

# ASKING QUESTIONS NONFICTION TASK CARDS



# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short nonfiction passages that will help your students practice asking questions while reading.

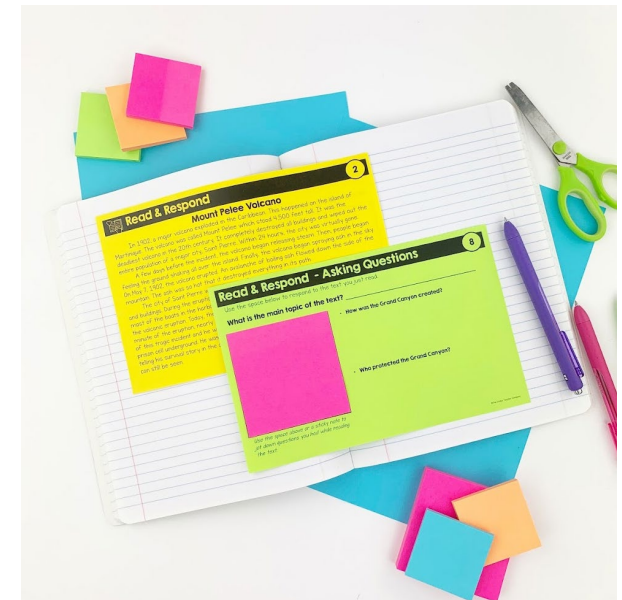
## Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



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). While the focus of this set is on asking questions, you could really use this set to teach ANY non-fiction skill.



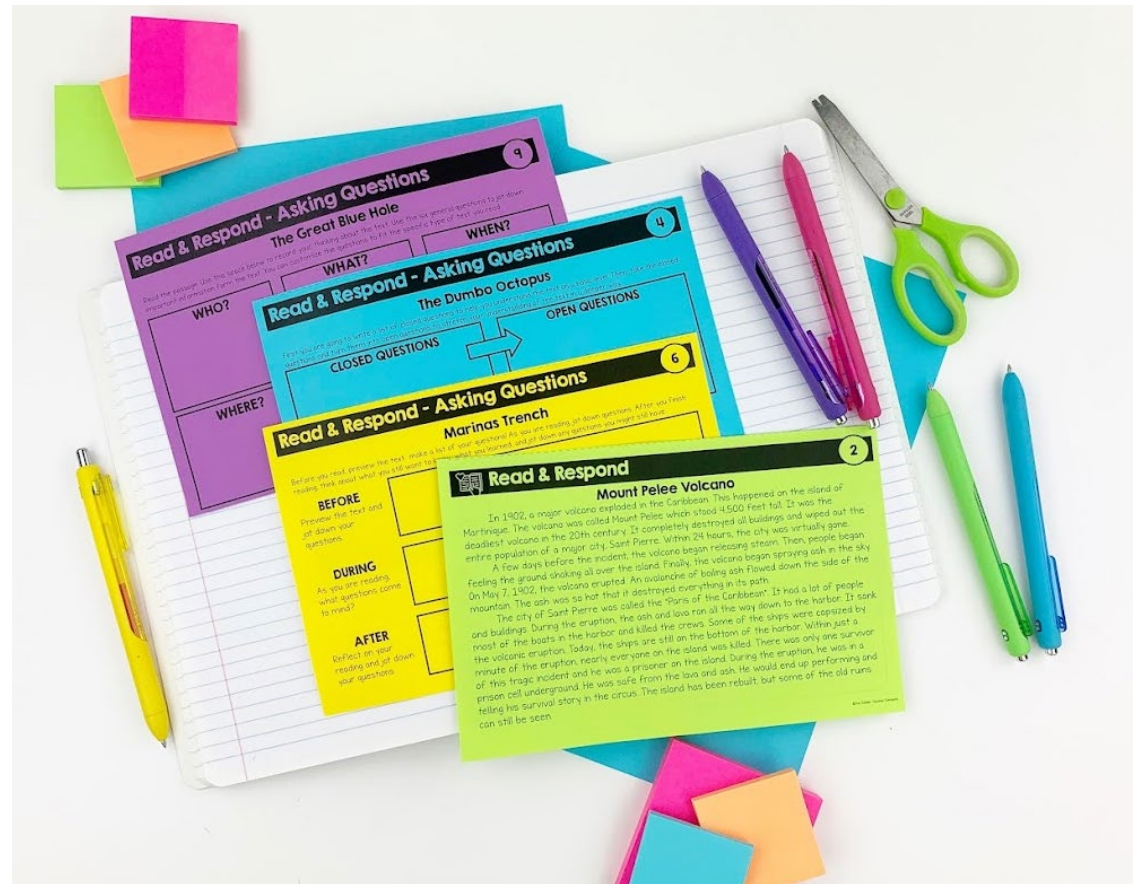
- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on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

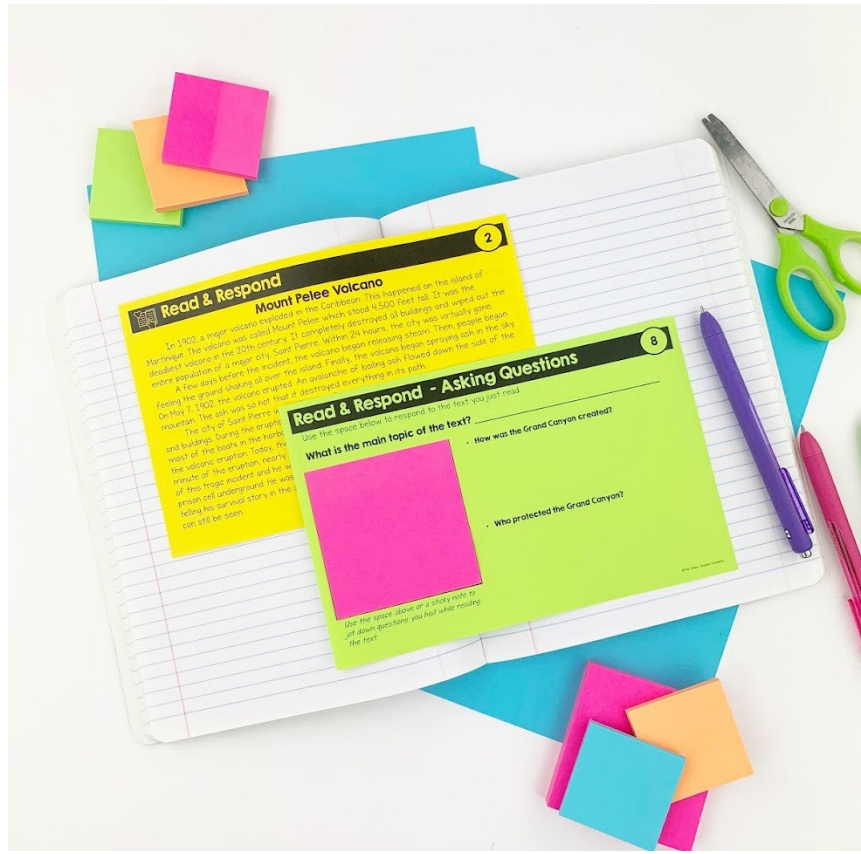
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students think about a variety of questions they can ask while reading the text.



**\*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).
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down any question they had while reading the text. There are also two comprehension questions that you can use to check their overall comprehension of the text.

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

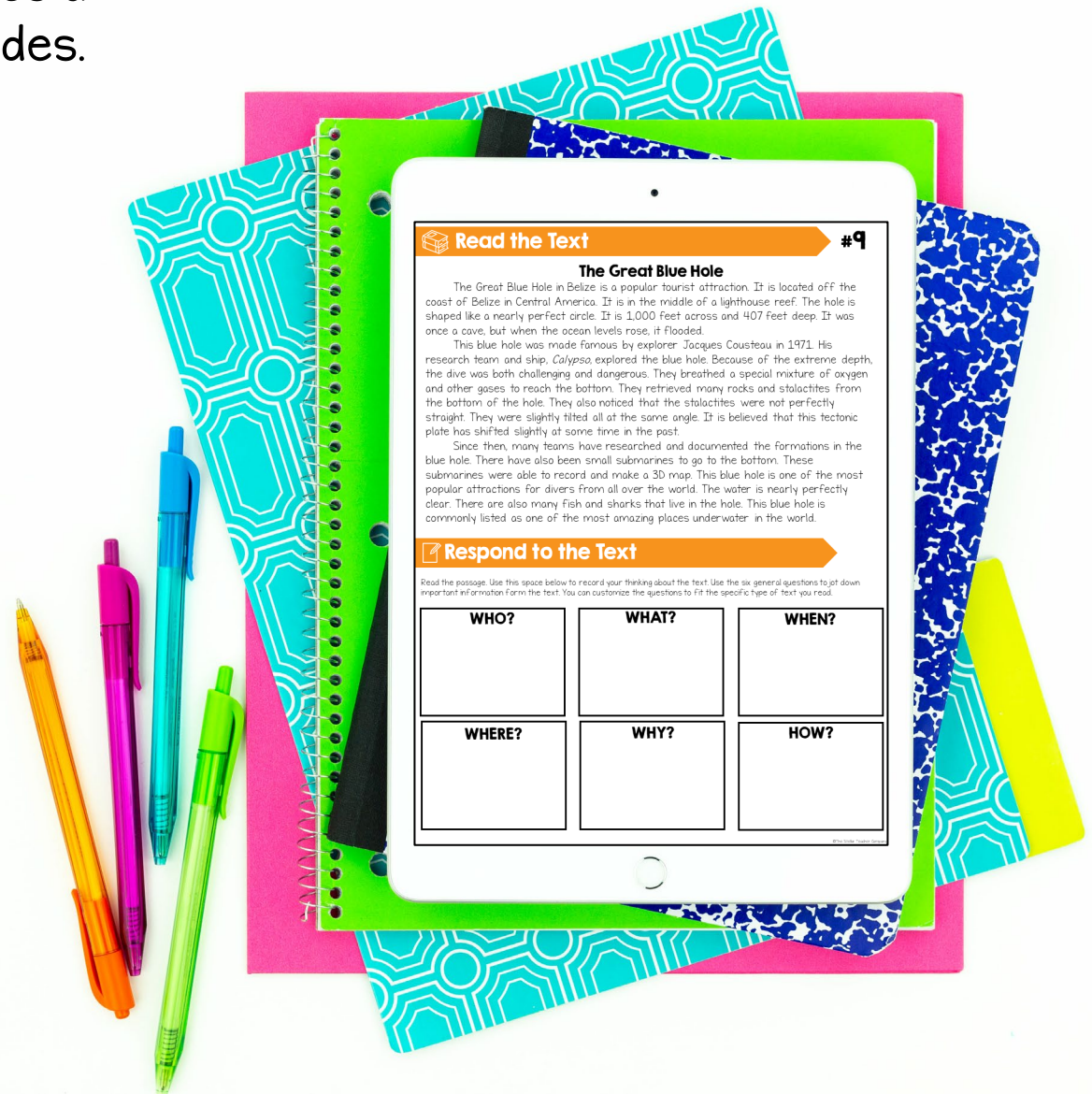


# Includes Digital Versions

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 3)

**Read & Respond** 1

### The Great Galveston Hurricane

The Great Galveston Hurricane hit Texas in 1900. The hurricane was one the deadliest natural disasters in all of American history. The storm was a category four when it made landfall. The storm destroyed over 3,000 buildings. It killed over 6,000 people. The winds were over 135 miles per hour. One of the main reasons there were so many deaths was because of poor communication systems.

The United States had established the U.S. Weather Bureau to predict major weather events, like this hurricane, but the Weather Bureau was only ten years old at the time. They had not established a great way to communicate that a major storm was coming. They predicted that the storm was going to go out to the ocean and not inland to Texas. However, Cuba knew that this prediction would likely be wrong because the storm passed north of them. Cuba tried to warn the U.S. of the massive storm coming. The Bureau did not like that Cuba could predict hurricanes better than they could so they failed to report this data to Washington to issue a hurricane warning.

When the storm hit Galveston, the city was not prepared. The town had major damage as a result of the hurricane. It took years for the town to rebuild and recover. Today, the United States uses information from other countries. The United States also shares information with other countries. There is also a plan for all coastal cities to evacuate. In Galveston, there was not a plan for people to evacuate, even if they had received a warning.

**Read & Respond** 2

### Mount Pelee Volcano

In 1902, a major volcano exploded in the Caribbean. This happened on the island of Martinique. The volcano was called Mount Pelee which stood 4,500 feet tall. It was the deadliest volcano in the 20th century. It completely destroyed all buildings and wiped out the entire population of a major city, Saint Pierre. Within 24 hours, the city was virtually gone.

A few days before the eruption, people were feeling the ground shaking. On May 7, 1902, the volcano erupted. The ash was so high that it covered the city. The city of Saint Pierre and buildings. During the eruption, most of the boats in the harbor were destroyed. The volcanic eruption. Today, a minute of the eruption, near the prison cell underground. He is telling his survival story in the museum. His story can still be seen.

**Read & Respond** 3

### The Valdivia Earthquake

The Valdivia Earthquake happened in South America in 1960. It occurred in Chile. The earthquake was the most powerful one that has ever been recorded on the continent. The earthquake happened in the afternoon, and while it only lasted ten minutes, the impact of it would be felt long after the shaking stopped.

This powerful earthquake also created many tsunamis. These tsunamis would reach Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines, and even Australia. The waves of some of the tsunamis were over thirty-five feet tall and over 6,000 miles away. The city of Valdivia sustained the most damage from the earthquake. There is no exact death toll related to the earthquake, but it is believed that there are somewhere between 1,000 and 6,000 deaths.

The damage to the land was also severe. The damage was not just in Chile but in other parts of the world. While the earthquake caused damage in Chile, the tsunamis caused damage in other parts of the world. Over 40 percent of the houses in Valdivia were destroyed. This left 20,000 people without somewhere to live. Some of the parts of the city were not rebuilt until the 2000s.

The United States and other countries did their best to help the nation recover. The United States built a hospital. Mexico built a school. Many countries worked to form an organization and warning system around the world after this earthquake. This organization records information. This information allows the government to give people warnings that an earthquake could happen.

**Read & Respond** 4

### The Dumbo Octopus

The dumbo octopus lives in the deepest parts of the ocean. These creatures live as deep as 13,000 feet below the surface of the water. Many animals struggle to survive this far down in the ocean. But not this species. The dumbo octopus is well adapted to living in this dark and deep environment.

**Read & Respond** 5

### The Giant Squid

Giant Squids are just that, giant. The largest squid ever seen by scientists was over forty-three feet long. It weighed nearly 2,000 pounds. Even though they are so large, they are rarely seen. They are almost never in contact with or observed by people.

The first giant squid filmed in its natural habitat did not happen until 2006. The scientists hung bait with a camera on it. The squid attacked the bait and then was pulled to the surface. This was the first time that a living giant squid was filmed and seen by people.

These giant squids have eyes that are twelve inches wide. They have two long feeding tentacles and eight arms. These feeding tentacles can catch prey over thirty feet away. The feeding tentacles shoot out and capture the prey, then the squid pulls it back in.

Most of what we have learned about giant squids comes from dead squids. These dead squids are pushed by the currents in the ocean. They end up on beaches or recovered by fishing boats. They have been found on beaches around the world. Most commonly, they are found in the Atlantic, but they are rarely seen in the tropics or the polar regions. It is believed that this squid lives to be about five years old. Because of their rapid growth, they roam the ocean looking for food. There are about twelve of these giant squids on display in museums around the world. People still have a lot to learn about the life and habits of giant squid.

**Read & Respond** 6

### Marinas Trench

The Marianas Trench is the deepest part of the ocean. It is located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is 124 miles from the nearest land. The trench is like a scar in the earth's crust. It measures 1,500 miles long and over forty-three miles wide. Here, the ocean is nearly seven miles deep.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 1

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- Who tried to warn Texas that this storm was coming?
- How did this storm change the way we prepare for hurricanes today?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 3

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- When and where did the Valdivia Earthquake occur?
- What happened as a result of the Valdivia Earthquake?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 5

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- How was the first giant squid filmed?
- Where are giant squid most commonly found?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 2

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- What were some of the warning signs the volcano was about to erupt?
- Why was there only one survivor of this natural disaster?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 4

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- What is the most interesting feature of the dumbo octopus?
- How did the dumbo octopus get its name?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

**Read & Respond - Asking Questions** 6

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

What is the main topic of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

- What is the Marianas Trench?
- How has the depth of the Marianas Trench been recorded?

Use the space above or a sticky note to jot down questions you had while reading the text.

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