

12 reading lessons with passages & comprehension questions

SMALL GROUP LESSONS

TEXT STRUCTURE



STRATEGY LESSON

FOCUS: Text Structure



Objective: Students will be able to identify text structures.

TARGET

1-2 min

- Today, we will spend some time ways.
- When authors organize a nonfiction text, they use one of five types of text structure.

The focus for today is understanding

- When an author chooses to organize information, they pay attention to the information a reader needs to know.
- There are five structures authors use to organize information:
 - Compare & Contrast
 - Cause & Effect
 - Description
 - Sequence
 - Problem & Solution

TEACH

1-2 min

- Some of these structures are used in informational texts to help readers understand the information.
- For example, you might read a text that focuses on the characteristics of a place.
 - One text might focus on the characteristics of a place.
 - The second text might focus on the characteristics of a place.
- Let's look at the strategies we use each.

Now it's your turn to practice

Teacher Notes:

- Ideally, students work in a small group. If your students prefer to work individually, have students apply the strategies to a text of their choice.
- While students work, circulate and talk with them, focusing on the strategies they are using.
- If you choose to use the strategy table, all the strategies are listed in the table.

Discuss:

- What are the strategies?
- Explain why they are important.

Link:

- Remember to use the strategies when you read.

TACKLE

5-7 min

TRANSFER

2-3 min

Access Denied

Hyperion, the world's largest tree, used to be a popular destination for travelers and tree enthusiasts. The tree stands quietly in the deep forests of Redwoods National and State Park in Northern California. More recently, large numbers of visitors led to the destruction of Hyperion's undergrowth. Because of this issue, the National Park Service has closed off access to the popular hiking destination.

Hyperion, a coast redwood, stands at 379.1 feet tall. It is the world's tallest living tree. Trails to visit the giant tree were never built. If hikers wanted to visit the tree, they had to bushwhack through thick vegetation and cross a river. Its location used to be lesser known, but thanks to social media and hashtags, more and more people have discovered its location. So, why is this a problem?

Since no trails led to Hyperion, visitors created "social trails." These trails can cause damage to root systems that are important to the health of redwoods. Park Service employees believe visitors also caused damage by climbing the actual tree.

To resolve the issues, Park Service has shut down access to Hyperion. By limiting access, Park Service hopes to protect any further damage from occurring. Hikers cannot get within a mile of the tree. Rangers regularly patrol the area surrounding Hyperion. If anyone were to get too close, they could face up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Keep Our National Forests Safe

Leave no trace.

Take only pictures.



Don't feed the wildlife.
Keep a safe distance from wildlife.



Don't wander



Problem & Solution

Authors write about an issue or problem and explain the solution or possible solutions.

1. What is the author sharing about in this text?

2. I think the author organized this text using the following structure.

- Cause & Effect
- Compare & Contrast
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem & Solution

3. What clues helped you identify the text structure?

LESSON PLANS

READING PASSAGES

STRATEGY CARDS

3

REASONS TO LOVE

THESE SMALL GROUP LESSONS

TIME-SAVING

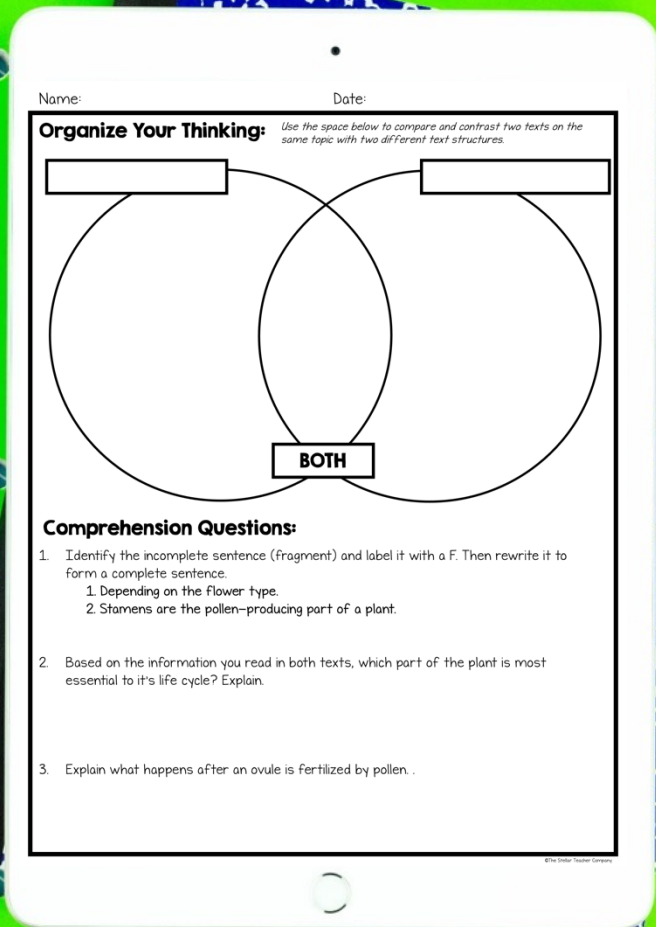
Stop searching for small group resources. This resource includes EVERYTHING you need for a successful small group lesson focused on understanding nonfiction text structure.

LOW PREP

These lessons are seriously just print and teach. Pick the objective you want to cover, print the materials, and you'll be all set to teach your lesson. It will take you just a few minutes each week to print and prep your small group lessons.

EASY TO USE

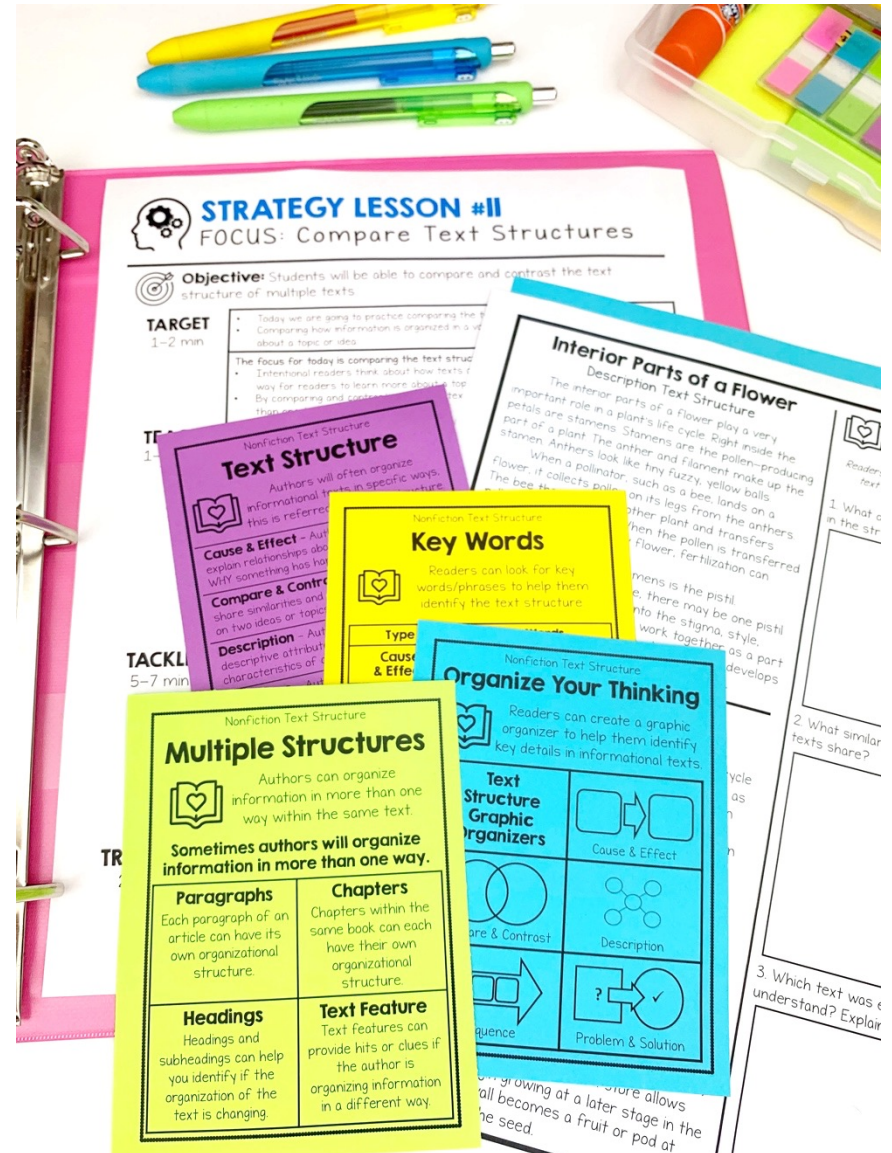
Each lesson set follows a simple easy-to-use framework. If you are uncertain how to structure your small group lessons, this resource is perfect for you. You can finally feel confident in how you teach your small group lessons.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

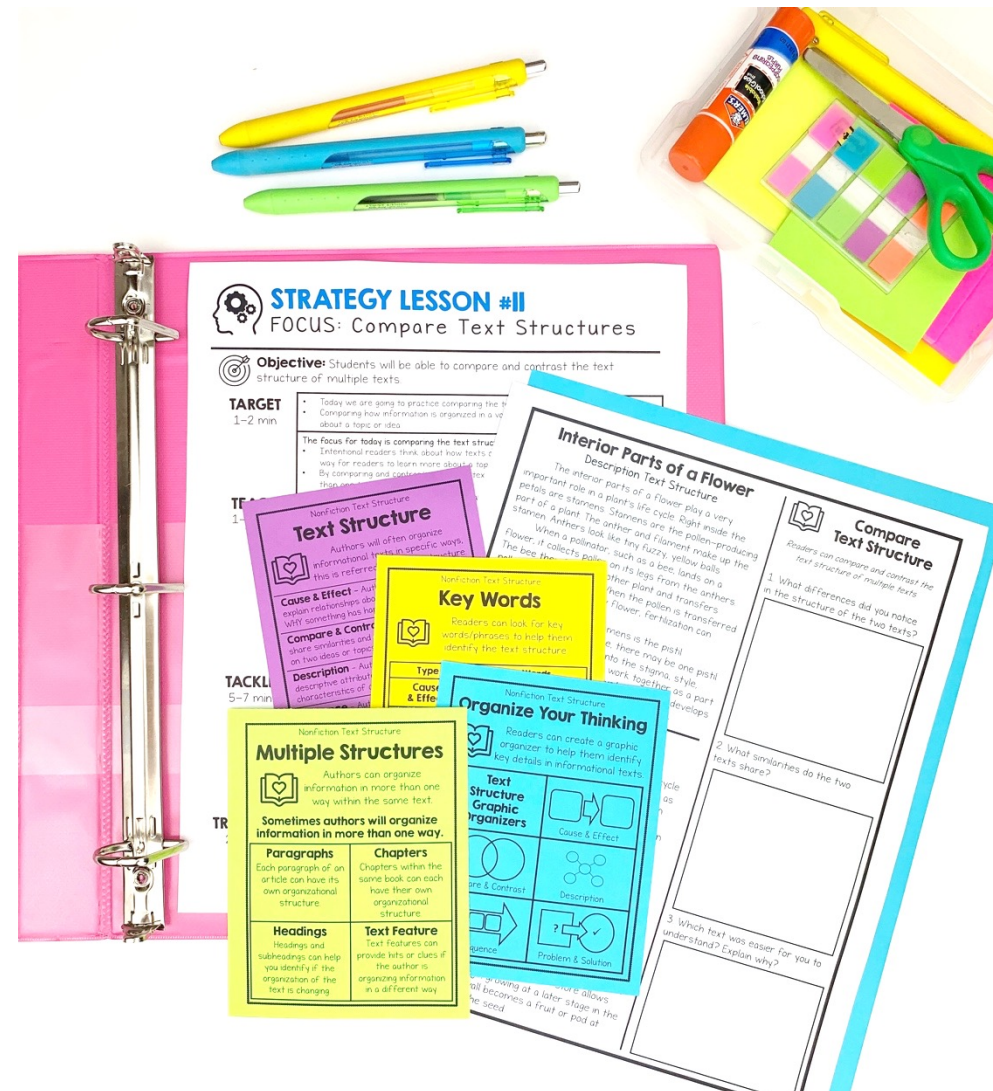
12 READING SMALL GROUP LESSON SETS

- 12 Scripted Lesson Plans
- 12 Reading Passages
- 12 Response Sheets/ Graphic Organizers
- 12 Strategy Cards (AKA Mini Anchor Charts)
- Digital Versions
- Answer Key
- Small Group Teacher Guide



WHAT SKILLS DO THESE LESSONS COVER?

- Lesson #1: Nonfiction Text Structures
- Lesson #2: Compare & Contrast
- Lesson #3: Cause & Effect
- Lesson #4: Description
- Lesson #5: Sequence
- Lesson #6: Problem & Solution
- Lesson #7: Key Words
- Lesson #8: Organize Your Thinking
- Lesson #9: Text Structure & Main Idea
- Lesson #10: Summarizing Nonfiction
- Lesson #11: Comparing Text Structures
- Lesson #12: Multiple Text Structures



WHO NEEDS THIS RESOURCE?

THIS RESOURCE IS PERFECT IF YOU ARE A...

STRATEGY LESSON #1
FOCUS: Text Structure

Objective: Students will be able to recognize and understand various text structures.

TARGET
1-2 min

- Today, we will spend some time learning how authors organize informational texts in specific ways.
- When authors organize a nonfiction text in a specific way, they use text structure. There are five types of text structure commonly used in nonfiction texts.

TEACH
1-2 min

The focus for today is understanding different text structure types.

- When an author chooses to organize an informational text in a specific way, they will pay attention to the information and keywords they include and use those to organize the text.
- There are five structures authors use to organize informational texts:
 - Compare & Contrast
 - Cause & Effect
 - Description
 - Sequence
 - Problem & Solution
- Some of these structures may be familiar to you. Authors use different text structure types in informational texts to help readers understand specific details about a topic.
- For example, you might read two texts about polar bears.
 - One text might focus on the characteristics of a polar bear. In this case the author used the **description text structure** to help you understand and visualize the physical characteristics of a polar bear.
 - The second text focuses on the life cycle of a polar bear. The author used the **sequence text structure** to help you understand the various events in a polar bear's life.
- Let's look at the strategy card to learn more about each text structure type and why authors use each.

Now it's your turn to practice on your own.

Teacher Notes:

- *Ideally, students would be able to bring their independent reading texts to the strategy group. If your students aren't reading a nonfiction text with a clear text structure, or if you prefer to have all students using the same text, you can use the text Act Natural to help students apply this specific strategy.*
- *While students are reading and practicing this strategy independently, you want to check-in and talk with each student about how they are applying the strategy. Keep the discussion focused on their thinking vs. listening to them read.*
- *If you choose to use the shared text and students are reading the text for the first time, you might need to provide more time for this portion of the lesson. One way you can keep your strategy lessons more concise and still use a shared text is by providing students with the text prior to coming to the strategy group. This will make sure that while they are at the table, all they are focusing on is applying the strategy.*

TACKLE
5-7 min

TRANSFER
2-3 min

Discuss:

- What are the five types of text structure for informational texts?
- Explain why authors use different text structure types in nonfiction.

Link:

- Remember, authors organize informational texts in specific ways to help readers understand different information about nonfiction topics.

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- 4th or 5th grade reading teacher
- 3rd grade teacher with strong readers
- 6th grade teacher looking for remedial resources
- Intervention teacher
- Tutor
- Literacy coach looking for resource for your teachers
- Parent who wants to provide enrichment at home
- Student teacher

Just print the set you want to teach, and you're set for a stellar small group lesson.

LOW PREP and EASY-TO-USE



STRATEGY LESSON #12

FOCUS: Multiple Structures



Objective: Students will analyze a nonfictional text for multiple text structures.

TARGET
1-2 min

- Today we are going to read a nonfictional text.
- Sometimes authors organize information in different ways.

The focus for today is understanding how authors organize information within the same text.

- When you are reading nonfiction, you may find that the text is organized in more than one way.
- Sometimes authors might use paragraphs, chapters, headings, or other text structures, and other times they might use a different structure.
- Paragraphs – Each paragraph has a topic sentence.
- Chapters – Chapters are sections of text.
- Headings – Headings help you find information.
- Entire Text – authors might use a different structure for the entire text.

TEACH
1-2 min

- For example, an author might use paragraphs to share stages of a process.
- Let's look at the strategy of multiple structures.

Now it's your turn to practice.

Teacher Notes:

- Ideally, students will work in small groups. If your students prefer to have a teacher-led discussion, you can use the Room Makeover text.
- While students are reading, check-in and talk about the text structure.
- If you choose to use the Room Makeover text, you might want to have students keep a list of the text structures they find.

TACKLE
5-7 min

Change It Up: Room Makeover

Do you feel like your room needs a makeover? Maybe something to make it feel calmer? Or like new? Usually, your bedroom is where you can spend a little time to yourself, dive into a book, or take a nap after soccer practice. It is a special place! As you get older or your interests change, you may feel your room needs some improvement. Get ready to say hello to your new room! Here are some affordable, easy steps to help you create the most relaxing space:

First, you want to get organized! You may find yourself looking around your room and feeling immediately stressed by the messy bookshelves, scattered clothes, and unmade bed. Start by cleaning it up! Try organizing your bookshelf by color to create a beautiful piece of artwork on your shelves.

If you have a closet, you are in luck! Gather your scattered clothes and hang them nicely in their place. Studies have shown that less clutter means less stress! You may also try rearranging your furniture to get a new feel. For heavier pieces of furniture, like your bed, you should ask an adult for help.

Next, try adding a pop of color to your space! Psychologists believe colors have energy. For example, blues are associated with calming feelings while red and orange are more energetic. Denise, the founder of an interior design company, says that two colors that work well together are blue and orange.



Multiple Text Structures

Authors can organize information in more than one way within the same text.

1. I think the author organized this text using the following structures:

- Cause & Effect
- Compare & Contrast
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem & Solution

2. The clues that helped me identify the text structures were:

Blank space for student response.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

SCRIPTED TEACHER LESSON PLANS

Focuses on one bite-sized objective.

Each lesson follows the same 4T lesson structure: Target, Teach, Tackle, Transfer.

Includes the exact words and phrases you should say to help your students master the objective.

STRATEGY LESSON #9
FOCUS: Main Idea & Text Structure

Objective: Students will learn how to consider a text's structure to help them identify the main idea of an informational text.

TARGET
1-2 min

- Today we are going to spend some time reading a nonfiction text and using the text structure to help us identify the main idea.
- The structure can tell you the most important ideas the author wants you to take away from the text.

The focus for today is considering the text structure to help identify the main idea of an informational text.

- Intentional readers consider the text structure of an informational text when identifying the main idea.
- There is a relationship between the text structure and the main idea that can help us better understand the topics we read in nonfiction text.
- Authors use text structure like a roadmap to point the reader toward the most important ideas in the text.
- *Remember, text structure is how the author organizes ideas in a text.*
- If you're able to identify the text structure, you should have a good idea of the most important ideas and details in the text.
- There are also some specific questions readers can ask about the text and its structure to help identify the main idea.
- Let's look at the strategy card to learn more about these questions and how we can use text structure to help us identify the main idea while reading nonfiction texts.

Now it's your turn to practice on your own.

Teacher Notes:

- *Ideally, students would be able to bring their independent reading texts to the strategy group. If your students aren't reading a nonfiction text with a clear text structure, or if you prefer to have all students using the same text, you can use the text Sugar Overload to help students apply this specific strategy.*
- *While students are reading and practicing this strategy independently, you want to check-in and talk with each student about how they are applying the strategy. Keep the discussion focused on their thinking vs. listening to them read.*
- *If you choose to use the shared text and students are reading the text for the first time, you might need to provide more time for this portion of the lesson. One way you can keep your strategy lessons more concise and still use a shared text is by providing students with the text prior to coming to the strategy group. This will make sure that while they are at the table, all they are focusing on is applying the strategy.*

TACKLE
5-7 min

TRANSFER
2-3 min

Discuss:

- How is the main idea of a text connected to the text structure?
- What are some questions you can ask that will help you use the text structure to figure out the main idea?

Link:

- Remember, you can identify the text structure to help you think about what big ideas the author is communicating in the text.

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

STUDENT PASSAGES & RESPONSE PAGES

Student passage written for each lesson objective.

Access Denied


Hyperion, the world's largest tree, used to be a popular destination for travelers and tree enthusiasts. The tree stands quietly in the deep forests of Redwoods National and State Park in Northern California. More recently, large numbers of visitors led to the destruction of Hyperion's undergrowth. Because of this issue, the National Park Service has closed off access to the popular hiking destination.


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To resolve the issues, Park Service has shut down access to Hyperion. By limiting access, Park Service hopes to protect any further damage from occurring. Hikers cannot get within a mile of the tree. Rangers regularly patrol the area surrounding Hyperion. If anyone were to get too close, they could face up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Keep Our National Forests Safe

Leave no trace. 
Take only pictures.

 Don't feed the wildlife.
Keep a safe distance from wildlife.

Don't wander off trails. 

Problem & Solution

Authors write about an issue or problem and explain the solution or possible solutions.

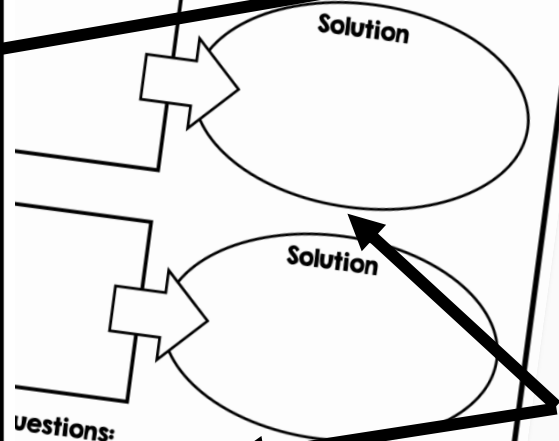
1. What is the author sharing about in this text?

2. I think the author organized this text using the following structure:

- Cause & Effect
- Compare & Contrast
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem & Solution

3. What clues helped you identify the text structure?

Graphic Thinking: There are several problem and solution relationships in this text. Use the space below to identify two of them.



Questions:

1. Write a complete sentence about the text. Rewrite the sentence. Hikers want to visit Hyperion because _____.

2. List two solutions to protect Hyperion from damage.

Questions to help students apply the focus skill to the passage.

Includes graphic organizer & three general comprehension questions.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

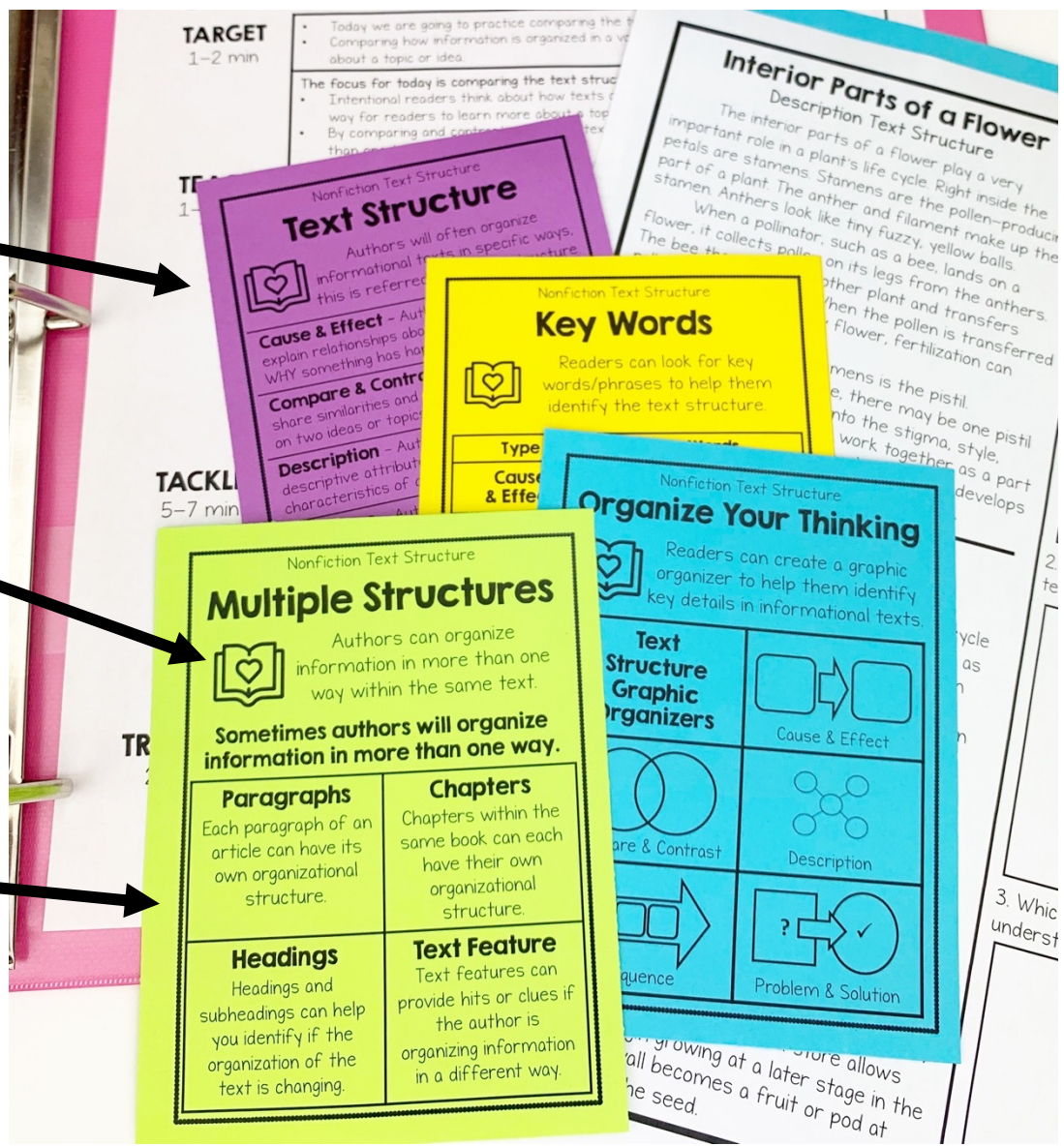
STRATEGY CARDS (AKA MINI ANCHOR CHARTS)

Strategy card for each lesson objective.

Student friendly definition or explanation.

Includes questions, steps, a process, or a visual reminder of how to apply that focus skill.

Great to place on a strategy ring!



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

ANSWER KEY WITH POSSIBLE ANSWERS

The Parts of a Flower: Exterior and Interior

Have you ever looked closely at the parts of a flower? Although flowers are unique in their sizes, shapes, and colors, they all have similar structures that help them survive in nature. In fact, all living organisms have structures, functions, and behaviors that keep them alive.

EXTERIOR PARTS OF A FLOWER

To begin with, let's think about the exterior of a flower. Sepals make up the lower, outermost layer. Their job is to protect. For example, before a flower blooms, the sepals protect the delicate interior parts of a flower. This part of the flower is usually green and encases the growing bud. Sepals connect to the receptacle of a flower. This part attaches the flower to the stem of the plant. The receptacle is attached to a flower's pedicel or stalk. The pedicel provides support to the flower.

Petals are also an exterior part of a flower. A petal's primary function is to attract certain animals, such as bees, to the flower to help pollinate. Pollination is the process that allows plants to reproduce. Petals have various adaptations, colors, shapes, and smells to entice pollinators to visit more frequently.

INTERIOR PARTS OF A FLOWER

What about the inner parts of a flower? Right inside the petals are stamens. Stamens are the pollen-producing part of a plant. The anther and filament make up the stamen. Anthers look like tiny fuzzy, yellow balls.

When a bee lands on a flower, it collects pollen on its legs from the anthers. The bee then flies to another plant and transfers pollen to the new plant. When the pollen is transferred to the stamen of the new flower, fertilization can begin.

Hidden among the stamens is the pistil. Depending on the flower type, there may be one pistil or many. The pistil is divided into the stigma, style, ovary, and ovule. All the parts work together as a part of the flower's reproductive system. A pistil develops into a seed or fruit after a flower is pollinated.

Description

Authors share descriptive attributes, elements, and characteristics of a topic.

1. What is this text mostly about?

The author is describing the parts of a flower and their function.

2. I think the author organized this text using the following structure:

- Cause & Effect
- Compare & Contrast
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem & Solution

3. What description key words does the author use in the text?

- to begin with
- for instance
- such as
- including
- look like
- to illustrate
- for example

4. What two parts of the flower is the author describing?

The author is describing the exterior parts of the flower and the interior parts of a flower.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of the text *The Parts of a Flower: Exterior and Interior*?
Responses will vary but should be based on details from the text. Example: to describe the parts of a flower.

2. How does the author describe the petals?
The petals are green and fuzzy.

3. How does the author describe the anthers?
The anthers look like tiny fuzzy, yellow balls.

4. How does the author describe the stamens?
The stamens are the pollen-producing part of a plant.

5. How does the author describe the pistil?
The pistil is hidden among the stamens.

6. How does the author describe the stigma?
The stigma is the top part of the pistil.

7. How does the author describe the style?
The style is the middle part of the pistil.

8. How does the author describe the ovary?
The ovary is the bottom part of the pistil.

9. How does the author describe the ovule?
The ovule is the seed that develops after a flower is pollinated.

10. How does the author describe the receptacle?
The receptacle is the part of the flower that attaches the flower to the stem of the plant.

11. How does the author describe the pedicel?
The pedicel is the stalk that supports the flower.

12. How does the author describe the sepal?
The sepal is the outermost layer of the flower that protects the interior parts.

13. How does the author describe the petal?
The petal is the part of the flower that attracts pollinators.

14. How does the author describe the filament?
The filament is the part of the stamen that supports the anther.

15. How does the author describe the anther?
The anther is the part of the stamen that produces pollen.

16. How does the author describe the pollen?
The pollen is the reproductive cells of a plant.

17. How does the author describe the stigma?
The stigma is the part of the pistil that receives pollen.

18. How does the author describe the style?
The style is the part of the pistil that connects the stigma to the ovary.

19. How does the author describe the ovary?
The ovary is the part of the pistil that contains the ovules.

20. How does the author describe the ovule?
The ovule is the part of the ovary that develops into a seed.

Includes possible answers for the questions on the front of the reading passage.

Also includes possible/suggested answer options for the graphic organizer and comprehension questions.

Interior Parts of a Flower

Description Text Structure

The interior parts of a flower play a very important role in a plant's life cycle. Right inside the petals are stamens. Stamens are the pollen-producing part of a plant. The anther and filament make up the stamen. Anthers look like tiny fuzzy, yellow balls.

When a pollinator, such as a bee, lands on a flower, it collects pollen on its legs from the anthers. The bee then flies to another plant and transfers pollen to the new plant. When the pollen is transferred to the stamen of the new flower, fertilization can begin.

Hidden among the stamens is the pistil.

Depending on the flower type, there may be one pistil or many. The pistil is divided into the stigma, style, ovary, and ovule. All the parts work together as a part of the flower's reproductive system. A pistil develops into a seed or fruit after a flower is pollinated.

From Seed to Flower

Sequence Text Structure

The first part of a flower's reproduction cycle is pollination. To begin, a part of the flower known as the anther produces pollen. Pollination occurs when pollen moves from the anther to the stigma. The stigma is the part of the flower that collects pollen grains. Insects and wind help the process of pollination. Insects, like bees and butterflies, or the wind, carry pollen from one plant to another.

Once a pollen grain lands on the stigma of the same species of plant, the next steps of the cycle take place. A pollen tube grows down from the pollen grain through the style and into the ovary. The style, a tube-like structure, leads to the ovary. The ovary is the part of a flower that contains female egg cells called ovules.

After an ovule is fertilized by pollen, it develops into a seed. The seed contains a young root and shoot, an embryo, and a food store. The food store allows the young plant to begin growing at a later stage in the life cycle. The ovary wall becomes a fruit or pod at this stage to protect the seed.



Compare Text Structure

Readers can compare and contrast the text structure of multiple texts.

1. What differences did you notice in the structure of the two texts?

2. What similarities do the two texts share?

3. Which text was easier for you to understand? Explain why?

works in both
VIRTUAL &
In person
CLASSROOMS

INCLUDES TEACHER GUIDE

Are you new to using small groups in your classroom? No worries! We got you!

This resource also includes a 2 page teaching guide PDF that walks you through all the ins and outs of strategy groups. You also get a generic strategy group lesson plan along with sentence starters so you can create your own strategy lesson plans.

Strategy Group FAQs
Strategy groups are an effective tool for...
group instruction, it can...
Here are some...

TEACHING GUIDE: Strategy Groups

What is a strategy group?
A strategy group is a small group reading lesson that focuses on teaching students a reading strategy that will help them be more independent readers. Strategy groups are short-term, include students from a variety of reading levels, and provide guided support for students who all seem to struggle with a specific reading skill. You can pull a strategy group for ANYTHING that will help your students grow as readers - book selection, comprehension skill, responding to reading etc.

Why should I prioritize strategy groups?

- Strategy groups can save you time. When you identify students who have similar needs you can address all of them in a strategy group.
- It helps fill in the gaps. Not every student in your guided reading groups will have ALL the same skills, even if they are all on the same level. You can use strategy groups to fill in the gaps for students across multiple levels.
- Practicing reading strategies in small group can be much more engaging for students than independent practice.
- Some students need more support than others and strategy groups are another way you can help students become more independent with the strategies you teach.

Strategy Group Reminders:

- Small Group Instruction
- 10 minutes
- Focused on ONE strategy
- Students from various levels
- Students can use their own text

How should I structure my strategy group?
Strategy groups are meant to be short and concise. This is a time to reinforce, remind, and practice a strategy that students have been previously taught either during a whole group mini-lesson or in a guided reading lesson. The goal is to give students a quick win that will help them experience some comprehension success. The following can be a really effective framework for strategy group lessons.

Target	Teach	Tackle	Transfer
Tell students why they have been gathered together and share the target skill/strategy you will be focusing on. Be explicit. Tell them WHAT the skill is, and HOW it will help them as a reader.	Teach students a very specific process or set of steps they should follow. Quickly model what this will look like in a text you are reading. Remind students of the first time you taught this skill/strategy and discuss how it helps them as readers.	Give students time to tackle the target skill on their own. Let them practice with the independent book they brought to the strategy group or a short text you provide. During this time check in with each student, and see if they are able to apply the target skill.	Prepare students to apply this skill/strategy to future independent reading texts. Restate target skill and ask students to explain how it helps them as a reader and the steps they can take to apply that skill to their reading.
1-2 minutes	1-2 minutes	5-7 minutes	2-3 minutes

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WANT A FREE SAMPLE?

✓ SIGN UP BELOW TO GET A SAMPLE SMALL GROUP LESSON FOR INFERRING CHARACTER TRAITS!



I'd love to share a free sample of my small group lesson routine with you. You'll get a sample lesson to help you teach inferring character traits.

[CLICK HERE TO GRAB YOUR FREE SAMPLE!](#)

I hope you and your students enjoy them!

NEED MORE THAN JUST THIS SET?

CHECK OUT SOME OF MY OTHER SMALL GROUP LESSON SETS.

107 scripted lesson sets to teach key reading skills

STRATEGY LESSONS YEAR - LONG Bundle

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the bundle.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS MAIN IDEA

12 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the main idea set.](#)

scripted lesson sets to teach key fiction reading skills

STRATEGY LESSONS STORY EVENTS

10 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the plot set.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS TEXT EVIDENCE

8 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the text evidence set.](#)

scripted lessons and passages to teach theme

STRATEGY LESSONS THEME

4 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the theme set.](#)

includes comprehension questions & graphic organizers

STRATEGY LESSONS AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

10 LESSONS

LESSON PLANS
READING PASSAGES
STRATEGY CARDS

[Click HERE for the author's purpose set.](#)