



Grade 3 Reading Unit 3- Nonfiction

Your child will be immersed in nonfiction reading in this unit, building on second grade work in text features (title, table of contents, subtitles, glossary, index, photos, etc) and then learning how authors of nonfiction texts choose and use nonfiction text structures (all about, compare and contrast, chronological, cause and effect and question and answer) to engage and teach readers.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Stopping and thinking to make meaning of ‘chunks’ of what was just read
- Looking for the topic sentence- the one sentence that summarizes the content of the paragraph/passage
- Synthesizing information- adding new findings onto what was previously learned
- Carrying questions about a topic across a text set
- Identifying text structures- compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution, sequence and using the structure to build comprehension
- Identifying the main idea
- Understanding content specific vocabulary

Questions to ask as your child is reading at home:

- What is the topic of your nonfiction text? How do you know?
- What did you already know about this topic?
- What new information did you learn?
- Were you surprised or confused by any of the facts?
- What is this author trying to teach you or make you think about the topic?

Books your child may enjoy during this unit:

- Nonfiction Articles
- National Geographic Articles
- [Time for Kids](#)

Support your child’s reading at home by continuing to read both fiction and nonfiction texts. As your child develops questions about a topic, encourage his or her inquiry and research by talking about research plans. Trips to the library, parent-guided digital reading and research, and note-taking about questions and answers generated at home are all ways to encourage the connection between reading and researching to learn.