

Lesson Skill: Summarizing supporting details in nonfiction

Strand Reading — Nonfiction

SOL 3.6

4.6

5.6

Materials

- Highlighters
- Pictures of poisonous animals
- Nonfiction paragraphs (prepared in advance about poisonous animals)
- Available technology

Lesson

1. To engage students in nonfiction, display some unlabeled pictures of poisonous animals. Ask students what the animals have in common. Focus the group on one animal. Ask students in what geographic area(s) the animal is found. Display a world map, and identify the continent(s) on which the animal is actually located.
2. Display or provide a printed paragraph about this animal. Read the paragraph together, have students highlight important details, discuss them, then show students how to write a summary paragraph using the highlighted items.
3. Partner students to write a summary paragraph, then have them write one independently.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Write the paragraphs on sentence strips so students can physically manipulate sentences to identify and isolate supporting details.
- Topic can be chosen based on student interest or readiness level, with supporting pictures.
- Cloze sentences can be provided to assist students with summarizing. An example might be, "This story is about _____."
- Paragraph sentences will have picture clues throughout so students can summarize using pictures instead of writing.