helped whales move through water more easily.

He learned that fins with tubercles work better than fins without them. They provide more upward power, called lift. They also stop less abruptly. They are easier to move at higher angles. This was true for fins moving through water.

Dr. Fish and his team knew this information could be used to improve wind turbines. They used the information to design blades with tubercles. On wind turbines, the blades spun more easily to capture more energy. This was especially true when there was not enough wind for the old turbines. Ceiling fans use the same principle. Soon, we might also improve airplane wings by learning about humpback whales.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What is this text mostly about?
- What important details does the author share?
- What does the author want you to remember about this topic?

Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use your notes from the front and the checklist below to summarize the text you read.

SUMMARY CHECKLIST

- Around 4-5 sentences
- Clearly state the main idea
- Only includes key details
- Consider the author's purpose
- Mirrors the structure of the text
- Use your own words

MY SUMMARY:

Step 4: Respond to the Text

1. Why was Dr. Frank Fish surprised to see wavy bumps on a sculpture of a whale?
2. Why do fins with tubercles work better than fins without them?
3. What modern day inventions have been inspired by learning about tubercles?

4 STEP READING PROCESS

Each passages and response questions follow the same 4 Step Process.

Step 1: Read the Passage

Students can read the short reading passage.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

Students can use sticky notes or the blank squares to jot down their thoughts or questions about the text.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Students can organize their thinking around the focus skill with the graphic organizer template.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

Students can answer 3 comprehension questions about the text.



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE Summarizing Nonfiction

Step 1: Read the Passage

Garrett Morgan's

Garrett Morgan only completed sixth grade due to racism throughout his life. This did not stop him and he became successful. Garrett invented the gas mask and signal for traffic lights. Before gas masks, many people died from gas. Garrett saved lives.

After a clothing factory caught fire, Garrett kept firefighters from breathing in smoke by hanging down like elephant trunks to breathe and filter out smoke.

Garrett lived in Cleveland, Ohio, but he wore it into smoke-filled tents in front of other masks at the time. Fire departments used his International Association of Fire Chiefs mask.

On July 24, 1916, Garrett showed a tunnel under Lake Erie when nature tested his invention but they could not save the workers. Garrett put safety hoods into the tunnel and put them on.

At first, Garrett did not get the credit he deserved. However, though, he became known as a hero.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What is this text mostly about?
- What important details does the author share?
- What does the author want you to think about?

Add a post-it note directly in this space.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use details from the text to answer the 5W questions. You can summarize what you read.

WHO?	Who is this text about?
WHAT?	What did Garrett Morgan do? What is he known for?
WHEN?	When did these events take place? (What dates are important?)
WHERE?	Where did they take place? (What location is significant?)
WHY?	Why is Garrett Morgan important?

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- If you would like extra practice, use a separate piece of paper to write your answers.*
1. What are some of the inventions that Garrett Morgan is known for?
 2. How does the author describe the safety hood that Garrett Morgan invented?
 3. Why did Garrett travel around so much?

SUMMARIZING FOCUS

Each text is written with a focus on the summarizing of nonfiction. Students will be able to read the texts and then spend time practicing summarizing nonfiction text.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Steering Away From Sleepiness

Drivers are told to avoid dangers like texting while on the road. One danger that drivers often ignore is feeling sleepy. Driving tired makes it harder to pay attention, notice hazards, and react quickly. The National Safety Council reports that drowsy drivers are three times more likely to crash.

Middle schooler Katherine Wu noticed this issue even before she could get behind the wheel. Every year, her family would drive from Maryland to Florida for vacation. Her mom would talk to her dad during the long drive to help him stay awake and alert. Katherine thought drivers without a passenger like her mom needed something to help them. For the 2014 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge, she created just that.

Katherine's "Driver's Companion" is a headset attached to a small device. It tracks how often the driver blinks, and it uses waves to detect brain activity. These measure how sleepy the driver is. With her coding skills, Katherine programmed the device to play a role similar to a helpful passenger. When the driver starts to show signs of tiredness, the "Companion" uses lights and music to keep them alert. If they grow more tired, the signals grow stronger. Messages like "You're tired. Please take a break" warn the driver to get off the road.

Before entering her device in the competition, Katherine tested it on students at her school to see how it affected their alertness. Going forward, she hopes to test it on more people in different situations. Maybe someday, the "Driver's Companion" will steer drivers away from sleepiness.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What is this text mostly about?
- What important details does the author share?
- What does the author want you to remember about this topic?
- What details would you include in your summary of this text?

Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

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Passages Focus On:

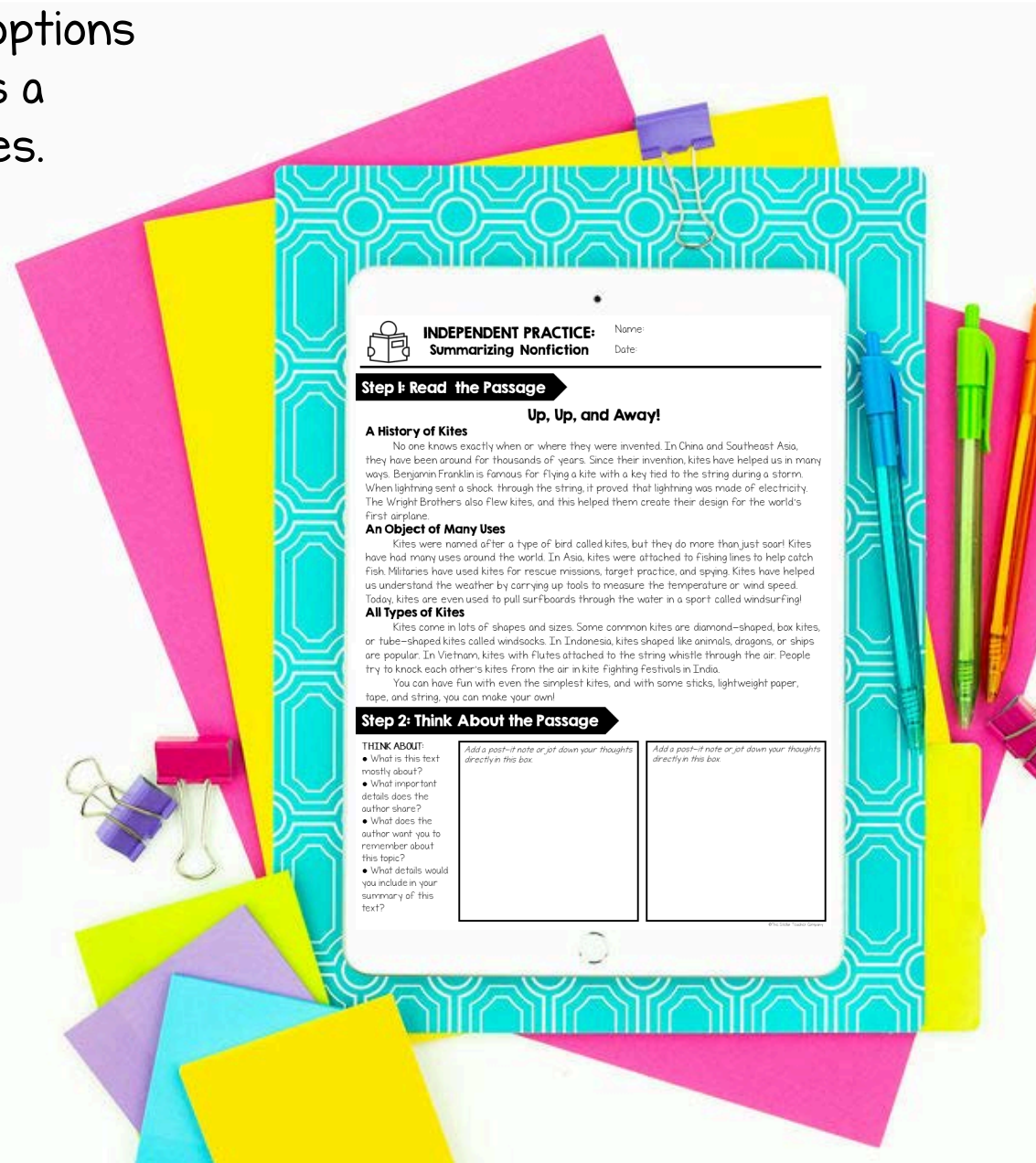
- Nonfiction Summary Checklist
- 5W Questions
- TAMKO Formula
- Using Text Structure to Summarize
- Summarizing Sections
- BME

Includes Digital Versions

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

In addition to the print version, you get a digital version created using Google Slides for all the passages, response pages, and graphic organizers.

Rest assured, you can use this resource in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms.



STUDENT & TEACHER FRIENDLY

These passages are easy for students and teachers to use. There are so many different ways you can use these passages in your classroom.

So Many Classroom Uses:

- Homework
- Independent Practice
- Assessment
- Strategy Lessons
- Small Group Instruction
- Test Prep/Review
- Model
- Partner Practice

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use the details from the text to fill out the chart.

Your introductory sentence:

Text Type <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State the title and type of text. <i>In the book, "Kids vs. Plastic," ...</i>
Author and Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name the author and a verb. <i>...Julie Beer explains...</i>
Main Topic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State the main idea or text topic. <i>the negative impact plastic has on the environment.</i>

The rest of your summary:

Key Details <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include 2-3 key details from the text.
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure you organize your summary using the same text structure as the text.

you would like extra practice, use a

Step 4: Respond to the Text

How did Tha Flower Factory benefit the community?

What are some of the ways Tha Flower Factory benefits the community?

Why is Walker Marsh considered a community leader?

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

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INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

A Blossoming Business

Some people believe that business is all about making money. Others use business as an opportunity to solve problems for a living. In Baltimore, empty lots are often places where people dump trash or even commit crimes. Walker Marsh saw them as an opportunity to build a business that could help his community.

Walker had worked as a gardener and a farmer, and he wanted to turn these empty lots into flower farms. He entered his idea into a contest and won. In 2014, he used the prize money to start his business, Tha Flower Factory.

Instead of litter, the lot is now filled with yellow sunflowers and colorful zinnias. Walker's farm brings beauty to the neighborhood and provides a safe space for community members to walk or chat. The flowers help the environment, too. Plants clean the air and the soil, and sunflowers are known for removing dangerous chemicals like lead from the ground.

Walker sells his flowers to a café, a design studio, and people around the neighborhood. Many look up to Walker as a community leader and a successful Black businessman. Tha Flower Factory also helps local youth. Walker hires teens who have been charged with breaking the law. Working with Walker gives them job skills as well as a chance to improve their community.

Walker saw empty lots as a way to make his neighborhood beautiful, give teens an opportunity, and make money, too. What problems do you see around you? With some creativity, there might be a way to make it your business to solve them.

A LOOK INSIDE...

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

From Fins to Fans: How Humpback Whales Are Helping Us Improve Wind Turbines

Animals have a lot to teach us about science. Recently, scientists believed the things that moved most easily through air or water had to be sleek and smooth. So, when a scientist named Dr. Frank Fish saw a sculpture of a humpback whale, he was surprised to see wavy bumps on the front of the fin. He thought the sculptor had put them on the wrong side. They had not, and Dr. Fish began researching how these bumps, called tubercles, helped whales move through water.

He learned that fins with tubercles work better than smooth fins in many ways. They provide more upward power, called lift. Drag from the water slows them down less, and they stop less abruptly. They are easier to control and work when the fin is turned at higher angles. This was true for fins moving through both water and air.

Dr. Fish and his team knew this information could be helpful. They started testing uses for blades with tubercles. On wind turbines, blades spin to generate power. The new blades spun more easily to capture more energy. They even worked in places where there was not enough wind for the old turbines to work. They also lasted better through hurricanes and ice storms. Ceiling fans using the blades did not need as much electricity to work. Soon, we might also improve airplanes, helicopters, and submarines, all thanks to humpback whales.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

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MY SUMMARY:

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- Why was Dr. Frank Fish surprised to see wavy bumps on a sculpture of a whale?
- Why do fins with tubercles work better than fins without them?
- What modern day inventions have been inspired by learning about tubercles?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Garrett Morgan's Life-Saving Invention

Garrett Morgan only completed sixth grade, and as the son of a former slave, he faced racism throughout his life. This did not stop him from using his sharp mind to solve problems and become successful. Garrett invented sewing machine parts, hair products, and a warning signal for traffic lights. Before gas masks existed, Garrett also invented a smoke hood that saved lives.

After a clothing factory caught fire in 1911, Garrett started working on a "safety hood" to keep firefighters from breathing in smoke. Since smoke rises, Garrett added long tubes that hung down like elephant trunks to breathe cleaner air. Inside the tubes, wet sponges helped filter out smoke.

Garrett lived in Cleveland, Ohio, but he travelled around the country to sell his invention. He wore it into smoke-filled tents in front of crowds. His simple safety hood worked better than other masks of the time. Fire departments bought them for their firefighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs awarded Garrett a gold medal.

On July 24, 1916, Garrett showed just how important the mask was. Workers were digging a tunnel under Lake Erie when natural gas caused an explosion. Two rescue teams were sent, but they could not save the workers. They called Garrett, and he and his brother Frank wore the safety hoods into the tunnel and pulled the workers to safety.

At first, Garrett did not get the recognition he deserved. In the years that followed, though, he became known as a hero for his life-saving invention and for his brave rescue mission.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

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- What details would you include in your summary of this text?

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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use details from the text to answer the SWI questions. You can use your answers to help summarize what you read.

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WHAT?	What did Garrett Morgan do? What is he known for?
WHEN?	When did these events take place? (What dates are significant?)
WHERE?	Where did they take place? (What location is significant?)
WHY?	Why is Garrett Morgan important?

If you would like extra practice, use a separate piece of paper to write a summary for this text.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- What are some of the inventions that Garrett Morgan is known for?
- How does the author describe the safety hood that Garrett Morgan invented?
- Why did Garrett travel around so much?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

A Blossoming Business

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Walker had worked as a gardener and a farmer, and he wanted to turn these empty lots into Flower Farms. He entered his idea into a contest and won. In 2014, he used the prize money to start his business, The Flower Factory.

Instead of litter, the lot is now filled with yellow sunflowers and colorful zinnias. Walker's farm brings beauty to the neighborhood and provides a safe space for community members to walk or chat. The flowers help the environment, too. Plants clean the air and the soil, and sunflowers are known for removing dangerous chemicals like lead from the ground.

Walker sells his flowers to a café, a design studio, and people around the neighborhood. Many look up to Walker as a community leader and a successful Black businessman. The Flower Factory also helps local youth. Walker hires teens who have been charged with breaking the law. Working with Walker gives them job skills as well as a chance to improve their community.

Walker saw empty lots as a way to make his neighborhood beautiful, give teens an opportunity, and make money, too. What problems do you see around you? With some creativity, there might be a way to make it your business to solve them.

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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use the details from the text to fill out the chart below. Use it to help you summarize the text.

Your introductory sentence:		DETAILS FROM THE TEXT
T	Text Type • State the title and type of text. <i>In the book, "Xela vs. Plastic,"...</i>	
A	Author and Action • Name the author and a verb. <i>...Julie Boer explains.</i>	
M	Main Topic • State the main idea or text topic. <i>The negative impact plastic has on the environment.</i>	
K	Key Details • Include 2–3 key details from the text.	
O	Organization • Make sure you organize your summary using the same text structure as the text.	

If you would like extra practice, use a separate piece of paper to write a summary for this text.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- How did The Flower Factory become a business?
- What are some of the ways that Walker's business helps his community?
- Why is Walker Marsh considered to be a community leader?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Nonfiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Exploring Sea and Space

You might imagine explorers searching for unknown land. In recent years, though, there are two places explorers are more likely to visit: outer space and the deep sea. These explorers have a lot in common.

To explore the deep sea or outer space, you need a way to get there. To go deep into the ocean, you might travel by submarine, while a spaceship could take you to the moon. In both places, you also need the right tools to survive.

Space suits and diving suits both have helmets and can help us breathe and body suits to control the pressure. On land, we are used to air pressing against us. Space suits create air pressure, because there isn't any in space. The deep sea has the opposite problem: too much pressure. In the deepest parts of the ocean, diving suits are not yet strong enough to protect us. Explorers have searched the ocean floor from inside steel spheres.

Hannuon first explored the deep ocean floor in 1872. We did not reach space until 1961, but space travel is advancing fast. Since then, we have walked on the moon and spent years flying through space in the International Space Station. As we improve technology, we will be able to explore even more of space and the sea.

Whether studying sea creatures in the deep or testing rocks on Mars with robots, the goal of exploring is to learn. Today, deep sea and space explorers are working together to learn all they can.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What is this text mostly about?
- What important details does the author share?
- What does the author want you to remember about this topic?
- What details would you include in your summary of this text?

Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Use details from the text to fill out the chart below. You can use the details from the text and what you know about text structure to help you summarize the text.

BEGINNING	
• State the main idea (topic of text). <i>(When you state the main idea, you should hint at the structure of the text.)</i>	
MIDDLE	
• Include details you learned in the same organization structure the author used. • Use some of the same key words and phrases.	
END	
• Share a concluding statement that includes the main idea and structure of the text.	

If you would like extra practice, use a separate piece of paper to write a summary for this text.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- In what ways are space suits and diving suits similar?
- What role does technology play in the exploration of space and sea?
- Would you rather explore space or under the sea? Explain.



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