



Genre – Expository

Thinking Guide and Activities

Title of the Selection: *Flying Lions*

Teaching Band Grades 3-5

Reading

Click here to print the selection

<http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/publications/category/critter-connections/>

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www.fisherreyna.com

An **Expository Thinking Guide** with selection summary is provided. The Expository Thinking Guide identifies the topic, central idea of the selection, and the main idea of each paragraph. In addition, the main ideas are clustered by color code to develop a meaningful summary.

- ★ ***Flying Lions*** Expository Thinking Guide
- ★ Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide and Summary

The Expository Thinking Guide is used to develop other fun and interactive activities. Fisher Reyna Education offers the following activities:

- ★ Outline Scramble
- ★ Matching Pre-Reading
- ★ Matching Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze 1st Letter
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze Blank
- ★ Thinking Guide Write Main Ideas
- ★ Vocabulary
- ★ Marked Selection Activity
- ★ Test Questions and Answer Key

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Expository Thinking Guide
Content-Based Topic

Title of Selection Flying Lions
Genre: Informational – Expository

| | |
|--|--|
| Topic of Selection | Eagles |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Eagles are birds of prey that claim rank as chief carnivores of the avian world. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. Introduction to birds of prey |
| | 2. Introduction to eagles |
| | 3. Species worldwide, U.S. and Texas |
| | 4. Eagle populations diminished |
| | 5. Bald eagle protection |
| | 6. Programs helped improved population numbers |
| | 7. Today bald and golden eagles are protected |
| | Bald Eagle |
| | 8. Two subspecies in Texas |
| | 9. Physical features |
| | 10. Where they live, behaviors, breeding |
| | Golden Eagle |
| | 11. Rare sightings |
| | 12. Where they live and physical features |
| | 13. Breeding behaviors |
| 14. Active and Impressive hunters | |
| 15. Breeding behaviors | |

Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide
Clustering and Summary

Title of Selection Flying Lions
Genre: Informational – Expository

| | |
|--|--|
| Topic of Selection | Eagles |
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| | 13. Breeding behaviors |
| 14. Active and Impressive hunters | |
| 15. Breeding behaviors | |

Clustering is used to produce a meaningful summary. The statements provided in the Thinking Guide and summary paragraph serve as only ONE way to paraphrase the elements for this selection.

Eagles are birds of prey that claim rank as chief carnivores of the avian world. There are species worldwide. After diminished numbers, protection programs improved their population. The bald and golden eagles are two species found in the U.S. and Texas. The bald eagle has two subspecies in Texas. The Golden eagle is actually rarely seen. They each have specific regions in Texas where they live and can be identified by their physical features and hunting behaviors.

Outline Scramble

Title of the Selection Flying Lions

Genre: Informational - Expository



Directions

Main ideas are arranged in alphabetical order. Article is read and students write the paragraph number by the correct main idea. This may be –

1. teacher guided with individual student recording correct paragraph number.
2. teacher guided with main ideas projected with teacher marking the correct response from the group.
3. partners working together as they take turns reading and recording correct paragraph number.

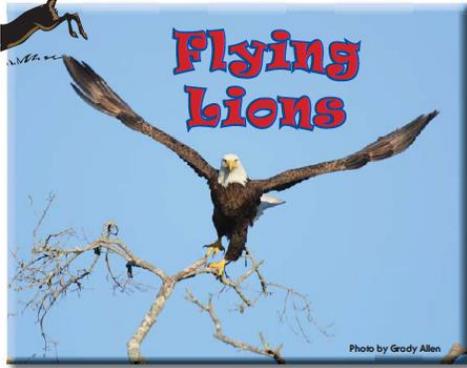
| Paragraph Number | Paragraph Main Ideas |
|------------------|---|
| | Eagle populations diminished |
| | Bald Eagle |
| | Breeding behaviors |
| | Programs helped improved population numbers |
| | Two subspecies in Texas |
| | Rare sightings |
| | Introduction to birds of prey |
| | Physical features |
| | Golden Eagle |
| | Breeding behaviors |
| | Bald eagle protection |
| | Where they live and physical features |
| | Species worldwide, U.S. and Texas |
| | Active and Impressive hunters |
| | Introduction to eagles |
| | Where they live, behaviors, breeding |
| | Today bald and golden eagles are protected |

Matching Pre-Reading



Directions and Activity Variations

Students may work individually or with a partner. Teacher shows the titles, subtitles and photos with captions as a pre-reading activity to the Matching Activity.



Matching Activity



Directions and Activity Variations

Students may work individually or with a partner.

1. Cut apart the main ideas and give one main idea to individual student or partners. Teacher reads the selection one paragraph at a time. Students identify when they have the matching main idea.
2. Provide the selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students read the selection and match cut-apart main ideas to paragraphs in the selection.
3. Provide cut-apart selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students match cut-apart paragraphs to the cut-apart main ideas.



Main Ideas

Eagle populations diminished

Bald Eagle

Breeding behaviors

Programs helped improved population numbers

Two subspecies in Texas

Rare sightings

Introduction to birds of prey

Physical features

Golden Eagle

Breeding behaviors

Bald eagle protection

Where they live and physical features

Species worldwide, U.S. and Texas

Active and Impressive hunters

Introduction to eagles

Where they live, behaviors, breeding

Today bald and golden eagles are protected



Matching Activity Paragraphs

What do lions, wolves, sharks and alligators have in common? Your first thought may be that they all have large, sharp teeth and strong jaws. You may also be considering what they eat – other animals! These apex predators are just a few examples of the many terrestrial and aquatic animals that play important roles at the top of nature's food chains. What about flying predators like hawks, vultures, owls and other raptors? These meat-eaters are called 'bird of prey' because their diets consist of smaller animals and carrion. Though these birds do not have sharp teeth, they possess other adaptations and features designed to stalk, catch and kill.

Just as lions are known as "kings of the jungle," eagles claim rank as chief carnivores of the avian world. They are some of the largest of all fliers and are powerfully built. Like other birds of prey, eagles hunt using their keen eyesight, sharp bill and talons, and muscular legs. Incredible flight speed and strength make even the smallest of eagles accomplished predators. Because of these attributes, eagles have been included in both ancient and modern cultures as symbols of power, longevity, spirituality, and freedom.

There are around 60 species of eagles worldwide, with only two land species occurring in the United States and Texas – bald eagles and golden eagles. The bald eagle, our National Emblem since 1782, inhabits parts of the United States, Canada and northern Mexico. Golden eagles are known to be the most numerous large eagles in the world and occur throughout the warmer areas of North America, Europe, Asia and North Africa.

Bald eagles were widespread and quite numerous when North America was settled by the Europeans. Humans and eagles competed for food though and as settlers moved westward, habitat was lost and food sources for the eagles diminished. Eagles were also considered a threat to livestock and some wildlife and fish, such as salmon.

People in the 1930s recognized the bald eagle population was declining and Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act in 1940, making it illegal to shoot, trap or harass eagles. Even before the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles were declared an endangered species in 1967 in all areas of the United States below the 40th parallel.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, captive breeding and reintroduction programs helped improve population numbers. The bald eagle was removed from the U.S. list of endangered species in 1995 when it reclassified as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and then removed from the list altogether in 2007.

Continuing today, bald and golden eagles are also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In Texas, environmental agencies and private landowners continue to work together to support eagle migrants and residents. These efforts include the prevention of further habitat destruction, protection of clean creeks and rivers, and the ongoing monitoring of populations and nesting success.

In general, bald eagles are present year-round and there are two subspecies of bald eagles which call Texas home. A wintering (non-breeding) population can be seen in the northern two-thirds of the state, and a breeding population of around 140 pairs occupies the eastern third and along the Gulf Coast.

Bald eagles are named for their white-feathered heads (leucocephalus = white head) and have dark brown body and wing feathers, white tail feathers, and a yellow bill and feet. Males can reach three feet in length (from head to tail), weigh between seven and 10 pounds, and have a wingspan measuring up to seven feet. Female birds typically are larger, weighing up to 14 pounds and boasting a wingspan of just over eight feet.

These birds are viewed more often near large reservoirs, lakes and coastal areas because they feed primarily on fish. These opportunistic predators are diurnal (hunting during the day), and their diets also consist of a variety of waterfowl and other birds, turtles and small mammals. Dead or dying fish and mammals are also common, particularly to feed the younger birds.

Bald eagles pair for life and Texas couples nest close to water from October to July. Massive nests, called aeries, are constructed with sticks, leaves, grass and moss high up in trees. They can weigh hundreds of pounds and measure up to six feet in width. These nests are used for several years and material is continually added to them. Around December, females will lay 1-3 eggs (a clutch is typically two eggs) which will hatch in February. By April, the young fledglings are able to fly from the nest but will stay near the nest until they learn to hunt on their own. When they are able to live independently, they will migrate northward out of Texas and return again in September or October.

Golden eagles favor mountainous regions, semi-open woodlands, and fields and can be seen mainly in the Panhandle and western regions of Texas year-round. Though sightings are rare, they can also be viewed throughout the remainder of the state during the winter months.

These large, dark brown birds are named for the golden feathers adorning the head and neck. Similar to the bald eagles, golden eagles can reach lengths of over three feet, with a wingspan of 6 ½ to 7 ½ feet, and weigh up to 14 pounds. Adults' tails have faint gray bands, and younger birds typically have white markings on their wings and tails. They also have strong, yellow feet, but their bills are darker than the bald eagles'.

These eagles are active and impressive hunters, as they will often take large prey like foxes, geese and young ungulates. Mainly, their diets consist of rabbits (especially jackrabbits), hares, squirrels, prairie dogs, smaller birds and carrion. They generally catch their prey by cruising low and making a fast attack from behind.

Golden eagles build huge, platform-like nests out of large sticks, grass and moss usually on cliffs or in tall trees in open habitats. Like bald eagles, the golden eagles will reuse and build upon their nests for many years. Golden eagles typically will breed from early February to November and lay 1-4 eggs (usually two) which will hatch just a little more than a month later.

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – 1st Letter Activity

Title of the Selection Flying Lions

Genre: Informational – Expository



Directions

As selection is read, complete the words in the blanks with the first letter given.

| | |
|--|--|
| Topic of Selection | E_____ |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Eagles are birds of p_____ that claim rank as chief c_____ of the avian world. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. I_____ to birds of p_____ |
| | 2. Introduction to e_____ |
| | 3. S_____ worldwide, U.S. and T_____ |
| | 4. Eagle populations d_____ |
| | 5. B_____ eagle p_____ |
| | 6. Programs helped i_____ population numbers |
| | 7. Today b_____ and g_____ eagles are p_____ |
| | Bald Eagle |
| | 8. Two s_____ in Texas |
| | 9. P_____ features |
| | 10. Where they l_____, behaviors, b_____ |
| | Golden Eagle |
| | 11. Rare s_____ |
| | 12. Where they l_____ and p_____ features |
| | 13. B_____ behaviors |
| 14. A_____ and I_____ hunters | |
| 15. B_____ behaviors | |

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – Blank Activity

Title of the Selection Flying Lions

Genre: Informational – Expository



Directions

As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

| | |
|--|--|
| Topic of Selection | _____ |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Eagles are birds of _____ that claim rank as chief _____ of the avian world. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. _____ to birds of _____ |
| | 2. Introduction to _____ |
| | 3. _____ worldwide, U.S. and _____ |
| | 4. Eagle populations _____ |
| | 5. _____ eagle _____ |
| | 6. Programs helped _____ population numbers |
| | 7. Today _____ and _____ eagles are _____ |
| | Bald Eagle |
| | 8. Two _____ in Texas |
| | 9. _____ features |
| | 10. Where they _____, behaviors, _____ |
| | Golden Eagle |
| | 11. Rare _____ |
| | 12. Where they _____ and _____ features |
| | 13. _____ behaviors |
| 14. _____ and _____ hunters | |
| 15. _____ behaviors | |

Expository Thinking Guide

Write Main Ideas

Title of the Selection Flying Lions

Genre: **Informational – Expository**



Directions

Students take notes that include topic, central idea of the selection, and main idea of each paragraph. Paragraphs with implied main ideas increase the level of difficulty with this activity.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Topic of Selection | |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |
| | 4. |
| | 5. |
| | 6. |
| | 7. |
| | Bald Eagle |
| | 8. |
| | 9. |
| | 10. |
| | Golden Eagle |
| | 11. |
| | 12. |
| | 13. |
| 14. | |
| 15. | |

Flying Lions

Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

Note: This vocabulary activity should be used after students have read the selection.



Directions

Display the following vocabulary list. Ask the students to define the words they recognize. Then reread the selection as the students listen for these words. After hearing one of the listed words in context, ask students to give its definition. The words are listed in the order in which they appear in the selection.

1. predators
2. avian
3. talons
4. numerous
5. population
6. mammals
7. constructed
8. wingspan
9. faint
10. habitats

Marked Selection Activity

Title of the Selection Flying Lions

Genre: **Informational – Expository**



Directions

Students use marking strategies and complete the thinking guide as they read the selection. A marked selection is provided.

Marking codes are used to demonstrate comprehension strategies. Marking codes are necessary for the students to have a system for analyzing or processing what they read. This system of showing your work while working independently on a reading comprehension selection allows teachers to make effective instructional decisions. When the staff works as a team to provide instruction and monitor progress, it is important for everyone to require the same set of marking codes.

Students who consistently score 95% or better may not be required to show their work.



For more information on marking codes and comprehension strategies see our book titled,
Solutions for Success: Reading
Lois Fisher & Rachel Reyna

Marked Selection

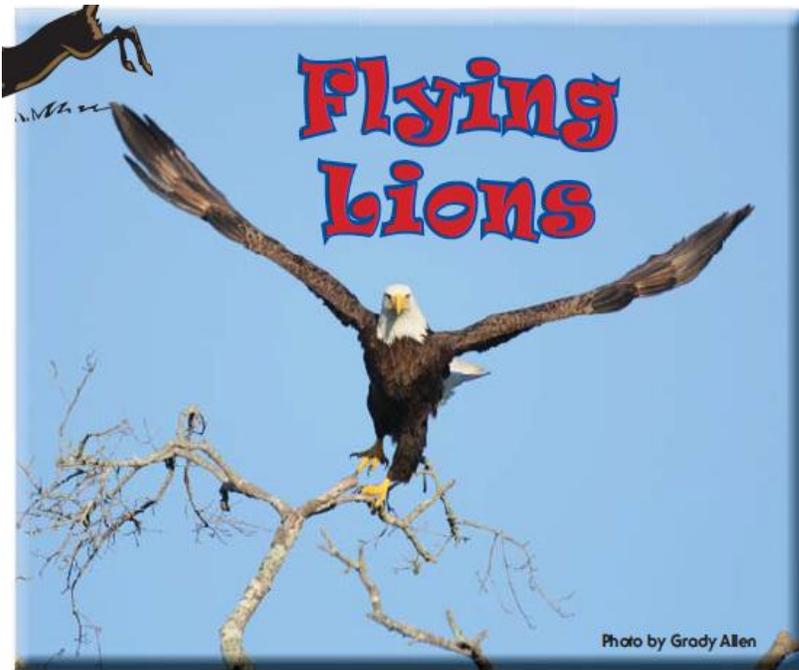


Photo by Grady Allen

By Cara Bierschwale

Intro

What do lions, wolves, sharks and alligators have in common? Your first thought may be that they all have large, sharp teeth and strong jaws. You may also be considering what they eat – other animals! These apex predators are just a few examples of the many terrestrial and aquatic animals that play important roles at the top of nature's food chains. What about flying predators like hawks, vultures, owls and other raptors? These meat-eaters are called **birds of prey** because their diets consist of smaller animals and carrion. Though these birds do not have sharp teeth, they possess other adaptations and features designed to stalk, catch and kill. **Topic Central Idea**

Just as lions are known as "kings of the jungle," eagles claim rank as chief **carnivores of the avian world**. They are some of the largest of all fliers and are powerfully built. Like other birds of prey, eagles hunt using their keen eyesight, sharp bill and talons, and muscular legs. Incredible flight speed and strength make even the smallest of eagles accomplished predators. Because of these attributes, eagles have been included in both ancient and modern cultures as symbols of power, longevity, spirituality, and freedom.

There are **around 60 species of eagles worldwide**, with only **two** land species occurring in the **United States and Texas** – bald eagles and golden eagles. The bald eagle, our National Emblem since 1782, inhabits parts of the United States, Canada and northern Mexico. Golden eagles are known to be the most numerous large eagles in the world and occur throughout the warmer areas of North America, Europe, Asia and North Africa.



BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

In general, bald eagles are present year-round and there are **two subspecies** of bald eagles which **call Texas home**. A wintering (non-breeding) population can be seen in the northern two-thirds of the state, and a breeding population of around 140 pairs occupies the eastern third and along the Gulf Coast.

Bald eagles are named for their white-feathered heads (leucocephalus = white head) and have dark brown body and wing feathers, white tail feathers, and a yellow bill and feet. Males can reach three feet in length (from head to tail), weigh between seven and 10 pounds, and have a wingspan measuring up to seven feet. Female birds typically

are larger, weighing up to 14 pounds and boasting a wingspan of just over eight feet.

These birds are **viewed more often near large reservoirs, lakes and coastal areas** because they feed primarily on fish. These **opportunistic predators** are diurnal (hunting during the day), and their diets also consist of a variety of waterfowl and other birds, turtles and small mammals. Dead or dying fish and mammals are also common, particularly to feed the younger birds.

Bald eagles pair for life and Texas couples nest close to water from October to July. Massive nests, called **aeries**, are **constructed**



Physical features

Eagles are birds of prey that claim rank as chief carnivores of the avian world. There are 60 species of eagles worldwide and only two are found in the U.S. and Texas. After their numbers diminished, protection programs improved their population. Bald eagles and Golden Eagles have unique physical features. They both construct large aeries for breed that they will use for years.

Analysis by Fisher Reyna Education

breeding

with sticks, leaves, grass and moss high up in trees. They can weigh hundreds of pounds and measure up to six feet in width. These nests are used for several years and material is continually added to them. Around December, females will lay 1-3 eggs (a clutch is typically two eggs) which will hatch in February. By April, the young fledglings are able to fly from the nest but will stay near the nest until they learn to hunt on their own. When they are able to live independently, they will migrate northward out of Texas and return again in September or October.



Golden eagle by Richard Dartz (Wikimedia)

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Golden eagles favor mountainous regions, semi-open woodlands, and fields and can be seen mainly in the Panhandle and western regions of Texas year-round. Though sightings are rare, they can also be viewed throughout the remainder of the state during the winter months.

These large, dark brown birds are named for the golden feathers adorning the head and neck. Similar to the bald eagles, golden eagles can

Physical features

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Golden eagles build huge, platform-like nests out of large sticks, grass and moss usually on cliffs or in tall trees in open habitats. Like bald eagles, the golden eagles will reuse and build upon their nests for many years. Golden eagles typically will breed from early February to November and lay 1-4 eggs (usually two) which will hatch just a little more than a month later.



Bald eagle gathering nest material by Grady Allen



Aerie with chick by Rusty Ray

Sources:

Arnold, Keith A. and Gregory Kennedy. Birds of Texas. Auburn, WA: Lone Pine Publishing, 2007.
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. "The Texas Breeding Bird Atlas – Golden Eagle." <http://txrbba.tamu.edu/species-accounts/golden-eagle/>
Texas Parks and Wildlife, "Wildlife Fact Sheets." <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/baldeagle/>
Whitfield, Dr. Philip. The Simon & Schuster Encyclopedia of Animals. Great Britain: Marshall Publishing, 1998.
Baldeagleinfo.com

Test Questions

1 Paragraph 6 is mainly about –

- A growing eagle habitats
 - B the aeries used in breeding
 - C the unique physical features of the bald and golden eagle
 - D Protection efforts made by the U.S.
-

2 The reader can tell that some eagles are –

- A aggressive and may hurt a small child
 - B skilled and hunt near water
 - C are found only in Texas
 - D are difficult to catch
-

3 Which sentence shows that eagle species follow breeding patterns?

- A *Golden eagles favor mountainous regions, semi-open woodlands, and fields and can be seen mainly in the Panhandle and western regions in Texas year-round.*
- B *Like the bald eagle, the golden eagle will reuse and build upon their nests for many years.*
- C *Dead or dying fish and mammals are also common, particularly to feed the younger birds.*
- D *Bald eagles were widespread and quite numerous when North America was settled by the Europeans.*

4 Which of the following is the best summary of the story?

- A** Eagles are widespread throughout the Lone Star State. They faced extinction, but populations increased after the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940. Many eagles pair for life and build aeries with sticks and leaves.
 - B** Eagles are respected and valued birds of prey. After a decrease in the number of eagles was observed, protection programs improved their population. The bald eagle has two subspecies in Texas, and the Golden is rarely seen. They each have specific regions in Texas where they live with unique physical features, breeding, and hunting behaviors.
 - C** Eagle populations have been affected by loss of habitat. In order to increase their population the Bald Eagle Protection Act and other programs were established. The bald eagle has two subspecies in Texas that live in various regions of Texas.
 - D** Eagles are skilled hunters. There are more than 6000 species of eagles throughout the world. In Texas, two subspecies can be seen. The bald eagle, our National Emblem since 1782 has physical features that are easily recognized. They have brown body and wing feathers and are named after their white-feathered heads. Golden eagles are rarely seen.
-

5 Read this dictionary entry for the word faint.

Faint /fānt/ adjective

1. (of sight, smell, or sound) barely perceptible
2. Weak and dizzy
3. Close to losing consciousness
4. Loose; not tight

Which meaning of faint is used in paragraph 13?

- A** Meaning 1
- B** Meaning 2
- C** Meaning 3
- D** Meaning 4

Question and Answer Strategies

1 Paragraph 6 is mainly about –

- A growing eagle habitats
 - B the aeries used in breeding
 - C the unique physical features of the bald and golden eagle
 - D Protection efforts made by the U.S.
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2 The reader can tell that some eagles are –

- A aggressive and may hurt a small child
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3 Which sentence shows that eagle species follow breeding patterns?

- A *Golden eagles favor mountainous regions, semi-open woodlands, and fields and can be seen mainly in the Panhandle and western regions in Texas year-round.*
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 - C Eagle populations have been affected by loss of habitat. In order to increase their population the Bald Eagle Protection Act and other programs were established. The bald eagle has two subspecies in Texas that live in various regions of Texas.
 - D Eagles are skilled hunters. There are more than 6000 species of eagles throughout the world. In Texas, two subspecies can be seen. The bald eagle, our National Emblem since 1782 has physical features that are easily recognized. They have brown body and wing feathers and are named after their white-feathered heads. Golden eagles are rarely seen.
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Which meaning of faint is used in paragraph 13?

- A** Meaning 1
- B Meaning 2
- C Meaning 3
- D Meaning 4

Note: The evidence used to support correct answers may not be the only supporting evidence.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
English Language Arts and Reading
Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Expository Text

3.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

- (A) identify the details or facts that support the main idea;
- (B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
- (C) identify explicit cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
- (D) use text features (e.g., bold print, captions, key words, italics) to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text.

4.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

- (A) identify the details or facts that support main idea
- (B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
- (C) identify cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
- (D) use text features to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text

5.11 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

- (A) summarize the main ideas and supporting details in a text in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;
- (B) determine the facts in text and verify them through established methods;
- (C) analyze how the organizational pattern of a text (e.g., cause-and-effect, compare-and-contrast, sequential order, logical order, classification schemes) influences the relationships among the ideas;
- (D) use multiple text features and graphics to gain an overview of the contents of text and to locate information; and
- (E) synthesize and make logical connections between ideas within a text and across two or three texts representing similar or different genres.