

Unit 6: Researching Nonfiction Topics of Interest (Weeks 27-31)

Content Area: **Template**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **9 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit 6: Researching Nonfiction Topics of Interest

Unit Rationale

This unit of study teaches students to apply the skills they learned in Unit 3 (Reading Nonfiction) to complete a research project. Students will choose a nonfiction topic of interest, then grow knowledge about that topic by applying nonfiction reading skills and strategies across multiple texts. As they read, they will use various strategies for collecting and keeping track of new knowledge so that they can create a writing piece showcasing their research. (*Note: this unit ties into Second Grade Writing Unit 6: Science Books - Expert Texts With Research). Students will learn to not only research nonfiction topics through grade-level nonfiction texts, but also to share that research with others.

Essential Questions

1. How can reading multiple texts on the same topic help readers grow their knowledge?
2. How can readers skim and scan multiple texts to focus on what they really want to know?
3. How can readers use text evidence to form opinions and draw conclusions?
4. What types of graphic organizers can reader use to organize their research?

Pre-Assessments

Teacher Observation

Independent Reading

Turn & Talk

Sticky Notes/Reading Notebook

Grand Conversations

Partner Work

Collaborative Group Work

Conferring Observations

Small Group Observations (Guided Reading and Strategy

Groups)

Instructional Plan

[Unit 6: Researching Nonfiction Topics of Interest](#)

Please see the attached document for suggested Minilessons, Instructional Strategies and Activities, Formative Assessments, Instructional Materials and Resources, Reflections and Suggested Modifications.

Modifications and/or Accommodations

Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many

teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.

21st Century Life and Career

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.

CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP9.1	Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the directions and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' action, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morals and organizational culture.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.
CRP.K-12.CRP12.1	Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team, whether formal or informal. They apply an awareness of cultural difference to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction. They find ways to increase the engagement and contribution of all team members. They plan and facilitate effective team meetings.

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy

See Crosswalk

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Content Area

ELA.L.RF.2.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.A	Know spelling-sound correspondences for common vowel teams.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.B	Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.C	Decode words with common prefixes and suffixes.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.D	Identify words with inconsistent but common spelling-sound correspondences.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.E	Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
ELA.L.RF.2.3.F	Read high-frequency and grade-level irregular words with automaticity (e.g., friend, other, would).

ELA.L.RF.2.3.G	Identify the parts of high-frequency words that are regular and the parts that are irregular.
ELA.L.RF.2.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
ELA.L.RF.2.4.A	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
ELA.L.RF.2.4.B	Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression.
ELA.L.RF.2.4.C	Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.
ELA.L.WF.2.1.A	Write legibly and with sufficient fluency to support composition.
ELA.L.WF.2.1.B	Write the most common graphemes (letters or letter groups) for each phoneme, for example:
ELA.L.WF.2.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of encoding and spelling.
ELA.L.WF.2.3.B	Capitalize holidays, product names and geographic names.
ELA.L.KL.2.1.A	Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.
ELA.L.VL.2.2	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.
ELA.L.VL.2.2.A	Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
ELA.L.VL.2.2.E	Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.
ELA.RI.CR.2.1	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in an informational text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
ELA.RI.CI.2.2	Recount a text in oral and written form and determine main topic (in multi-paragraph informational text, focusing on specific paragraphs).
ELA.RI.IT.2.3	Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in a sequence within a text.
ELA.RI.TS.2.4	Describe the overall structure of a text and effectively use various text features (e.g., graphs, charts, images, captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information.
ELA.RI.PP.2.5	Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author seeks to explore, answer, explain, or describe.
ELA.RI.MF.2.6	Explain how specific illustrations and images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.
ELA.RI.AA.2.7	Describe and identify the logical connections of how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text.
ELA.RI.CT.2.8	Compare and contrast two informational versions of the same idea or topic by different authors or authors from different cultures.
ELA.W.IW.2.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information.
ELA.W.IW.2.2.A	Introduce a topic clearly.
ELA.W.IW.2.2.B	Develop a topic with facts definitions, concrete details, text evidence, or other information and examples related to the topic.
ELA.W.IW.2.2.C	Provide a conclusion.
ELA.W.WP.2.4	With guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising and editing.
ELA.W.WR.2.5	Generate questions about a topic and locate related information from a reference source to obtain information on that topic through shared and independent research.
ELA.W.SE.2.6	Prioritize information provided by different sources on the same topic while gathering

	ideas and planning to write about a topic.
ELA.W.RW.2.7	Engage in both collaborative and independent writing tasks regularly, including extended and shorter time frames.
ELA.SL.PE.2.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
ELA.SL.PE.2.1.A	Follow agreed-upon norms for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
ELA.SL.PE.2.1.B	Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their explicit comments to the remarks of others.
ELA.SL.PE.2.1.C	Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion.
ELA.SL.II.2.2	Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
ELA.SL.ES.2.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.
ELA.SL.UM.2.5	Use multimedia; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
ELA.SL.AS.2.6	Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

Integration of Career Readiness. Life Literacies and Key Skills

TECH.9.4.2.CI.1	Demonstrate openness to new ideas and perspectives (e.g., 1.1.2.CR1a, 2.1.2.EH.1, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2).
TECH.9.4.2.CT.2	Identify possible approaches and resources to execute a plan (e.g., 1.2.2.CR1b, 8.2.2.ED.3).
TECH.9.4.2.CT.3	Use a variety of types of thinking to solve problems (e.g., inductive, deductive).
TECH.9.4.2.IML.4	Compare and contrast the way information is shared in a variety of contexts (e.g., social, academic, athletic) (e.g., 2.2.2.MSC.5, RL.2.9).

Integration of Computer Science and Design ThinkingNew Section

CS.K-2.8.1.2.AP.1	Model daily processes by creating and following algorithms to complete tasks.
CS.K-2.8.1.2.AP.4	Break down a task into a sequence of steps.

Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSLs for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math

SOC.K-12.1	<p>Developing Questions and Planning Inquiry</p> <p>Developing insightful questions and planning effective inquiry involves identifying the purposes of different questions to understand the human experience, which requires addressing real world issues. Inquiries incorporating questions from various social science disciplines build understanding of the past, present and future; these inquiries investigate the complexity and diversity of individuals, groups, and societies.</p> <p>Making sense of research findings requires thinking about what information is included,</p>
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whether the information answers the question, and what may be missing, often resulting in the need to complete additional research. Developing an understanding of our own and others' perspectives builds understanding about the complexity of each person and the diversity in the world. Exploring diverse perspectives assists students in empathizing with other individuals and groups of people; quantitative and qualitative information provides insights into specific people, places, and events, as well as national, regional, and global trends.

Developing claims requires careful consideration of evidence, logical organization of information, self-awareness about biases, application of analysis skills, and a willingness to revise conclusions based on the strength of evidence. Using evidence responsibly means developing claims based on factual evidence, valid reasoning, and a respect for human rights.

Using a variety of formats designed for a purpose and an authentic audience forms the basis for clear communication. Strong arguments contain claims with organized evidence and valid reasoning that respects the diversity of the world and the dignity of each person. Writing findings and engaging in civil discussion with an audience provides a key step in the process of thinking critically about conclusions and continued inquiry.

Construct an argument with evidence to support a claim.

SEL Competencies

SEL.PK-12.1	Self-Awareness
SEL.PK-12.1.1	Recognize one's feelings and thoughts
SEL.PK-12.1.2	Recognize the impact of one's feelings and thoughts on one's own behavior
SEL.PK-12.1.3	Recognize one's personal traits, strengths, and limitations
SEL.PK-12.1.4	Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges
SEL.PK-12.2	Self-Management
SEL.PK-12.2.1	Understand and practice strategies for managing one's own emotions, thoughts, and behaviors
SEL.PK-12.2.2	Recognize the skills needed to establish and achieve personal and educational goals
SEL.PK-12.2.3	Identify and apply ways to persevere or overcome barriers through alternative methods to achieve one's goals
SEL.PK-12.3	Social Awareness
SEL.PK-12.3.1	Recognize and identify the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others
SEL.PK-12.3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others' cultural backgrounds
SEL.PK-12.3.3	Demonstrate an understanding of the need for mutual respect when viewpoints differ
SEL.PK-12.3.4	Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings
SEL.PK-12.4	Responsible Decision-Making
SEL.PK-12.4.1	Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving, and critical thinking skills
SEL.PK-12.4.2	Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices
SEL.PK-12.4.3	Evaluate personal, ethical, safety, and civic impact of decisions
SEL.PK-12.5	Relationship Skills

- SEL.PK-12.5.1 Establish and maintain healthy relationships
- SEL.PK-12.5.2 Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
- SEL.PK-12.5.3 Identify ways to resist inappropriate social pressure
- SEL.PK-12.5.4 Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways
- SEL.PK-12.5.5 Identify who, when, where, or how to seek help for oneself or others when needed