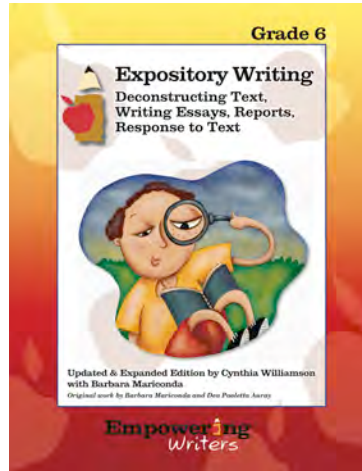




Grade 6
Expository Writing
Deconstructing Text, Writing Essays, Reports, Response to Text
Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 1: Recognizing Genre/Organization
Part 2



www.empoweringwriters.com
1-866-285-3516

Name _____

YOU BE THE EDITOR!

Imagine you're the editor of a travel magazine for middle school students. Your assistant sent you this article but forgot some of the most important parts that will help the reader learn from the text. Your job is to provide the missing parts.

1. Read the entire piece. What is the **topic** – in other words, what is the text **all about**?

Is this an expository or opinion piece? How do you know?

2. Based on the **topic**, create a **title** for this piece that will help the reader figure out what they'll be learning about. Write your title, in large print, across the top of the article.
3. Number each paragraph.
4. Circle the **introduction**.
5. Bracket the **body** of the piece.
6. Box the **conclusion**.
7. Read the first paragraph in the body of the piece (*paragraph 2*). It is missing a **heading** that tells the reader what the entire paragraph is about. Identify the main idea in order to create a heading and write it in the blank at the beginning of the paragraph. Do the same thing for paragraphs 3 and 4.
8. Read paragraph 2 again. The writer has forgotten to italicize or bold the **key vocabulary words**. Underline these words to help the reader.
9. Insert a **caption** beneath the map to explain what the reader is looking at.
10. Fill in the summarizing framework, below.

TOPIC: _____

Main Idea #1: _____

Main Idea #2: _____

Main Idea #3: _____

Name _____

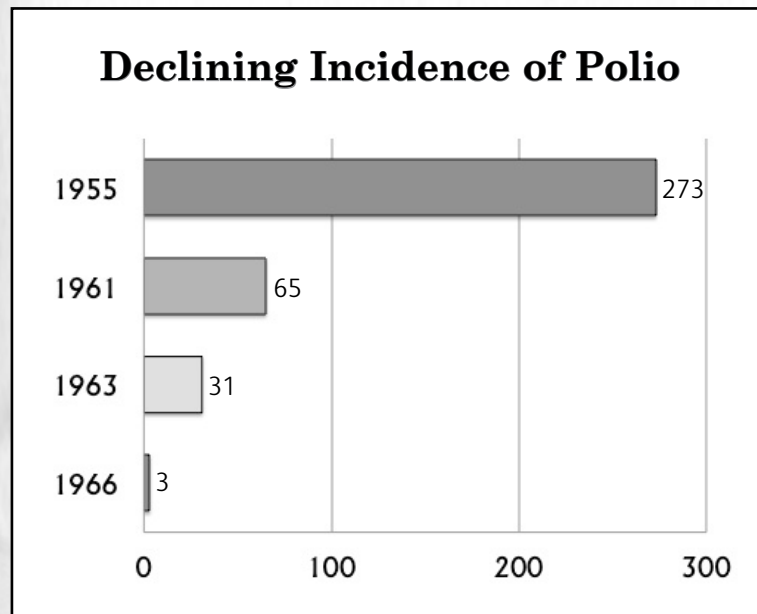
Title

Who doesn't want to live a long, healthy life? If you're interested in science, you're probably fascinated by the historic breakthroughs in medicine that help us prevent or recover from disease and injury. Over the past century there have been scores of these exciting discoveries. Three that touch the lives of us all are the discovery of penicillin, the development of the Polio vaccine and the identification of the health risks associated with tobacco use.

Heading:

Here's an amazing fact: 38% of the World War I soldiers stricken with bacterial pneumonia died from it, but during World War II, that rate fell to less than 1%. What made the difference? The answer to that question is penicillin. The miracle drug of its time, penicillin was the first effective, widely available antibiotic, a

drug that kills the bacteria and fungi that cause many diseases and infections. This revolutionary medicine was discovered by accident in 1928 by Sir Alexander Fleming, a researcher at St. Mary's Hospital in London. Fleming observed that a naturally occurring mold seemed to prevent the growth of certain dangerous germs. After further research, penicillin started being produced in quantity in 1944.



Source: Los Angeles County Health Index

(caption) _____

In later years, other types of antibiotics that targeted specific bacteria made these miracle drugs even more effective. Today, many of us take our easy access to antibiotics for granted. But we need to be careful not to overuse them or we might develop an immunity, a resistance to the healing effects of antibiotics.

Heading:

Imagine it's the summer of 1952. There's no air conditioning, it's sweltering hot and you're forbidden to jump into the cool lake just around the corner. Why? Because Polio Panic had come to your town. Nobody knew what caused this horrible disease that targeted little kids, killing some and crippling others, but there was a rumor that the germs might fester in water so nobody went swimming. Since 1952, we've learned that Polio is caused by a virus that is transmitted by mouth from one victim to another and thanks to Dr. Jonas Salk, we know how to prevent it. Salk, a medical researcher, created the Polio vaccine in 1953 just after the last widespread outbreak of the disease. Today, the disease has been eliminated in 80% of the world and it is estimated that Dr. Salk's vaccine has prevented 1.5 million childhood deaths and countless additional cases of paralysis. Sadly, children in the countries of Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan are still falling victim to polio.

Heading:

It seems obvious now that tobacco is bad for us, but that was not always the case. In fact, in the 1940s and 50s, some cigarette companies advertised their products as "soothing to a sore throat and cough." Other ads recommended that weight conscious women "reach for a smoke instead of a sweet." That all changed in 1964 when the Surgeon General reported on the health risks of smoking. Since, tobacco use has steadily declined and many cigarette-related deaths prevented. Further warnings came from the Surgeon General in the 1970s with the discovery of the link between disease and passive smoking, which means breathing the smoke of others. Second hand smoke was said to contribute to the deaths of 500,000 nonsmokers during the 1970s and 80s. Chewing tobacco was once thought of as a safe alternative to smoking, but we now know that it is highly dangerous too. Just a few of the health problems associated with both smoking and chewing tobacco are tooth loss and gum disease, heart attacks, strokes and deadly cancers of the lungs and mouth.

Where would we be without the groundbreaking medical discoveries of the past few decades? Using antibiotics carefully, making sure we're vaccinated against polio and avoiding tobacco are three important ways in which we can safeguard our health. Without a doubt, our well-being has been greatly enriched by the pioneering scientists in the field of medical research.

Title Historic Breakthroughs in Healthcare

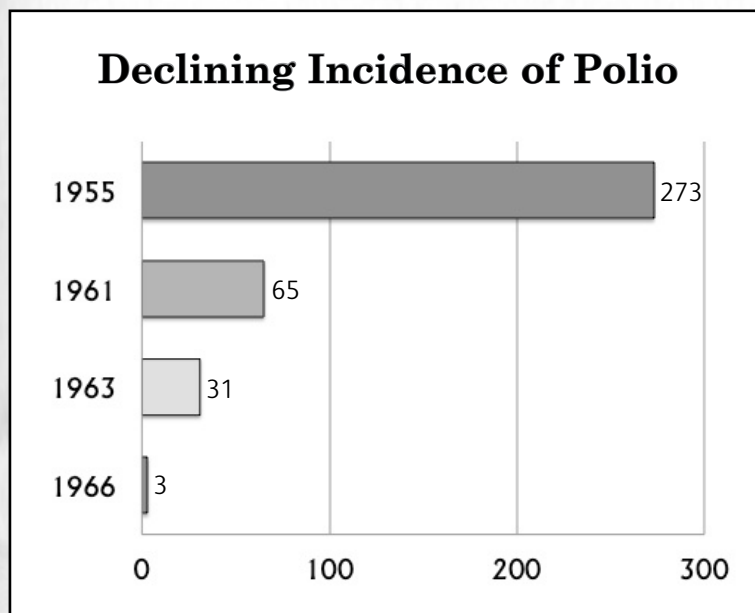
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Heading:

Penicillin

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Source: Los Angeles County Health Index

(caption) Rates of Polio from 1955-1966

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Heading:

Polio

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Heading:

Discovering the Health Risks of Tobacco

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Name _____

Frightening Fun!

What's just as much fun as scaring yourself silly with a wild ride on a roller coaster or a spine-tingling ghost story told around a campfire in the dark of night? If you're like me, your answer to that question is a great horror movie! Let's explore the genre of the horror film, from its European beginnings to its rising popularity in the 1930s, and onto the more recent trend in terror.

Suffering in Silence

The earliest horror films were all silent. French filmmaker Georges Melies takes credit for the first horror film of all time. It was called *Le Manoir du Diable*, which translated to English is *The Haunted Castle*. Released in 1896, this spooky silent film runs only three minutes long, but it packs a lot of action. Bubbling cauldrons, vampire bats, ghosts and dancing skeletons all appear one second and vanish the next in a cloud of smoke. In the 1920s, pioneering German filmmakers brought their talents to the genre and created surreal, shadowy vistas and complex, creepy characters that reflected the grim mood of post-World War I Europe. In 1922, German film director F.W. Murnau made the world's first vampire movie, *Nosferatu*, which was based on Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*.

Howling and Growling!

When sound was introduced in motion pictures in the 1930s, American monster movies became popular. With the invention of sound, cinematic monsters like Frankenstein and King Kong howled and growled – and audiences screamed in reply! It was during this era that character actors Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff rose to fame bringing monstrosities like mummies and werewolves to life. While it may be hard to believe, it's true that filmmakers and theatre owners at the time occasionally planted “fainters” and “screamers” in



the audience to intensify the viewing experience. They also built “buzz” for their horror movies by stationing fake nurses inside the theater while an ambulance idled outside ready to whisk those overcome with terror off to the hospital.

Deader than a Doornail

In more recent times, the Zombie movie seems to rule the horror genre. In most, the Zombie is depicted as a dead body that somehow comes to life, mute and menacing, and must be STOPPED. The first zombie movie was probably *The Night of the Living Dead*, directed by George A. Romero and released in 1968. Since then, filmmakers around the globe

have been creating their own sometimes scary, and sometimes just silly, versions of the classic. From Norway, comes *Dead Snow*, the story of Nazi zombies in the frozen wilds of Scandinavia. The Spanish-made series *Quarantine* has zombies attacking fire fighters in a burning building and the British film *Doghouse* follows a group of guys into a remote English village where bloodthirsty female zombies are eager to feast on them.

With short, silent oldies, classic monster movies and zombie cinema from around the world, the horror genre offers entertainment for all sorts of tastes. From the goofy to the gory, horror films are definitely here to stay!



EXPOSITORY PILLAR

INTRODUCTION

Lead/Topic Sentence

Main Idea #1 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Main Idea #2 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Main Idea #3 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

CONCLUSION

Expository/Informative Summarizing Framework

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

OPINION PILLAR

INTRODUCTION

Lead/Opinion Statement

Main Reason #1 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Main Reason #2 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Main Reason #3 _____

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

CONCLUSION

Creative Restatements of Main Reasons

Opinion Summarizing Framework

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____

MAIN REASON #3: _____

Name _____

BABYSITTING: THE BEST FIRST JOB!

Wouldn't you love to earn some extra money? Most middle school students would, but the problem is that they are still too young for most part-time jobs. In my opinion, however, they are just the right age for the truly fantastic job of babysitting. Babysitting is one of the best ways to earn money because there are always many opportunities available. Additionally, caring for children is always fun and taking on the demanding job of babysitting is an ideal way to boost a young teen's self-confidence.

Whether you live in a city or a small town, you can be sure that there is always a need for reliable babysitters in your community. After all, children need to be cared for around the clock and babysitters allow parents to work, shop, run errands, go out to dinner or just take a break. It is easy to find the parents who are in need of your services. Simply place a classified ad in the "Work Wanted" section of your local newspaper or on an appropriate website. Chances are jobs will quickly come flooding your way. If they don't, ask your family, neighbors and friends to help you spread the word that you are looking for babysitting jobs and give it time. You can be sure that overworked parents will track you down.

Not only are babysitting jobs readily available, but they are fun! After all, what could be better than teaching an interested kid about your favorite sport or hobby? As a babysitter, you'll have a chance to do just that. You'll also rediscover the books and board games you loved when you were little as you share them with the kids you're babysitting. If you're creative, you could introduce little ones to finger painting or clay modeling and if you're caring for several children at once, join them in a game of Capture the Flag or Duck, Duck, Goose. They'll have a great time and so will you!

As the children grow to love you and you earn their parents' respect, your self-esteem will definitely skyrocket. Your job will require that you take charge of the children, and you will feel very proud of yourself when you learn how to assert authority. Learning how to communicate effectively with parents is another important skill that babysitting will give you a chance to master. Let's not forget that you will be earning money while you're gaining this invaluable experience! Just imagine how wonderful and self-sufficient you will feel when you have extra money to save or spend as you please.

Do you remember your own favorite babysitter? If you do, you'll surely agree that babysitters touch the hearts and minds of children in many, many memorable ways. A readily available, fun and confidence building first job, babysitting is a great way for middle school students to start earning money. No doubt, there are many babysitting opportunities in your town. Check them out today!

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introduction

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need for babysitters

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fun work

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builds confidence

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conclusion

Name _____

BABYSITTING: THE BEST FIRST JOB!

1. This is an example of what kind of writing? Circle one:
Expository/Informative Argumentative
2. Number each paragraph.
3. Circle the *introduction*.
4. Box the *conclusion*.
5. Circle the *title* and identify the *topic*.
6. Underline the *lead* in red.
7. Underline each **MAIN IDEA** or **MAIN REASON**. Write a blurb (a word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
8. Read this detail: *On winter days, you'll share the excitement of sledding with the children you're babysitting.*
Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
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10. Fill in the summarizing framework/author's prewriting plan. If the piece is expository, circle "Main Idea." If it's an opinion piece, circle "Main Reason." Remember, expository text explores a **TOPIC** while argumentative writing focuses on an **ISSUE**.

TOPIC/ISSUE: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #1: _____

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Name _____

THE BASICS OF BABYSITTING

When my aunt hired me to babysit, I thought it would be easy. I imagined myself chatting away on my phone or watching TV as my two little cousins played together happily and quietly. Was I ever mistaken! From the moment I arrived until I left, the children needed my full attention. Since then, I have learned that there are three basic skills you need to be a great babysitter. You must know how to care for children, have an endless supply of ideas about how to entertain them, and be able to communicate with parents effectively.

Knowing how to care for children means becoming an expert at changing diapers, filling sippy cups, finding lost toys and preparing snacks. A great babysitter must be able to help children bathe, dress and brush their teeth. The caregiver must know how to clean and bandage a “booboo” and comfort a crying child. In the summer, a great babysitter will never forget to apply sunscreen. In the winter, he or she will make sure children are properly bundled up when playing outdoors. Many local community centers offer babysitting classes that can help you learn these skills. If you really want to impress parents, complete a first aid class too!

For many babysitters, entertaining children is the best part of the job. Childcare professionals recommend that you assemble your own “goodie bag” to take along on babysitting jobs. It could include picture books, card games, play dough and art supplies to keep the children busy. With a parent’s permission, you might want to take the children on a hike or walk to a nearby playground. As a general rule, your goal is to keep the kids safe and active! Surveys say that parents’ most common complaint about babysitters is that they park the kids in front of the TV instead of actually playing with them. Don’t be that kind of babysitter!

Successful babysitters also must know how to communicate with parents. Always be upfront about how much you expect to be paid. Make sure the parents understand your own curfew so that you won’t worry your own mom or dad by being out later than expected. Report any injuries or accidents to the parents as soon as you can. If such an incident occurs while you’re in charge, it’s best that the parent learns about it from you. Share good news with parents as much as you can. If, for example, the child picked up toys without being asked to, parents will appreciate your letting them know.

If you know how to care for and entertain children as well as communicate with parents, you are well on your way to becoming a terrific babysitter! For sure, these three basic skills can help you build a babysitting business and earn the extra money you need.

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Main Idea/Main Reason #3: _____

Name _____

HOW TO MAKE CHILI CON CARNE

Just about everybody loves a warm, spicy bowl of Chili Con Carne! While the exact origins of this popular meat stew are unknown, many believe it was first created in the city of San Antonio, Texas. Making good Chili Con Carne is not difficult. All it takes is fresh vegetables, spicy ground beef and lots of gooey melted cheese!

Your first step in concocting Chili Con Carne is chopping up the vegetables. You're going to need a few cloves of garlic, plenty of tomatoes and several different kinds of peppers. If you crave intensely spicy chili, use jalapeños or, if you dare, a few searingly hot habanero peppers. For a milder flavor, stick with green and red peppers. Select your peppers and chop them up along with the tomatoes and garlic. Add chopped onions. If your eyes are sensitive, you might want to chill your onions in the freezer before chopping. The colder the onions, the less likely that your eyes will tear up while you prepare them. Add all your chopped vegetables to a large pot and simmer on low heat in a light beef broth.

While your vegetables simmer, brown your ground meat in a frying pan and sprinkle in the spices. You'll surely want to add some chili powder and fresh cilantro, an herb with a grassy, refreshing taste. Try sprinkling in some cumin seed, too. How much depends on your personal preferences. Cumin seed adds a nutty, peppery flavor to Chili Con Carne that definitely heats up the dish. Of course, you're going to need to add salt and pepper, too. Add your spices a little bit at a time, tasting often, until you're sure your ground beef is just spicy enough. Then, add it to the simmering vegetables.

Once your meat and vegetable mixture has simmered for several hours (the more the better), it's time to add a few cups of shredded cheese. Monterey Jack is the preferred cheese in Chili Con Carne. First produced in Spain in the 1700s, this tangy white cheese melts well and adds a rich, creamy flavor. If you prefer, you could also use cheddar or Colby cheese, or any combination of the three. When you serve your Chili Con Carne, you might want to add a sprinkling of shredded cheese to the bottom of the bowl and spoon the chili over it. This provides a wonderful surprise ending to the dish!

Outlined above is a basic recipe for delicious Chili Con Carne. You could also add black beans, corn or any number of extra ingredients to make your recipe uniquely your own. Without a doubt, your friends and family will appreciate it when you make them a bowl of spicy, delicious Chili Con Carne with plenty of vegetables, spicy beef and creamy cheese.

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Name _____

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4. Box the *conclusion*.
5. Circle the *title*.
6. Underline the *lead* in red.
7. Underline the *topic sentence* (for expository pieces) or the *claim* (for argumentative text) in blue.
8. Underline each **MAIN IDEA** (for expository/informative pieces) or **MAIN REASON** (for argumentative text). Write a blurb (a word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
9. Circle the *word referent* for Chili Con Carne in the first paragraph.
10. Read this detail: *Adding diced celery is always an option, too.*
Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
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Main Idea/Reason #3: _____

Compare/Contrast - Organizational Strategy

There are so many instances where students are asked to compare and contrast. They might compare characters, settings, or scenes from literature, or a pair of stories. In science students might compare two or more habitats, creatures, or processes. Likewise, in social studies it is often important to compare historical figures, events, or conflicts. In each case we look for both similarities and differences. In order to do this in a logical sequential way, it is critical that we have an organizational strategy that best allows the reader to access the information necessary to make these comparisons.

Let's look at two typical organizational plans for compare/contrast that don't work. By way of example we'll use the topic "writing a comparison of frogs and toads."

The "Two-Paragraph" Strategy - This is a typical student pitfall in which they write one large disorganized paragraph about frogs, and another about toads. The result is two long, cumbersome paragraphs, with random details embedded in each. The difficulty for the reader is that should she/he want to compare a particular attribute, say, life cycles, it necessitates scanning both paragraphs. There are no broad yet distinct main ideas besides frogs and toads that would help the reader locate specific information.

The "Similarities and Differences" Strategy - In this organizational schema the author groups the ways frogs and toads are alike and creates one paragraph around that, and another around their differences. So, the main ideas are grouped by similarities and differences. As in the previous two-paragraph strategy, the result is a rather random collection of attributes that is difficult for the reader to navigate.

A much stronger strategy is one that follows the same organizational structure as any other expository piece. The writer selects a topic: *Frogs vs. Toads* and then generates main ideas - ex. *appearance, habitat, life cycles*. Within each paragraph the author compares that particular aspect of frogs and toads. This strategy is enhanced by the use of "compare and contrast" language (see chart below). In this way the reader can easily locate key information. *Birds vs. Theropods*, pp. 72-74, is an example of this.

Sentence Starters for Compare/Contrast

Similarly, _____.	On the other hand, _____.
In the same way, _____.	They differ in that _____.
One trait they share is _____.	One way they vary is _____.
Likewise, _____.	Conversely, _____.
Also _____.	On the contrary, _____.
A like characteristic is _____.	They deviate in that _____.
_____ as well.	In contrast, _____.
Both have _____.	However, _____.
Just like _____.	As opposed to _____.
A shared attribute is _____.	Unlike _____.

Name _____

BIRDS VS. THEROPODS

Are there dinosaurs flying in our skies today? While it sounds like something out of a science fiction story, it may be so! Over the past decade, scientists have uncovered convincing evidence that modern birds evolved from one diverse class of dinosaurs called theropods. Let's examine the similarities and differences between the anatomy, feeding behavior, and breeding habits of birds today and the theropods of long ago.

At first glance, it may be hard to spot the similarities in the anatomy of birds and dinosaurs, but the two share many traits. Fossil evidence has shown that some of the earliest theropods had feathers and could fly for short distances. Many theropods had a bony tail that helped them stay balanced as they pounded the prehistoric terrain. In modern birds, this has evolved into a fan of tail feathers that give these graceful flyers stability in the air. Most theropods had lightweight, hollow bones, just as birds do today. On the other hand, birds have beaks and theropods had snouts with wide mouths full of teeth. Birds have a strong pair of legs situated near the back of their bodies, just as many theropods did. However, early theropods had short, clawed arms which seem to have developed into the wings of modern-day birds.

New research has emerged about the feeding behavior of birds and theropods. For a long time, it was believed that theropods were predators. However, studies conducted at the Field Museum in Chicago, IL have found that 90 species of theropod dinosaurs ate a primarily plant-based diet. The theory is that somewhere along the evolutionary timeline, most theropods developed into omnivores, eaters of both meat and plants, much like many birds, including crows, chickens, emus and ostriches. Those that remained carnivorous, like the fearsome Tyrannosaurus Rex, evolved into today's hawks and other birds of prey. While they can be omnivores or carnivores, both birds and theropods burn energy at a rapid rate and need a large amount of food to survive.

At this time, the breeding habits of birds and theropods seem identical. Like birds today, theropods built nests and laid eggs during a recurring breeding season. Just as theropods did in prehistoric times, birds protect their young from predators and keep them warm with their own body heat. Further, a study published in a recent edition of Science magazine reveals that the male's involvement in nurturing the young is very similar between most types of theropods and birds, with the male often shouldering most of the responsibility for feathering and guarding the nest. On the other hand, the eggs of theropods were much larger than those of birds, even in relation to their larger overall size. Furthermore, theropods usually laid a large number of eggs at a time, sometimes as many as 30, while birds ordinarily lay no more than four at a time.

Isn't it fascinating to follow the progress of science as it explores the evolution of life on earth? The similarities and differences in the anatomy, feeding behavior and breeding habits of prehistoric theropods and modern-day birds are undeniable. Of course, there is always more to learn. Let's keep asking questions and looking for answers.

BIRDS VS. THEROPODS

expository:
compare/contrast

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conclusion

Name _____

BIRDS VS. THEROPODS

1. This is an example of what kind of writing? Circle one:

Expository/Informative

Argumentative

2. Number each paragraph.
3. Circle the *introduction*.
4. Underline the *main idea* or *main reason sentences* in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.
5. Write a blurb (a word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
6. Box the *conclusion*.
7. Circle the word referent for bird in paragraph #2.
8. Where does this detail belong?: *Like some species of birds, some theropods were scavengers, making a meal of a predator's leftovers.*

Paragraph # _____

9. What do the bones of **theropods** and **birds** have in common? Why is this significant?

10. Fill in the summarizing framework/author's prewriting plan. Remember, expository text explores a TOPIC while argumentative writing focuses on an ISSUE.

TOPIC/ISSUE: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #1: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #2: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #3: _____

Name _____

THE VOYAGE OF LUCY P. SIMMONS

Set on the windswept coast of Maine in 1906, The Voyage of Lucy P. Simmons is a great novel of fantasy and adventure on the high seas with a heroine I will remember forever. Lucy is courageous in the midst of heartbreaking circumstances, determined to save her family's beloved home from greedy relatives and remains forever loyal to those she loves. These are the reasons that I admired Lucy and cared about what happened to her in the novel.

Stormy weather visits Lucy early in the book when her beloved parents are lost at sea and Lucy bravely faces the unimaginable loss. Her happy life of picnics and boat rides is over, but she doesn't wallow in grief or feel sorry for herself. Instead, she recognizes that she's got an enemy in her Uncle Victor, as this quote illustrates: "And then and there, I knew that I was no longer going to be safe - and not in the sense of being well loved and cared for. I shuddered to think beyond that, refused to consider what my uncle might have in store for me." Confused and very much alone, Lucy braces herself to take on her scheming Uncle and his equally greedy wife. Her courage is extraordinary.

Lucy's determination to save her family's home is not only commendable, but it shows her regard for the memory of her parents. The home that her father calls "his ship on shore" seems as fond of Lucy as she is of it. When it looks as if Lucy is leaving its comforting confines for boarding school, she says, "The house seemed to watch me go, the large upper-story windows, their shades halfway drawn like sleepy eyelids, gazing after me." As Lucy fought to protect the home and the "ship on shore" worked its own powerful magic, I started thinking about how our houses are so much more than beams, walls, and floors to us. They are the galleries of our family histories. No wonder Lucy is so determined to protect hers!

Another way in which Lucy won my admiration was with her intense loyalty to those she loved. She has endless regard for Addie, her caregiver who tries to protect her from the villainous Uncle Victor's wrath. She loves her little dog, Mr. Pugsley, too, and is willing to be punished herself rather than see the cute canine hurt. Too bad some of the other characters in this book don't have Lucy's loyalty! As the story develops, a betrayed Lucy learns that Uncle Victor is not her only enemy, but the "ship on shore" rewards her for her devotion in a truly magical way!

As I read this book, I kept wishing Lucy blue skies and smooth sailing as she dove full-steam ahead into her adventures. What's next for Lucy? I hope there is a sequel to this book in the works, because the character of Lucille Prudence Simmons completely captured my imagination and touched my heart.

Name _____

THE VOYAGE OF LUCY P. SIMMONS

BY BARBARA MARICONDA

1. Number each **paragraph**. Circle the **introduction** and box the **conclusion**.
2. Put a bracket around the three **body paragraphs** and underline the **main reason sentence** in each.
3. Write a blurb (a word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
4. Highlight the quotes in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs.
5. Fill in the summarizing framework/author's prewriting plan.

TOPIC: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #1: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #2: _____

Main Idea/Main Reason #3: _____

6. How does the author feel about the character Lucy P. Simmons?

7. Use the sentence starter below to summarize the piece.

This piece introduces us to _____

response to text

introduction

THE VOYAGE OF LUCY P. SIMMONS

1.) Set on the windswept coast of Maine in 1906, The Voyage of Lucy P. Simmons is a great novel of fantasy and adventure on the high seas with a heroine I will remember forever. Lucy is courageous in the midst of heartbreaking circumstances, determined to save her family's beloved home from greedy relatives and remains forever loyal to those she loves. These are the reasons that I admired Lucy and cared about what happened to her in the novel.

facing loss

2.) Stormy weather visits Lucy early in the book when her beloved parents are lost at sea and Lucy bravely faces the unimaginable loss. Her happy life of picnics and boat rides is over, but she doesn't wallow in grief or feel sorry for herself. Instead, she recognizes that she's got an enemy in her Uncle Victor, as this quote illustrates: "And then and there, I knew that I was no longer going to be safe - and not in the sense of being well loved and cared for. I shuddered to think beyond that, refused to consider what my uncle might have in store for me." Confused and very much alone, Lucy braces herself to take on her scheming Uncle and his equally greedy wife. Her courage is extraordinary.

determination

3.) Lucy's determination to save her family's home is not only commendable, but it shows her regard for the memory of her parents. The home that her father calls "his ship on shore" seems as fond of Lucy as she is of it. When it looks as if Lucy is leaving its comforting confines for boarding school, she says, "The house seemed to watch me go, the large upper-story windows, their shades halfway drawn like sleepy eyelids, gazing after me." As Lucy fought to protect the home and the "ship on shore" worked its own powerful magic, I started thinking about how our houses are so much more than beams, walls, and floors to us. They are the galleries of our family histories. No wonder Lucy was is determined to protect hers!

loyalty

4.) Another way in which Lucy won my admiration was with her intense loyalty to those she loved. She has endless regard for Addie, her caregiver who tries to protect her from the villainous Uncle Victor's wrath. She loves her little dog, Mr. Pugsley, too, and is willing to be punished herself rather than see the cute canine hurt. Too bad some of the other characters in this book don't have Lucy's loyalty! As the story develops, a betrayed Lucy learns that Uncle Victor is not her only enemy, but the "ship on shore" rewards her for her devotion in a truly magical way!

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conclusion

Name _____

SUMMARIZING YOUR INDEPENDENT READING

What are you reading? If you're reading a story, tell us about it by completing the Narrative Writing Summarizing Framework below. If you're reading nonfiction, please let us know what you are learning from it in the Expository Writing Summarizing Framework.

Narrative Writing Summarizing Framework

Name of book _____

Author _____

This story is about _____
main character

The problem, adventure or experience was that _____

single significant main event

The problem is solved, adventure/experience concluded when _____

solution / conclusion

Expository Writing Summarizing Framework

Name of book _____

Topic _____

Main Idea #1 _____

Main Idea #2 _____

Main Idea #3 _____

Additional main ideas: _____

Name _____

HAWAIIAN HISTORY

As I eagerly anticipated my Hawaiian vacation, I dreamed about balmy breezes and windswept beaches. I pictured myself diving into the crystalline waters of the Pacific, hopping on a surfboard and catching a wave on my very first try. My mouth watered just thinking about a classic Hawaiian luau with sweet pineapple and fresh seafood served by the light of a tikki torch. But I never imagined that there was so much fascinating history to discover on these gorgeous volcanic islands. The Pearl Harbor memorial, the legendary whaling village of Lahaina, and the birthplace of Hawaii's first and greatest king, are some of the amazing historic sites on the Hawaiian Islands.

Pearl Harbor is located in the bustling city of Honolulu on the island of Oahu. There you'll find the *World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument* that pays tribute to the fallen heroes of December 7, 1941, the infamous day of the Japanese attack on the United States. Visited by almost 2 million people each year, this complex of memorials and museums includes the *U.S.S. Arizona Memorial*, which is built over the wreck of the sunken battleship. You'll see a marble wall engraved with the names of all who died on the ship and hear the voices of survivors who share their accounts of that horrifying day in recorded oral histories. Amazingly, the U.S.S. Arizona still weeps "Black Tears" of oil every day and you can see these glistening droplets on the surface of the water. The *U.S.S. Missouri Memorial* takes you aboard an awesome American battleship and contains a large collection of photographs, artifacts and weapons that bring the vessel's history to life. As you explore the decks, remember that this is where the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur on September 2, 1945, bringing an end to World War II. The *U.S.S. Bowfin Submarine Museum* and the *Pacific Aviation Museum* spotlight the epic underwater and aerial operations that contributed to America's victory in the Pacific. To see all that this national monument has to offer will certainly take more than a day, but it'll give you genuine insight into the tragedies and triumphs of World War II.

Once you've experienced Pearl Harbor, it's time to revisit the Golden Age of Whaling! The charming village of Lahaina on the island of Maui bustled with sailors from around the world during the whaling boom that lasted from 1825-1860. Visit *Hale Paahao*, a tiny jailhouse dating back to the 1830s where whalers were shackled to the walls as a punishment for rowdy behavior. See the restored *Seaman's Hospital*, a two-story stone building with a massive anchor on its front yard, that was built in 1844 to tend to sick and

injured whalers. The *Whalers Village Museum* will give you a good idea about the harshness of life as a sailor with its scale model of a whaling ship. You'll see sturdy tools crafted from whale ivory. You'll discover a fascinating collection of *scrimshaw*, pictures intricately carved into the bones and teeth of whales by sailors during the quiet days of their long voyages. To this day, the warm, shallow waters around Lahaina are one of the most important habitats in the world for humpback whales. Take the time for a whale watching trip and maybe you'll be lucky enough get a close look at one of these majestic creatures.

Venture even further back in history to the days of Polynesian voyagers and native royalty with a visit to the big island of Hawaii. *Kohala Historical Site* is believed to be where Kamehameka the Great was born in 1758. A fierce warrior and legendary leader, Kamehameka came to power at a time when the islands were in constant conflict with each other. He fought fearlessly against invaders from other islands and eventually united all of the Hawaiian Islands under his rule. His reign was a time of peace and plenty in the tropical paradise. Among his accomplishments was the creation of the "Law of the Splintered Paddle," which provided protection to unarmed noncombatants in war and was considered extremely compassionate at the time. "Let the aged, men and women, and little children lie down safely in the road," he said. It was under Kamehamaka's leadership, too, that the Hawaiian Islands started to trade with China, America, and Europe, bringing prosperity to paradise. Other historic landmarks on the Big Island are the lush *Royal Grounds* where Hawaiian chiefs met for important ceremonial rites and the innumerable sculpted wooden images of native idols. It is interesting to note that they are carved from *Ohia tree*, one of the first plants to take root in a cooling lava flow. As you explore the Big Island, you will surely wonder at the richness of Hawaiian history.

So if you're planning a trip to the Hawaiian Islands, take the time to explore extraordinary history of this exotic place. Pay a visit to Pearl Harbor and remember those who fight for freedom today. Stroll through the charming village of *Lahaina* and learn about its dramatic, seafaring past. Immerse yourself in native Hawaiian culture and history on the Big Island. Without a doubt, you will learn there is much, much more to a Hawaiian vacation than basking on the beach and splashing in the surf.

introduction

topic: Hawaii

HAWAIIAN HISTORY

1.) As I eagerly anticipated my Hawaiian vacation, I dreamed about balmy breezes and windswept beaches. I pictured myself diving into the crystalline waters of the Pacific, hopping on a surfboard and catching a wave on my very first try. My mouth watered just thinking about a classic Hawaiian luau with sweet pineapple and fresh seafood served by the light of a tikki torch. But I never imagined that there was so much fascinating history to discover on these gorgeous volcanic islands. The Pearl Harbor memorial, the legendary whaling village of Lahaina, and the birthplace of Hawaii's first and greatest king, are some of the amazing historic sites on the Hawaiian Islands.

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Pearl Harbor

whaling

3.) Once you've experienced Pearl Harbor, it's time to revisit the Golden Age of Whaling! The charming village of Lahaina on the island of Maui bustled with sailors from around the world during the whaling boom that lasted from 1825-1860. Visit *Hale Paahao*, a tiny jailhouse dating back to the 1830s where whalers were shackled to the walls as a punishment for rowdy behavior. See the restored *Seaman's Hospital*, a two-story stone building with a massive anchor on its front yard, that was built in 1844 to tend to sick and

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5.) So if you're planning a trip to the Hawaiian Islands, take the time to explore extraordinary history of this exotic place. Pay a visit to Pearl Harbor and remember those who fight for freedom today. Stroll through the charming village of *Lahaina* and learn about its dramatic, seafaring past. Immerse yourself in native Hawaiian culture and history on the Big Island. Without a doubt, you will learn there is much, much more to a Hawaiian vacation than basking on the beach and splashing in the surf.

conclusion

Name _____

HAWAIIAN HISTORY

1. This is an example of what kind of writing? Circle one:

Expository/Informative

Argumentative

Opinion

2. Number each **paragraph**.
3. Circle the **introduction**.
4. Box the **conclusion**.
5. Circle the **title**.
6. Underline the **lead** in red.
7. Underline the **topic sentence** or *claim statement* in blue.
8. Underline each **MAIN IDEA** (for expository pieces) or **MAIN REASON** (for argumentative text). Write a blurb (a word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
9. Circle the **statistic** in the second paragraph.
10. Highlight the **quote** in the fourth paragraph.
11. Number the references to each main idea restated in the conclusion. Use paragraph numbers.
12. What is the Law of the Splintered Paddle? Do you think this law is recognized in the world today? _____

13. What is meant by the phrase “bringing prosperity to paradise?” Where is the paradise the author refers to? _____

14. Fill in the summarizing framework/author’s prewriting plan. Remember, expository text explores a TOPIC while argumentative or opinion writing focuses on an ISSUE.

TOPIC/ISSUE: _____

Main Idea/Reason #1: _____

Main Idea/Reason #2: _____

Main Idea/Reason #3: _____

Name _____

WRITING SIMPLE SUMMARIZING PARAGRAPHS

Look at the following summarizing framework and summarizing paragraph:

TOPIC: Birds of the Arctic

MAIN IDEA #1: Puffins

MAIN IDEA #2: Snowy Owl

MAIN IDEA #3: Little Auk

This article provided information about birds of the Arctic. The reader learns about puffins and discovers the characteristics of the Snowy Owl. The author also introduces us to the Little Auk.

Select one of the following summarizing frameworks and use informative verbs to help extend it into a summarizing paragraph as the author did, above.

TOPIC: Chemical Reactions

MAIN IDEA #1: Characteristics

MAIN IDEA #2: Examples

MAIN IDEA #3: Experiments

TOPIC: Meteorology

MAIN IDEA #1: The Water Cycle

MAIN IDEA #2: Clouds

MAIN IDEA #3: Barometer

MAIN IDEA #4: Careers

TOPIC: Nocturnal Animals

MAIN IDEA #1: Owls

MAIN IDEA #2: Lemurs

MAIN IDEA #3: Bats

TOPIC: Winston Churchill

MAIN IDEA #1: Family Background

MAIN IDEA #2: Struggles with learning

MAIN IDEA #3: The War Years

INFORMATIVE VERBS

discusses	explores	uncovers	notes that	delves into
presents	explains	predicts	illustrates	learns about
recognize	notes	highlights	emphasizes	demonstrates
discovers	observes	argues	introduces	describes
outlines	scrutinizes	determines	presents	investigates
recognize	argues	reveals	examines	analyzes
compare	contrast	shares		

Name _____

THE APPALACHIANS: THE OLDEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN THE WORLD

Have you ever heard the expression “older than the hills?” Maybe you’ve even used it yourself to describe an aged relative or neighbor (but never your teacher!). Did you know that the saying refers to the fact that mountains, as they age, tend to erode from mighty peaks into gently rolling hills? Keep this in mind as you read about the physical features, plant life, and people of the Appalachian Mountains, the oldest mountain range in the world.

Extending nearly 2,000 miles from the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador to the U.S. state of Alabama, the Appalachians are more than 100 million years old with a diverse topography. As you’d expect from such an elderly landform, it is made up of hills and valleys rather than towering peaks like the younger Rockies to the west. Standing 6,684 feet, Mount Mitchell is the highest point in these North American highlands. Many streams, some of which have been harnessed for hydroelectricity, tumble their way through the region and there are many caves and caverns hidden deep within the earth. The mountains are famous for their rich, deep pockets of clean-burning, electricity-generating coal. Sometimes called “Black Diamonds,” nuggets of coal have been mined from these fertile hills extensively since the mid-1800s, providing work, although difficult and dangerous, for generations of Americans.

Today some of the oldest **deciduous** forests in the world and other wild plants flourish in the Appalachian Mountains. The deciduous forest is characterized by trees that adapt to four seasons and there are about 140 such species standing tall in the Appalachians. To the north, you will find fragrant evergreens and the syrup-producing Sugar Maples. Further south are one of the most long-lived of all trees, the shady Sycamore. Chestnut trees were once a common sight on the landscape, but they were almost entirely wiped out by a fungal disease in the early years of the 20th century. There are also thriving fields of wildflowers and edible plants in these scenic wilds. Dark blue in color and as sweet as a strawberry, huckleberries are in generous supply. So are wild grapes and, if you find a dark green plant that smells like chewing gum, it’s probably wintergreen, which makes a tasty, soothing tea.

Over the years, Native Americans, coal miners and, quite possibly, giants have all lived in the Appalachian Mountains. The remains of humans who stood over eight feet tall with double rows of teeth and skulls twice as thick as our own have been found in several burial

mounds in the southeastern reaches of these rolling hills. Furthermore, stories passed down from one generation to the next by Native Americans describe bloody encounters with towering, light-skinned giants. Where did they come from? How long did they inhabit the area? We don't know. While the giants of Appalachia are still a mystery, we are quite familiar with the gentle ways of the Cherokee Indians who hunted in these ancient hills and built villages in their valleys. Farmers and craftspeople known for their intricately beaded textiles, they led quiet, peaceful lives for centuries until they were ousted from their homes and driven west. Of course, the Cherokee were just one of many Native American tribes that lived in the Appalachians. Others include the Creek and the Shawnee. During the industrial revolution, when demand for coal skyrocketed, the area boomed with miners who eventually led the fight for worker's rights in America.

Wouldn't you like to take a hike through the ancient Appalachian Mountains? Do you think you could identify some of the plant life you'll see along the way? Could it really be possible that giants once lived in these rustic hills? Without a doubt, the ancient Appalachian Mountains are full of natural history and at least one great big mystery.

THE APPALACHIANS: THE OLDEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN THE WORLD

introduction

1.) Have you ever heard the expression “older than the hills?” Maybe you’ve even used it yourself to describe an aged relative or neighbor (but never your teacher!). Did you know that the saying refers to the fact that mountains, as they age, tend to erode from mighty peaks into gently rolling hills? Keep this in mind as you read about the physical features, plant life, and people of the Appalachian Mountains, the oldest mountain range in the world.

physical features

2.) Extending nearly 2,000 miles from the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador to the U.S. state of Alabama, the Appalachians are more than 100 million years old with a diverse topography. As you’d expect from such an elderly landform, it is made up of hills and valleys rather than towering peaks like the younger Rockies to the west. Standing 6,684 feet, Mount Mitchell is the highest point in these North American highlands. Many streams, some of which have been harnessed for hydroelectricity, tumble their way through the region and there are many caves and caverns hidden deep within the earth. The mountains are famous for their rich, deep pockets of clean-burning, electricity-generating coal. Sometimes called “Black Diamonds,” nuggets of coal have been mined from these fertile hills extensively since the mid-1800s, providing work, although difficult and dangerous, for generations of Americans.

plantlife

3.) Today some of the oldest **deciduous** forests in the world and other wild plants flourish in the Appalachian Mountains. The deciduous forest is characterized by trees that adapt to four seasons and there are about 140 such species standing tall in the Appalachians. To the north, you will find fragrant evergreens and the syrup-producing Sugar Maples. Further south are one of the most long-lived of all trees, the shady Sycamore. Chestnut trees were once a common sight on the landscape, but they were almost entirely wiped out by a fungal disease in the early years of the 20th century. There are also thriving fields of wildflowers and edible plants in these scenic wilds. Dark blue in color and as sweet as a strawberry, huckleberries are in generous supply. So are wild grapes and, if you find a dark green plant that smells like chewing gum, it’s probably wintergreen, which makes a tasty, soothing tea.

people

4.) Over the years, Native Americans, coal miners and, quite possibly, giants have all lived in the Appalachian Mountains. The remains of humans who stood over eight feet tall with double rows of teeth and skulls twice as thick as our own have been found in several burial

mounds in the southeastern reaches of these rolling hills. Furthermore, stories passed down from one generation to the next by Native Americans describe bloody encounters with towering, light-skinned giants. Where did they come from? How long did they inhabit the area? We don't know. While the giants of Appalachia are still a mystery, we are quite familiar with the gentle ways of the Cherokee Indians who hunted in these ancient hills and built villages in their valleys. Farmers and craftspeople known for their intricately beaded textiles, they led quiet, peaceful lives for centuries until they were ousted from their homes and driven west. Of course, the Cherokee were just one of many Native American tribes that lived in the Appalachians. Others include the Creek and the Shawnee. During the industrial revolution, when demand for coal skyrocketed, the area boomed with miners who eventually led the fight for worker's rights in America.

5.) Wouldn't you like to take a hike through the ancient Appalachian Mountains? Do you think you could identify some of the plant life you'll see along the way? Could it really be possible that giants once lived in these rustic hills? Without a doubt, the ancient Appalachian Mountains are full of natural history and at least one great big mystery.

conclusion

Name _____

The Himalayas: The Youngest Mountain Range in the World

Welcome to the lofty land of long-tailed snow leopards and the mysterious Yeti! Here in the Himalaya Mountains, where icy peaks salute the sky and extreme adventurers meet their match, you will discover an ever-changing world of snowy summits and jagged cliffs. Prepare to be impressed by the dramatic physical features, diverse plant and animal life, and strong indigenous people of this high altitude wonder.

Their interesting topography sets the Himalayas apart from other mountain ranges. At just under 30 million years old, this dramatic mountain range is the world's youngest. It includes Mount Everest, which at an elevation of almost 30,000 feet, is the highest peak in the world. Amazingly, there are 14 other peaks in the Himalayas that are very nearly as high. Sprawled for 1,500 miles across the northeastern portion of India and six other nations, this enormous spectacle also includes deep river gorges and the largest glacier in the world outside the polar regions. There are wide, flat plateaus and deep freshwater lakes. A total of 19 rivers carve their way through the landscape from the highlands down into the valleys. Although some believe the interior of these mountains contain large deposits of gold and zinc, natural resources have rarely been mined from them. Many experts believe that extracting these minerals from the earth might cause devastating landslides and most definitely will pollute the rivers.

From the base of the mountains to the highest peaks, the Himalayas are a botanist's paradise. With more than 10,000 tree, shrub and flowering plant species, the diversity is amazing! At the eastern base of the mountains, you'll find tropical evergreen rainforest, with a great variety of **resin**-producing trees, trees that secrete sticky substances that are often used as medicines. To the west, there are enormous stands of fragrant cedars. At elevations of 10-11,000 feet above sea level, you enter the Alpine Zone where wild orchids and rhododendrons bloom in a rainbow of bright colors. Continuing up the mountains, you'll discover bamboo growing on steep slopes and diverse flowering plants and lush green mosses that have adapted to survive in **permafrost**, a layer of soil that is frozen year-round. At the very top, of course, the air is too thin to support plant life.

Some of the world's rarest mammals make their home in this youthful mountain range. Roaming the coldest, most remote reaches of the Himalayas are the critically endangered Himalayan Wolf and the rarely sighted Snow Leopard. With thick coats,

these powerful and agile predators are well adapted to their steep, rocky terrain. If you're ever exploring the forested areas just below the Alpine Zone, you better hope you don't run into a Himalayan Black Bear. One of the only known bear species to show aggression toward humans, these massive beasts can be recognized by the crescent of white fur around their chests. Far less intimidating is the appealing Red Panda, who looks much like a raccoon with lovely auburn fur and big, round eyes. This acrobatic animal uses its tail for balance as it swings from tree to tree in the wooded habitats of the eastern Himalayas. The southern foothills of the mighty mountains are the territory of one of the most majestic mammals on the planet, the 12,000-pound Asian Elephant. Sharing that temperate habitat are the One-Horned Rhino and the Bengal Tiger, both of which are facing extinction.

The people of the Himalayas are as diverse as the plant and animal life. For centuries, thousands of different clans and tribes of native people have made their home in this rugged domain. The best known and most numerous remaining today are the Sherpa. A Tibetan ethnic group, the Sherpa led a hardscrabble existence, raising yak and tending to meager gardens in these mountains for decades. In recent years, however, they have found prosperity as guides for tourists eager to reach the summit of Mount Everest. After 3,000 years of living at high altitudes, these hearty people have developed enlarged lungs that allow them to thrive in the low oxygen environment of a mountain peak. They also seem to have superhuman endurance and can maintain a strenuous level of physical activity from dawn to dusk. If you ever get the chance, ask a Sherpa about the presence of Yeti on these rocky slopes. You'll learn that the native people definitely believe that the beast exists, but they don't think it's either abominable or a snowman at all. Instead, the Sherpa are convinced that Yeti the last of an extinct species of human and that there's a breeding colony of them hidden in the nooks and crannies of the Himalaya Mountains. References to the shaggy, secretive beings who haunt the mountains are commonplace in Sherpa folklore.

If you ever need a reminder of what an amazing world we live in, just picture a rocky mountain peak jutting through clouds and wonder about the mysteries that might lurk up there. With dramatic physical features, lush plant life, rare mammals and unique people, the Himalayas are a fascinating place to study. For sure, the earth's youngest mountain range is a one-of-a-kind place.

The Himalayas: The Youngest Mountain Range in the World

introduction

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conclusion

Discussion Questions – Appalachians and Himalayas

You have read two informative texts about the oldest and youngest mountain ranges on earth, the Appalachians and the Himalayas. Write an essay comparing these two ranges. Be sure to discuss the physical features and people of both, citing examples from the text.

1. Fill in the summarizing frameworks, below, for each text:

THE APPALACHIANS

Topic: The Appalachians

Main Idea #1: Physical features

Main Idea #2: Plant life

Main Idea #3: People

THE HIMALAYAS

Topic: The Himalayas

Main Idea #1: Physical features

Main Idea #2: Plant life

Main Idea #3: Rare mammals

Main Idea #4: People

2. What do you notice about these summarizing frameworks? They both
address 3 of the same main ideas.
3. What are the “givens” in the boxed assignment? Must compare the
physical features and the people.
4. Go back to each text. Based on your main idea “blurbs” in the margins, circle the “physical features” paragraphs in yellow and the “people” paragraphs in pink.
5. If you were going to expand both of the texts, what is another main idea you might include: Answers will vary; some might be wildlife, conservation, future of the mountains.

BONUS: Go back to each source and circle all of the ways the authors refer to the mountain ranges described in these texts. (We call this technique the use of “*word referents*.”)

Circle: *rocky slopes, rugged domain, lofty land, rolling hills, elderly landform*

Name _____

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Comparison Grid

	APPALACHIANS	HIMALAYAS
Physical Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 million years old • Peaks eroded with time • Highest elevation 6,684 feet • Extensively mined for coal • Streams used for hydroelectricity • Caves and caverns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 million years old • Mount Everest, almost 30,000 feet high • Steep peaks, rocky cliffs • Glaciers, 19 rivers • Deep water gorges • Dangerous to mine, possible deposits of gold and zinc
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mysterious human remains found • Cherokee Indians • Coal miners, labor organizers • Creek and Shawnee Indians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many tribes and clans • The Sherpa, a Tibetan Ethnic Group, climbing guides • Yeti - ancient species of human?

Name _____

Comparison Grid

	APPALACHIANS	HIMALAYAS
Physical Features		
People		

Name _____

Exemplar Text

Did you know that mountain ranges, like living things, actually age? Wind and weather take their toll on towering peaks and mold them into rounded, rolling hills. Comparing and contrasting the Himalayas, the youngest mountain range on earth, and the far older Appalachians reveals clear differences in the physical features of each range, but surprising similarities among the people of these rugged regions.

As the text explains, the young Himalaya Mountain Range includes not only the highest peak on earth but 14 others that are very nearly as high! While Mount Everest soars nearly 30,000 feet into the sky, the highest peak in the elderly Appalachians is Mount Mitchell, which stands significantly short of 7,000 feet. There are glaciers in the Himalayas, including the largest one found outside polar circles. The Appalachians have hydroelectricity-producing streams as well as caves and caverns. As we learn from article about the Appalachians, these aged mountains have been extensively mined for coal. In contrast, the text about the Himalayas states that while deposits of gold and zinc may lie deep within these rocky cliffs, mining such minerals is dangerous. Doing so, the author tells us, may cause landslides and water pollution.

The youngest and the oldest of our planet's mountain ranges have their own rich human histories. As indicated in the texts, both have been home to a multitude of tribes, ethnic groups and clans over the years. While the Cherokee are the best known natives of the Appalachians, the Sherpa are the most recognized indigenous people of the Himalayas. Sadly, we learn that the Cherokee were driven from the area, which evolved over the years into a stronghold for coal miners who were among the first to fight for worker's rights in America. We discover that the Sherpa, on the other hand, remain on the high-altitude lands of their ancestors. Well adapted to life at a high altitude, these enterprising Tibetians have found a way to prosper in recent years by guiding climbers to the summit of Mount Everest. Surprisingly, the authors illustrate that both mountain ranges have their mysteries. In the Appalachians, human remains of an unknown people who stood more than eight feet tall have been found in several ancient burial mounds. The author states, "The remains of humans who stood over eight feet tall with double rows of teeth and skulls twice as thick as our own have been found in several burial mounds in the southeastern reaches of these rolling hills. Furthermore, stories passed down from one generation to the next by Native Americans describe bloody encounters with towering, light-skinned giants." The Himalayas, we learn, have their legendary Yeti, whom the Sherpa believe is the last survivor of an early human species.

As detailed in the texts, the youngest and the oldest mountain ranges on earth have some obvious differences, but surprising similarities. With scenic physical features and fascinating native people, the Appalachians and the Himalayas are certainly worth studying.

Name _____

IRRELEVANT, EXTRANEIOUS DETAILS IN EXPOSITORY/INFORMATIVE TEXT

Read the expository/informative paragraphs below and identify the MAIN IDEA of each. Then, find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA and cross it out.

1. Quilting is both a practical and a decorative art. It requires that two pieces of cloth be sewn together with a padded, pillowy material between them. Needlepoint is another creative form of handwork that some people enjoy. For centuries, thick quilted fabrics have been used for blankets and clothing. In colonial America, large quilts were hung on the walls of poorly insulated log cabins to keep out the cold. It might be difficult to imagine, but the ancient Egyptians used quilted materials as armor in times of war.

What is the **MAIN IDEA** of this paragraph?

2. One of the great mysteries of the world can be found on a remote island in the southeastern Pacific. It is called Easter Island and if you go there, you'll see hundreds of massive statues carved from volcanic rock. Easter Island is a territory of the South American nation of Chile. Did they have spiritual significance to the ancient people of the island? Why do some of them look out at the sea while other face inland? How were they moved and constructed with only primitive tools? We may never get definitive answers to these questions and many more.

What is the **MAIN IDEA** of this paragraph?

3. How do you create smoke alarms for people with hearing impairments? Well, how about a sensor that reacts to smoke and heat by releasing a stench so powerful that it awakens people within seconds? It may seem strange, but such systems are being used with much success in Japan today. Disability dogs can help people live independently with hearing and vision loss. These smelly systems are quickly replacing the alarms of the past that relied upon bright, flashing lights.

What is the **MAIN IDEA** of this paragraph?

Name _____

IRRELEVANT, EXTRANEOUS DETAILS IN ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

Read the argumentative paragraphs below and identify the **MAIN REASON** of each. Then, find the detail sentence that does **NOT** support the **MAIN REASON** and cross it out.

1. If you had a choice, would you prefer to drive a compact car or a hulking sports utility vehicle? I would definitely choose a safe, but small and fuel-efficient car. After all, how many people really need the gigantic gas-guzzlers that are clogging our highways and using more than their fair share of the road? Keep in mind, these road hogs were originally designed for off-road and military use. Who could disagree that it's also important to save gas by using your bicycle as often as possible? You've got to wonder how many drivers ever take advantage of the off-road features of their SUV. My guess would be very few.

What is the **MAIN REASON** of this paragraph?

2. In my opinion, middle school students are under too much pressure! After all, just think of the many demands on our time! As anybody could tell you, we are expected to keep up with our homework, complete long-term projects, participate in sports and prepare for important testing. Informal surveys reveal that most kids between the ages of 11 and 13, get only 7 hours of sleep each night while experts say they need a minimum of 9. In high school, our schedules will get even more hectic when we add in part-time jobs. I am convinced that we would do better in school and be happier overall if we had more time to kick back with friends and family.

What is the **MAIN REASON** of this paragraph?

3. Do you ever compare yourself to pictures of celebrities, athletes and models? If so, you are not alone. Every day, we are bombarded by deceptive images of beauty that make us feel like we don't measure up. That's why I believe that the tricks of photography used to create these misleading images of perfection should be outlawed. As everybody knows, fashion magazines don't contain many articles that are worth reading. Don't you wonder why anybody would want to look at these lovely lies anyway? Real people, with their quirks and flaws, are so much more interesting.

What is the **MAIN REASON** of this paragraph?

Name _____

NASTY FOODS OF ALL NATIONS

Read and compare the following argumentative pieces.

1. Nasty Foods of All Nations

Do you have any desire to taste some of the nasty things people eat in other parts of the world? I know that some people might think cheeseburgers and fries are disgusting too, but they're not as bad as fried insects and live octopus tentacles.

Raw fish is not so bad in sushi, but raw octopus tentacles that wiggle around like they're still alive are definitely disgusting. So is a fruit that smells like something rotten. Chowing down on insects is not something I would do, but at least it's better than eating cheese with maggots in it.

Of course, people have the right to eat whatever they please, but I'll stick to macaroni and cheese. Don't you agree?

2. Nasty Foods of All Nations

Are you a fearless eater like me? Do you like tasting unique foods from around the world? I usually like to try new foods. But I have to say that there are some foods too disgusting for even someone daring like me, and they include wriggling raw octopus tentacles, maggot cheese, and the world's worst fruit.

Sannakji is a Korean specialty. It consists of raw, freshly slaughtered octopus tentacles. Even though the tentacles are chopped to pieces, they still wiggle around the plate like they were alive. That is just gross!

Everybody agrees that there is absolutely nothing good about the fruit known as durian. It has a horrible smell and a slimy texture. It leaves a bitter taste in your mouth and it is expensive. Why bother even trying durian?

There are other disgusting foods, too. In many parts of the world insects and eyeballs are eaten. That is disgusting! In Italy, they make something called maggot cheese that sounds too disgusting to even write about, not to mention taste.

In my opinion, it is usually a great experience to taste foods from all over the world. But none of us should feel we have to taste some of the gross and disgusting dishes out there. Just say "No, thanks," to maggot cheese, slithering octopus tentacles, and yucky durian!

3. Nasty Foods of All Nations

Can you imagine yourself sitting down for a meal of fried insects or snacking on the boiled eyeballs of shark? I would certainly prefer a plate of spaghetti and meatballs! We all have our own personal tastes in food and different ideas about what tastes delicious. But most of us would agree that three of the world's nastiest foods have got to be Sannakji, Durian fruit and Casu Marzu, also known as maggot cheese.

Are you reckless enough try Sannakji? This dangerous Korean dish is quite simple: raw, fresh octopus tentacles sprinkled with sesame seeds and drizzled with a spicy oil. What makes Sannakji such a unique and risky dining experience is that those slick tentacles are still squirming and twitching with reflexive movement as you eat them. There is always a possibility that the gray, worm-like octopus arms will latch onto your throat and choke you to death! Those brave enough to taste it say Sannakji has a mild flavor and a rubbery texture that requires a lot of chewing. But even if you chew until your jaw aches, those tentacles never stop wiggling around your mouth. As far as I'm concerned, the only good thing about Sannakji is that the portion is usually small. All in all, I'd say it's more like a dare than a meal.

If a powerful odor of rotting eggs and moldy onions with a hint of gasoline turns your stomach, you probably won't want to snack on a durian. The nauseating smell of this fruit from southeast Asia is so overwhelming that it has been banned from many hotels and on public transportation. The brave few who have tasted the prickly green fruit report that it has the slimy texture of an overripe banana but the mild flavor of almonds. That doesn't sound so bad, does it? Some people actually enjoy it, but before you're tempted to give it a try, you should know that Durian has a bitter, lingering after-taste. I'll never understand why it is one of the world's most expensive fruits, costing an average of \$5 a pound, while sweet, creamy bananas usually go for less than \$1 per pound.

While people from all over the world travel to Italy for its sumptuous food, it's a safe bet that only the natives eat Casu Marzu! From the Italian island of Sardinia, with a name that means "rotten cheese," this is one disgusting dish. To make it, place a traditional sheep's milk cheese in the proximity of dozens of buzzing flies. After the flies have laid their eggs in the cheese and maggots have hatched, chow down on the whole oozing mess. The taste is said to be strong enough to burn your tongue. It is not surprising that Casu Marzu is banned throughout Europe as unhygienic. The only place where you can buy it legally is on Sardinia, where it is considered a traditional food of the countryside. I don't know about you, but I won't be placing my order anytime soon!

If you hope to travel the world, chances are you're going to taste some unfamiliar foods along the way and you'll surely enjoy many of them. But if you're ever offered Sannakji, Durian, or Casu Marzu, you'll probably want to politely decline. Most of us would agree that these three foods are nothing less than repulsive.

Name _____

SCANDINAVIA

Read and compare the following Expository pieces about Scandinavia.

1. Scandinavia

The countries of Scandinavia are in northern Europe. They are nice places to live and to visit.

Five countries are part of Scandinavia. They are Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Denmark is the smallest. Norway is the richest. Sweden has the biggest city.

The world's biggest herd of reindeer is in Finland. All five are peaceful countries where people have good jobs and educations. Iceland has lots of beautiful waterfalls, plus hot springs and geysers.

Don't you wish you could visit Scandinavia?

2. Scandinavia

Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway are the countries of Scandinavia. I will tell you all about Scandinavia.

It is a region in northern Europe. These countries are nice. People have good educations and good jobs, but they pay high taxes. Norway is the richest and Denmark is the smallest. I would like to visit both of these countries.

The most interesting thing about the history of the Scandinavian countries is the Vikings. Vikings came from Scandinavia and they raided other places and stole from the people. Mostly though Scandinavia's history is peaceful. Only the Vikings were violent. Mostly, the Scandinavian countries stay out of wars.

The geography of Scandinavia is interesting. There are nice mountains and beaches. In Iceland, there are geysers, hot springs and beautiful waterfalls. They have fjords too, which are deep inlets with towering mountains on both sides. The fjords are mostly in Norway.

Would you like to take a vacation in Scandinavia? I would like to explore these countries and hope I have a chance to someday.

3. Scandinavia

Where does the world's largest herd of reindeer roam? Where can you walk on sidewalks heated by geothermal power in the winter? The answer to both of these questions is Scandinavia, a large peninsula located in northern Europe. Let's learn about life in Scandinavia, and the region's rich history as well as its diverse geographic features.

Life in the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark and Norway is comfortable and secure. The people of these five countries enjoy a high standard of living with free and equal access to education, health care and other social services for all. All over Scandinavia, but particularly in Norway, people enjoy affluence. Of course, they do pay high taxes, but crime, poverty and unemployment are rare throughout the region. With a population of about 2 million, the city of Stockholm in Sweden is widely considered the capital of Scandinavia. The region also has many charming small villages in its rural areas.

The age of the Vikings, from the late 8th through the 11th centuries, is probably the most dramatic in the history of Scandinavia. While the Vikings are remembered as bloodthirsty warriors, most were really just farmers struggling to grow crops in a land with a short growing season. They took to the sea originally hoping only to establish trade relations with neighboring nations. With the exception of the Viking age, most of Scandinavia's past is peaceful. Sweden has been a neutral country, refusing to become involved in war, for the past 200 years and the nonviolent Danish resistance to the Nazi occupation of World War II was remarkably effective.

The geography of the Scandinavian region is lush and diverse. To the north, it extends into the Arctic Circle where some of Europe's largest glaciers can be found. Both Sweden and Denmark have miles of beautiful coastline and gently rolling lowlands. The region also includes vast, rugged mountain ranges that are broken up by valleys and deep, narrow inlets called fjords. Finland is known for its innumerable lakes and Iceland for its cascading waterfalls and natural hot springs. Iceland is also renowned for its Haukadalur Valley, where the largest geysers in Scandinavia erupt regularly. One can hurl steamy water more than 200 feet into the air!

From the deep fjords of Norway to the beautiful beaches of Denmark, the Scandinavian Peninsula is a captivating land of prosperity, charm and natural beauty. There is certainly much to learn about life in Scandinavia as well as the history and diverse geography of this captivating region.

Folk Art

Introduction:

If you ever get the chance, I urge you to see an exhibit of folk art from around the world. I was recently introduced to this charming, homespun art form and found it very distinctive and quite different from the formal portraits and posed sculptures that I've seen before in art museums. Folk art tells the story of traditional, everyday life in rural corners of the world through paintings, carvings and textiles.

Main Idea Sentences:

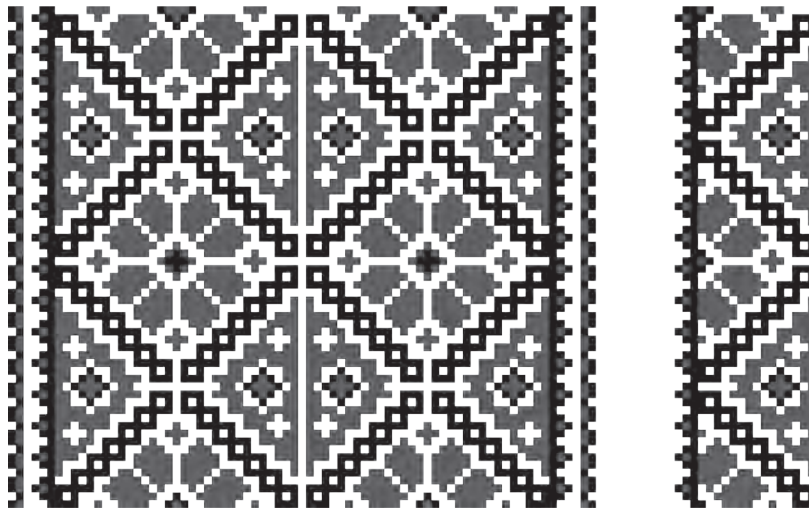
Folk art paintings capture the joy of everyday life.

Wood carvings, including amazingly detailed miniatures, are a mainstay of folk art.

Hand-crafted textiles are a recognized type of folk art around the world.

Conclusion:

Once known as "ordinary" art, folk art is widely recognized today as an enduring and important form of expression. Through paintings, carvings and textiles, it captures the traditions and simple joys of the life in the country. Without a doubt, folk art is here to stay.



Folk Art

Images of barns, farm animals and rural landscapes appear often in folk art paintings.

Examine a folk art painting carefully and you'll notice that it doesn't follow the technical rules of composition.

Bright, lush color characterizes folk art paintings from China.

This is also known as Chinese peasant painting.

Folk art paintings from Africa convey joy with images of dancers under starry skies and mothers holding the hands of children.

Folk art paintings are simple and not intended to look realistic.

Folk artists might use acrylic or oil paints or something totally different like vegetable dyes.

Folk art paintings were first exhibited in the 1930s.

Today there are folk art museums around the world.

Anna Mary Robertson, also known as Grandma Moses is the most famous American folk art painter.

Remarkably, Grandma Moses, did not start painting until she was in 78 and worked until her 101st birthday.

Carvings of roosters with oversized tail feathers are a classic example of North American folk art.

Carving of fish and sea birds are also popular.

Tiny, amazingly detailed carved folk art figures and whittled primitive dollhouse furniture are other examples of folk art.

The seafaring life in the coastal regions of the U.S. and Canada are depicted in intricate miniature models of ships.

Cut and Paste Activities - Detail Sentences

Hand crafted carousel horses are also considered folk art and collected around the world.

Weathervanes, carved and painted by hand in the shape of farm animals, are popular in rural regions around the world.

Intricately carved and hand painted, bird decoys the only completely original form of American folk art.

These one-of-a-kind carved bird decoys are eagerly sought by collectors and have been sold for over \$50,000.

In Africa and Asia, beautifully carved masks are often embellished with feathers to celebrate native traditions.

A common folk art technique is called notch carving, and it requires that the image be crafted from v-shaped cuts with a knife.

Originating in England, colorful hand-hooked rugs are one of the oldest examples of textile art.

The vibrant folk art textiles of Peru are hand-spun of wool from sheep and alpaca.

It is important to remember that the famous Grandma Moses created folk art images from yarn years before she started painting.

Folk art textiles show how people can transform their world with small things of beauty.

Patchwork quilts are a traditional folk art from colonial America.

Made from leftover scraps of cloth, colorful patchwork quilts showcase the thrifty spirit of the frontier.

African textiles often feature intricate beadwork.

Embroidered wall hangings, made with bright threads and often incorporating tiny mirrors, is the traditional folk art of India.

The distinctive Hawaiian style of quilting uses large appliqués of flowers, pineapples and palm trees.

American Sign Language

Introduction:

Most schools require that students take a foreign language. In my opinion, we should all have the option of studying American Sign Language, instead of or in addition to a foreign language like Spanish or French. Through American Sign Language, you can learn to appreciate the rich culture of the deaf and improve your overall academic skills. As you learn more about American Sign Language, you'll surely agree that it is far more effective than speech in many ways.

Main Idea Sentences:

Through the study of American Sign Language, you'll experience the distinctive culture of the deaf.

Learning American Sign Language makes you a better student overall.

American Sign Language is more effective than speech in many situations.

Conclusion:

Are you curious about deaf culture? Wouldn't you love to be a better student? Can you imagine a way of communicating that's more effective than speech? If so, you must be as eager as I am to learn American Sign Language. Spoken by an estimated 2 million North Americans today, it is certainly a complex and beautiful language. Without a doubt, we should all have the option of studying American Sign Language in school.



American Sign Language

People identify with deaf culture just as they do with their ethnic heritage.

You'll learn that the deaf take pride in their culture and are often eager to share it with you.

When you study American Sign Language, you will be able to enjoy great theatrical performances by the deaf and hard of hearing.

Through American Sign Language, music has become an essential part of life for people who live with hearing loss.

You'll discover that a unique and visually stunning storytelling tradition is important to the deaf communities of the world.

You'll be fascinated by the folklore and visual art created by people with a unique perspective on life.

Who wouldn't want to learn the rule of etiquette within the world of the deaf and hard of hearing.

It would be helpful too to know why some deaf people reject the use of lip reading.

Most of all, as you gain a deep understanding of the gifts and challenges of deafness, you will recognize that it should be seen, not as a disability, but as a gift.

There's no better way to be celebrate the rich diversity of the world than by learning American Sign Language.

It might be hard to believe, but research confirms that when you study American Sign Language, your spelling improves.

Experts also say that the movements involved in making the actual signs improve your memory which can definitely improve your test scores.

Nothing is better than American Sign Language for developing the fine motor skills you need for handwriting and keyboarding.

This fascinating means of communication improves your ability to read body language and nonverbal cues, and to control your own.

Cut and Paste Activities – Detail Sentences

You will surely notice that your attention span increases when you begin to study American Sign Language.

It might even help you control impulsive behavior in the classroom.

This elaborate language could help you develop more acute vision.

Numerous studies completed at major universities have shown that children who learned American Sign Language at a young age scored 8-13 points higher than average on IQ tests.

Learning American Sign Language will help you improve your English language skills and make it easier to learn yet another language.

You're unlikely to be misunderstood since American Sign Language gives you three different ways to get your message across – hand movements, facial expressions and body postures.

With American Sign Language, you can make yourself understood in loud places, like at a concert or construction site.

At the movies or the library, you can talk with a friend without disturbing anybody else.

Plus, you can answer a question at the dinner table with your mouth full!

I'm sure you'll appreciate how difficult it might be to have your private conversation overheard when you use American Sign Language.

Just use binoculars and you can communicate from a distance, too.

You might not get the chance to do so often, but imagine how awesome it would be to have a conversation underwater!

Another situation in which American Sign Language would be more effective than speech is when you need to get a message to a teammate during a competitive game of soccer or baseball.

BE A TEXT DETECTIVE!

FIND THE EVIDENCE

Folk Art

- Chinese folk art paintings tend to be colorful.
- Grandma Moses painted until very late in her life.
- Hand carved and painted bird decoys can be very valuable.
- People who love folk art might collect carousel horses.
- Travel into the country and you might see weathervanes in shapes of farm animals.
- In South America, folk artists create beauty from hand-spun wool.
- Some folk artists weave tiny mirrors into their work.

REMEMBER: YOU DON'T NEED TO READ THE TEXT BEGINNING TO END! USE MAIN IDEAS/REASONS TO DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION AND THEN SKIM AND SCAN! POST YOUR EVIDENCE BESIDE EACH STATEMENT.

BE A TEXT DETECTIVE!

FIND THE EVIDENCE

American Sign Language

- Deaf people are usually proud of their culture and hope you'll want to learn about it.
- Specific rules of etiquette are observed in the deaf community.
- Not all deaf people are willing to read lips.
- You will do better on tests if you study American Sign Language.
- Learning American Sign Language might help you stay focused in the classroom.
- In loud places, using sign language is better than shouting.
- Baseball players could benefit from learn American Sign Language.

REMEMBER: YOU DON'T NEED TO READ THE TEXT BEGINNING TO END! USE MAIN IDEAS/REASONS TO DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION AND THEN SKIM AND SCAN! POST YOUR EVIDENCE BESIDE EACH STATEMENT.