

Lesson Skill: Using text structure to determine organizational pattern

Strand Reading--nonfiction

SOL 6.6
7.6
8.6

Materials

- Students' science or social studies textbooks
- Copies of the attached Five-W's-Plus-H Summary Sheet

Lesson

1. To demonstrate engaging with text structure, have students turn to a chapter in their science or social studies book—one that has a title or heading, subheading, and section headings. Have them answer the following questions about the title or heading:
 - What do you notice about the title words? (e.g., very large print, bold print) Why are these words printed this way?
 - What do you think of when you see the title words?
 - How might these thoughts help you predict what will be discussed in the chapter?
2. Have the students answer the following questions about the subheading below the title:
 - What do you notice about the subheading below the title?
 - How does this information help you predict what the chapter will be about?
3. Have students look at the section headings and predict what will be discussed in each section.
4. Put students in pairs, and have partners alternate reading the sections of the chapter softly to each other. As students read, have them take notes on the "Five-W's-Plus-H Summary Sheet."
5. When students have finished reading, lead a class discussion about the chapter. Ask whether the predictions they made at the beginning were correct.
6. Review with the students the types of structures used in nonfiction writing:
 - sequence
 - cause/effect
 - problem/solution
 - compare/contrast
 - description
7. Have students review the chapter to locate key words that indicate which structure is being used.

8. As an assessment, have students use the summary sheet to write a summary of the article.

Five-W's-Plus-H Summary Sheet

1. In the chart below, take notes under each heading as you read.
2. When you finish reading, organize your notes into a summary.

Title of Informational Text _____

Author _____

Who?	What?	When?
Where?	Why?	How?

