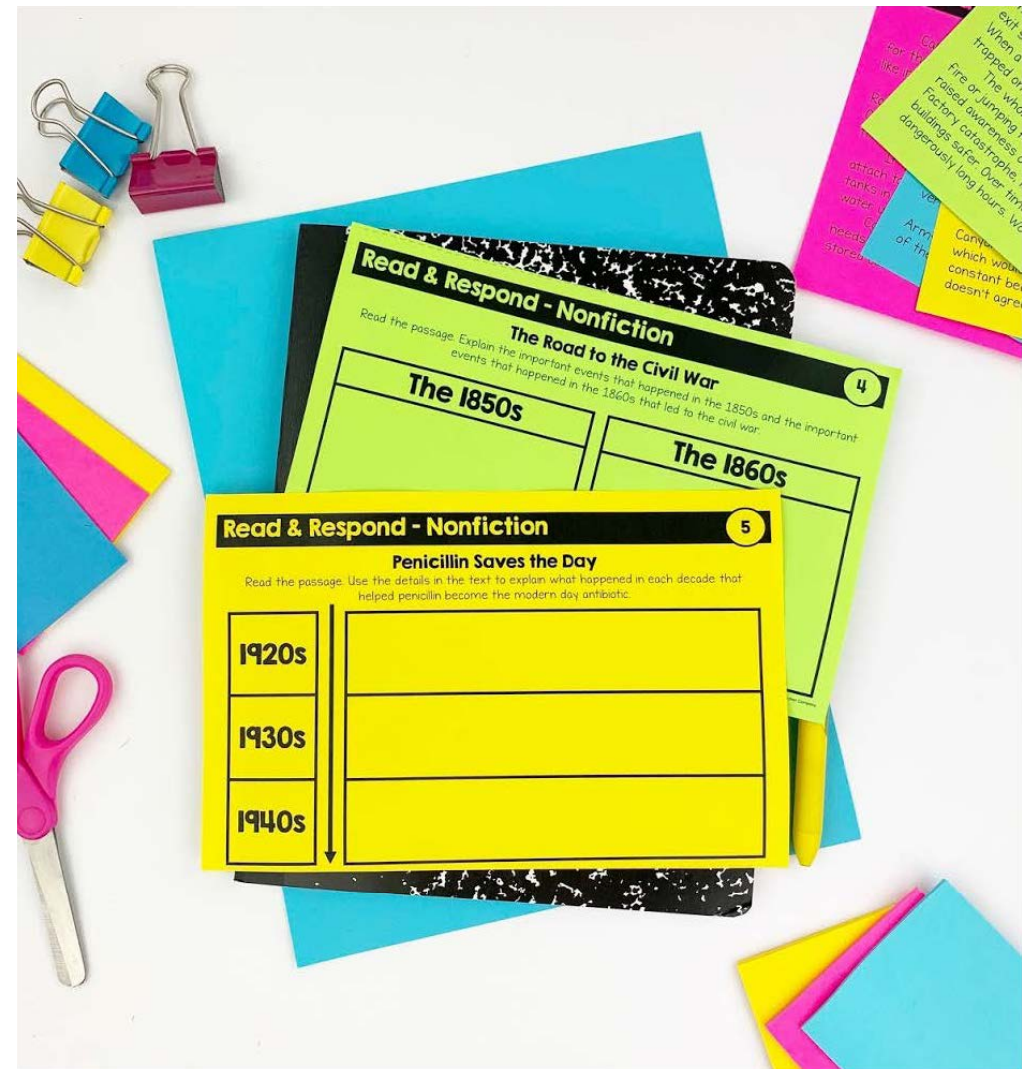


NONFICTION TEXTS

HISTORICAL, SCIENTIFIC, & TECHNICAL TASK CARDS



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short nonfiction passages that will help you teach your students to explain the important details and events in historical, scientific, and technical texts.

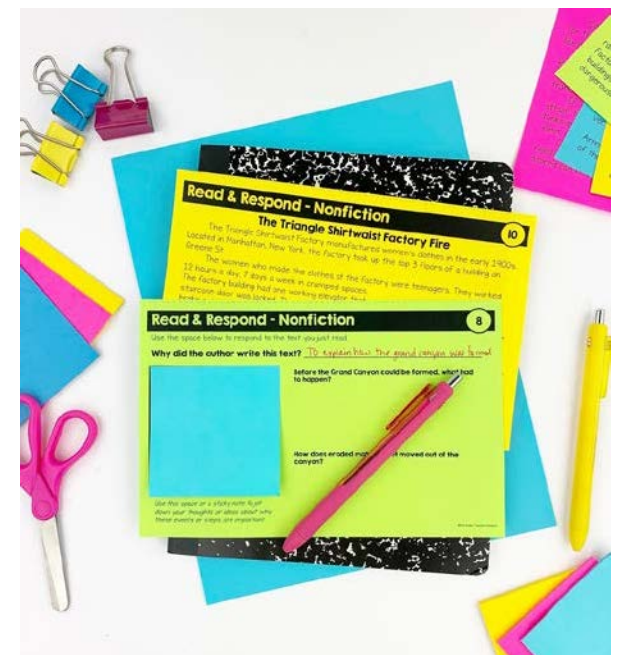
Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



Option #1 - Just the text



Option #2 - Text and Graphic Organizer Template



Option #3 - Text and Response Questions

Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #1 - Just the Text

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short nonfiction reading passages (takes up half a page). The topics are mostly historical, scientific, and technical to help you teach standards RI3.3, RI4.3 or RI5.3. BUT really, these nonfiction texts work great to help you teach almost any nonfiction standard.

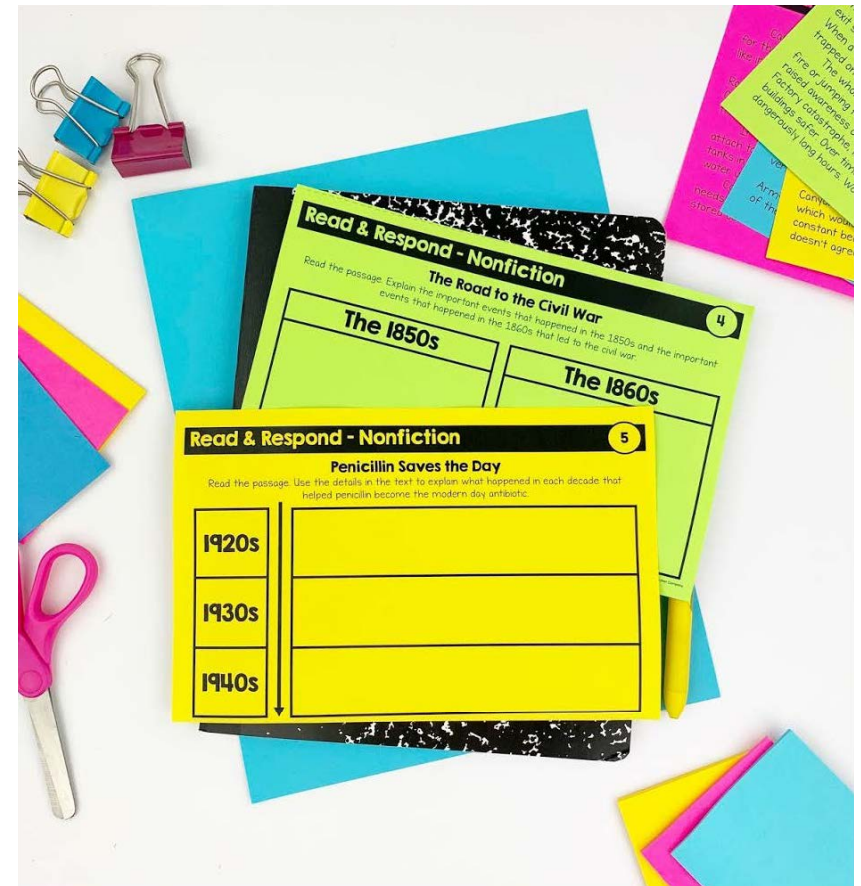


- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on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

Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

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

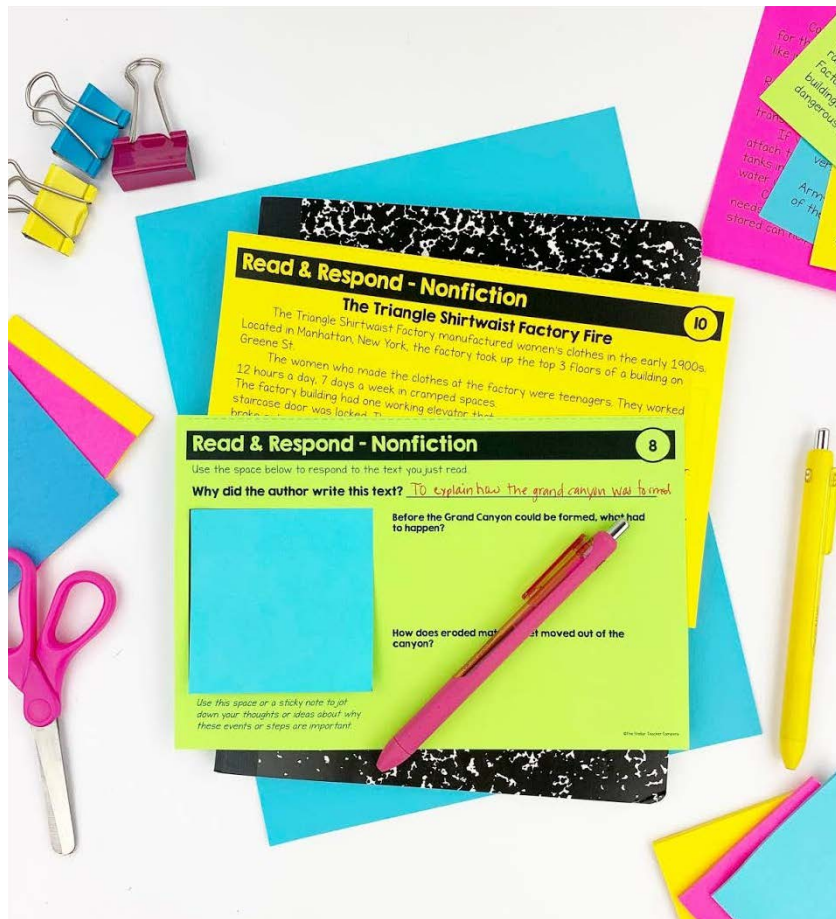
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about the order of events or steps in the process and what is significant about them.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students think about the details included in the text and how they help communicate the important events/steps.



Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

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



- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about the order of events or steps in the process and what is significant about them.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down details about the text and what is most significant about this text.

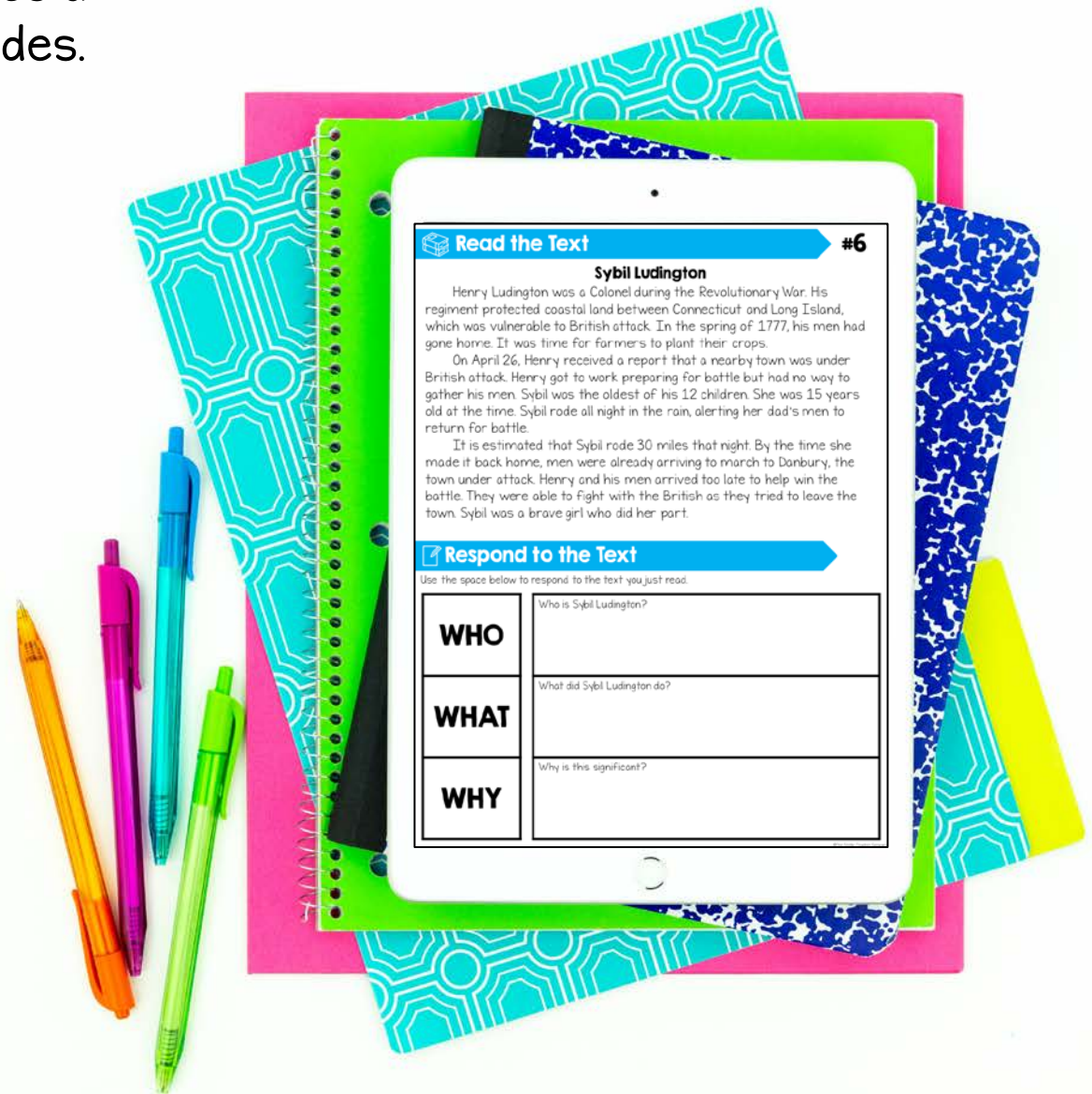
Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

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.

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

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



A LOOK INSIDE...(option 1)

Read & Respond 1

Paul Revere's Wild Ride

In 1774 and 1775, Paul Revere delivered mail on horseback. He lived in Massachusetts and delivered around New England. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul received an important job. He was to ride from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts to warn Americans that British soldiers were coming. Two other riders set out for Lexington but took different routes.

Revere was rowed across the Charles River and borrowed a horse. Around midnight, he arrived in Lexington. He warned everyone he could of the coming attack. Paul was on his way to Concord to continue spreading the news when he was captured. Luckily, one of the other riders was able to warn Concord of the threat.

Paul was let go by the British, but they took his horse. He had to walk back to Lexington and arrived early the next morning. Soon after, British soldiers marched into Lexington. The battle fought there was the start of the American Revolution. Paul Revere did his part for American independence.

Read & Respond 2

Living Off the Grid

Most people in America live in urban or suburban areas where they get electricity from a local power company. "Living off the grid" refers to choosing to live not connected to the local power supply. Those who would rather live off the grid may also find that their own electricity is generated by renewable energy.

One reason people choose to live off the grid is that some of those ways produce electricity is by burning and storing their own energy. People who live off the grid also try to reduce their carbon footprint. Growing their own food and using other ways people minimize their impact on the environment.

Read & Respond 7

A Cool Summer Treat

Fruit smoothies are a tasty and healthy treat to enjoy when it's hot. You do need to plan ahead a little bit. It is smart to have frozen fruit ready BEFORE you want to make a smoothie. Simply slice fresh bananas and strawberries and freeze them on a cookie sheet. Smaller berries do not need to be cut up.

For two smoothies, you will need 1 cup of milk, ½ cup of yogurt, and ½ cup of fruit juice. Put these ingredients into a blender. Next, put a sliced frozen banana in the blender. Then add 2 more cups of whatever frozen fruit you like.

When all of your ingredients are in the blender, but the lid on it. You don't want your smoothie all over the kitchen! Turn on the blender and run it until the smoothie is smooth and creamy. Finally, pour it into two glasses to share with a friend! Enjoy your cool treat on a hot day.

Read & Respond 8

The Grand Canyon

Canyons are formed by different kinds of geological activity. The Grand Canyon is the biggest canyon in the United States. It has formed over many millions of years.

Millions of years ago, shifting of tectonic plates in what is now the state of Arizona created the Colorado Plateau. Tectonic uplift pushed parts of the Earth's crust up to form the plateau. The Colorado River first ran over the plateau. Over millions of years, the river has worn away the riverbed. This helped create the deep canyon. Because rivers are constantly moving, they carry away material worn from the bed of the river. Canyons form from the erosion over time.

According to National Geographic, scientists estimate that the Grand Canyon gets 1 foot deeper every 200 years. It is currently 6,000 feet deep, which would equal about 1,200,000 years to form. But erosion hasn't remained constant because of changes in the river and weather patterns. While everyone doesn't agree how old the Grand Canyon is, we can agree it is very, very old.

Read & Respond 3

Your Amazing Eyes

Your eyes use light to tell your brain what you're seeing. Your field of vision is the space your eyes can see at one time. Light reflects off the surface of each item in your field of vision and enters your eye. First the light goes through your cornea, which focuses the light. Second, the light goes through your pupil, which regulates how much light can get through. The last stop at the front of the eye is the lens, which changes shape to help you see things based on how far away they are.

Now the light has reached the main part of your eyeball. It goes through your eye and projects onto your retina. The retina acts like a movie screen for the images contained in the light. The retina has many complicated parts. Basically, it sends to your optic nerve, which is behind the eye. The optic nerve sends the signal from the light to your brain, and presto! You are seeing.

Read & Respond 4

The Road to the Civil War

Less than 100 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, the "United States" were not so united.

States in the north and south were deeply divided over the issue of slavery. The north was against slavery, and the south was in favor of it. The westward expansion of the United States was a major point of contention. Would new territories be free or slave states?

Read & Respond 9

Gravity

Gravity is like a magnetic force that pulls on objects. Instead of being actually magnetic, gravity is caused by mass. All objects have a gravitational pull, but the greater the mass of the object, the stronger that pull will be. For example, the sun's mass and the mass of the other planets in our solar system are what hold the planets in their orbit around the sun. Gravity holds our moon in orbit around Earth. The moon's gravity, meanwhile, causes changes to our ocean tides here on Earth.

Earth has significant mass, especially compared to individual items on Earth. That means Earth is the greatest force around and pulls everything on its surface down. Earth's gravity is why we can live on the surface and not float into space! While on the surface, we also exert a gravitational pull on the Earth. But we are so small, our pull doesn't have an impact on the Earth. Gravity is the glue that holds our planet together.

Read & Respond 10

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory manufactured women's clothes in the early 1900s. Located in Manhattan, New York, the factory took up the top 3 floors of a building on Greene St.

The women who made the clothes at the factory were teenagers. They worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in cramped spaces. The factory building had one working elevator that went to the top floors. One exit staircase door was locked. The other staircase exit door opened inward. When a fire broke out on the morning of April 25, 1911, 600 workers were trapped on the 8th floor.

The whole tragedy was over quickly. 145 young ladies lost their lives in the fire or jumping from the burning building. But the fire got people's attention. It raised awareness of the need for worker safety. Because of the Triangle Factory catastrophe, laws were passed. Safety regulations were passed to make buildings safer. Over time, laws were passed protecting workers from dangerously long hours. Workers today still enjoy these protections.

Read & Respond 5

Penicillin Saves the Day

Long ago, people often died from bacterial infections. Today antibiotics like penicillin treat infections.

In 1928, scientist Alexander Fleming returned home to London from vacation. He went to check on his samples of bacteria growing in dishes. One sample was growing mold. There were no bacteria in the same area as the mold. The mold was penicillin.

Alex tested the mold on other kinds of bacteria. He learned how to extract the penicillin from the mold. There was just no way to make medicine out of it yet.

In 1939, scientists at Oxford University started trying to grow mold for penicillin in large vats. In 1940 they started testing the medicine on animals. The first human was treated in 1941, but the medicine wasn't quite ready yet. They kept working and found the best way to grow large quantities of the mold. By 1945 the first antibiotic was available to anyone who needed it. Thanks to these English scientists, today many kinds of infections are completely treatable.

Read & Respond 6

Sybil Ludington

Henry Ludington was a Colonel during the Revolutionary War. His regiment protected coastal land between Connecticut and Long Island, which was vulnerable to British attack. In the spring of 1777, his men had

Read & Respond 11

Hibernation

To avoid extinction, all living things must be able to survive. Hibernation is one way many animals survive.

Mammals, reptiles, birds, and even insects hibernate. If it is too cold, or food and water are scarce, animals can wait for the environment to change. Hibernation is not sleeping though. Instead, animals slow their breathing and heart rate down. Their body temperatures drop, so they are using less energy to stay alive. They can then "wake up" when it warms up, or food and water is more plentiful.

Winter is one logical time for animals to hibernate. If it gets severely cold, finding food can be almost impossible. Droughts are also a time when animals may have a hard time surviving. When it doesn't rain, there isn't enough water to drink. Hibernation is a survival behavior. It allows animals to make it through difficult times so they can continue the business of life.

Read & Respond 12

The End of Slavery in America

The Civil War in America was long and costly. Northern and southern states had been fighting each other for almost two years when President Lincoln took game-changing action. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This presidential order freed slaves in southern states that had seceded from the Union. This act has several important consequences.

First, black men could now join the Union Army, and did so to the tune of 200,000 soldiers. Second, the separated southern states lost much of their labor force. Slaves were relied upon to keep the wheels of the southern economy turning, and the wheels fell off the bus. Third, and perhaps most importantly, the Emancipation Proclamation changed the tone of the war. Instead of being about north versus south, it became more about freedom versus bondage.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. The Confederate Army surrendered on the 26th of the same month. 620,000 had died and much of the south was demolished but the states were united once again.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 1

Paul Revere's Wild Ride

In 1774 and 1775, Paul Revere delivered mail on horseback. He lived in Massachusetts and delivered around New England.

On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul received an important job. He was to ride from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts to warn Americans that British soldiers were coming. Two other riders set out for Lexington but took different routes.

Revere was rowed across the Charles River and borrowed a horse. Around midnight, he arrived in Lexington. He warned everyone he could of the coming attack. Paul was on his way to Concord to continue spreading the news when he was captured. Luckily, one of the other riders was able to warn Concord of the threat.

Paul was let go by the British, but they took his horse. He had to walk back to Lexington and arrived early the next morning. Soon after, British soldiers marched into Lexington. The battle fought there was the start of the American Revolution. Paul Revere did his part for American independence.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 2

Living Off the Grid

Most people in America live in urban or suburban areas where they get electricity from a local power company. "Living off the grid" refers to choosing to live not connected to the local power supply. Those who would rather live off the grid may also fend for their own water and waste needs and food supply.

One reason people who live off the grid is that power companies generate electricity those ways pollute the environment. Burning coal or wood. People who live off the grid use solar panels to generate electricity.

People who live off the grid generate their own power. Generating their own power, capturing rainwater, and minimizing their impact on the planet.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 3

Your Amazing Eyes

Your eyes use light to tell your brain what you're seeing. Your field of vision is the space your eyes can see at one time. Light reflects off the surface of each item in your field of vision and enters your eye. First the light goes through your cornea, which focuses the light. Second, the light goes through your pupil, which regulates how much light can get through. The last stop at the front of the eye is the lens, which changes shape to help you see things based on how far away they are.

Now the light has reached the main part of your eyeball. It goes through your eye and projects onto your retina. The retina acts like a movie screen for the images contained in the light. The retina has many complicated parts. Basically, it sends to your optic nerve, which is behind the eye. The optic nerve sends the signal from the light to your brain, and presto! You are seeing.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 4

The Road to the Civil War

Less than 100 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, the "United States" were not so united.

States in the north and south were deeply divided over the issue of slavery. Complicating the matter was westward expansion. Would new territories be free or allow

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 5

Penicillin Saves the Day

Long ago, people often died from bacterial infections. Today antibiotics like penicillin treat infections.

In 1928, scientist Alexander Fleming returned home to London from vacation. He went to check on his samples of bacteria growing in dishes. One sample was growing mold. There were no bacteria in the same area as the mold. The mold was penicillin.

Alex tested the mold on other kinds of bacteria. He learned how to extract the penicillin from the mold. There was just no way to make medicine out of it yet.

In 1939, scientists at Oxford University started trying to grow mold for penicillin in large vats. In 1940 they started testing the medicine on animals. The first human was treated in 1941, but the medicine wasn't quite ready yet. They kept working and found the best way to grow large quantities of the mold. By 1945 the first antibiotic was available to anyone who needed it. Thanks to these English scientists, today many kinds of infections are completely treatable.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 6

Sybil Ludington

Henry Ludington was a Colonel during the Revolutionary War. His regiment protected coastal land between Connecticut and Long Island, which was vulnerable to British attack. In the spring of 1777, his men had gone home. It

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 1

Paul Revere's Wild Ride

Read the passage. Use details from the text to explain what happened to Paul Revere and why it happened.

What Happened?	Why did it happen?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 3

Your Amazing Eyes

Read the passage. Explain the job of your eyes and how they actually work.

What is the job of your eyes?

--------------	--------------

How does your eye work?

--------------	--------------	--------------

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 5

Penicillin Saves the Day

Read the passage. Use the details in the text to explain what happened in each decade that helped penicillin become the modern day antibiotic.

1920s	
1930s	
1940s	

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 2

Living Off the Grid

Read the passage and then use details from the text to explain the what, why, and how of living off the grid.

WHAT	Explain what does it mean to live off the grid.
WHY	Explain why do people want to live off the grid.
HOW	Explain how do people live off the grid.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 4

The Road to the Civil War

Read the passage. Explain the important events that happened in the 1850s and the important events that happened in the 1860s that led to the civil war.

The 1850s	The 1860s

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 6

Sybil Ludington

Read the passage. Use the details from the text to explain who Sybil Ludington is, what she did, and why she is significant/important.

WHO	Who is Sybil Ludington?
WHAT	What did Sybil Ludington do?
WHY	Why is this significant?

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 1

Paul Revere's Wild Ride

In 1774 and 1775, Paul Revere delivered mail on horseback. He lived in Massachusetts and delivered around New England. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul received an important job. He was to ride from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts to warn Americans that British soldiers were coming. Two other riders set out for Lexington but took different routes.

Revere was rowed across the Charles River and borrowed a horse. Around midnight, he arrived in Lexington. He warned everyone he could of the coming attack. Paul was on his way to Concord to continue spreading the news when he was captured. Luckily, one of the other riders was able to warn Concord of the threat.

Paul was let go by the British, but they took his horse. He had to walk back to Lexington and arrived early the next morning. Soon after, British soldiers marched into Lexington. The battle fought there was the start of the American Revolution. Paul Revere did his part for American independence.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 3

Your Amazing Eyes

Your eyes use light to tell your brain what you're seeing. Your field of vision is the space your eyes can see at one time. Light reflects off the surface of each item in your field of vision and enters your eye. First the light goes through your cornea, which focuses the light. Second, the light goes through your pupil, which regulates how much light can get through. The last stop at the front of the eye is the lens, which changes shape to help you see things based on how far away they are.

Now the light has reached the main part of your eyeball. It goes through your eye and projects onto your retina. The retina acts like a movie screen for the images contained in the light. The retina has many complicated parts. Basically, it sends to your optic nerve, which is behind the eye. The optic nerve sends the signal from the light to your brain, and presto! You are seeing.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 5

Penicillin Saves the Day

Long ago, people often died from bacterial infections. Today antibiotics like penicillin treat infections.

In 1928, scientist Alexander Fleming returned home to London from vacation. He went to check on his samples of bacteria growing in dishes. One sample was growing mold. There were no bacteria in the same area as the mold. The mold was penicillin.

Alex tested the mold on other kinds of bacteria. He learned how to extract the penicillin from the mold. There was just no way to make medicine out of it yet.

In 1939, scientists at Oxford University started trying to grow mold for penicillin in large vats. In 1940 they started testing the medicine on animals. The first human was treated in 1941, but the medicine wasn't quite ready yet. They kept working and found the best way to grow large quantities of the mold. By 1945 the first antibiotic was available to anyone who needed it. Thanks to these English scientists, today many kinds of infections are completely treatable.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 2

Living Off the Grid

Most people in America live in urban or suburban areas where they get electricity from a local power company. "Living off the grid" refers to choosing to live not connected to the local power supply. Those who would rather live off the grid may also fend for their own water and waste needs and food supply.

One reason people choose to live off the grid is that power companies generate electricity those ways pollute the air. Burning coal or wood. People use solar panels to generate electricity using solar panels.

People who live off the grid generate their own power. They capture rainwater to use for drinking and minimize their impact on the planet. Generating their own power, capturing rainwater, and using solar panels minimize their impact on the planet.

THINK:

- Explain the events or steps in order.
- What is one cause and effect relationship you can identify?

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 4

The Road to the Civil War

Less than 100 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, the "United States" were not so united.

States in the north and south were deeply divided over the issue of slavery. Complicating the matter was westward expansion. Would new territories be free or allow

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 6

Sybil Ludington

Henry Ludington was a Colonel during the Revolutionary War. His regiment protected coastal land between Connecticut and Long Island, which was vulnerable to British attack. In the spring of 1777, his men had gone home. It

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 1

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

Why did the author write this text?

Why was Paul Revere asked to deliver the warning about the British soldiers?

What did Paul do first to get to Lexington?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 3

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

Why did the author write this text?

What has to happen before light can enter your eye?

How does the signal get from your eye to your brain?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 5

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

Why did the author write this text?

What happened first in the development of penicillin as an antibiotic?

What was the effect of the scientists' persistence developing penicillin to a medicine?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 2

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

Why did the author write this text?

How do some methods of generating electricity pollute the planet?

If off-grid electricity generation is less polluting than traditional power, what can you infer about other aspects of off-grid living?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 4

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

Why did the author write this text?

According to the text, what was the biggest issue leading up to the Civil War?

Why did seven states leave the Union after the 1860 election?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Read & Respond - Nonfiction 6

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

Why did the author write this text?

Why weren't Colonel Ludington's soldiers ready to ride to Danbury?

What was the effect of her brave act?

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts or ideas about why these events or steps are important.

Hey! Let's be friends!

Click the icon below to follow me on social media.



Looking for new ideas and easy-to-implement strategies?

Tune in to the [Stellar Teacher Podcast](#) each week to hear me share actionable strategies that will help take you to the next level of your teaching career!

Click [HERE](#) to listen!