



Thinking Guide and Activities - Biography

Title of the Selection: *When Esther Morris Headed West*

Genre: Informational

The Biography Thinking Guide is provided. The Biography Thinking Guide identifies the topic, central idea of the selection, and the main idea of each paragraph organized by a biography outline. In addition, the main ideas are clustered by color code to develop a meaningful summary.

- ★ Biography Thinking Guide
- ★ Color-Coded Biography Thinking Guide and Summary

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

- ★ Outline Scramble
- ★ Pre-Reading Activity
- ★ Matching Main Idea Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze 1st Letter Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze Blank Activity
- ★ Write Summary Elements Activity
- ★ Vocabulary – Using Context Clues



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Biography Thinking Guide



Title of the Selection When Esther Morris Headed West

Genre: Informational

| | |
|--|---|
| Topic of Selection | Esther Morris |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Fought for women's right to vote and hold office. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. Esther Morris moved to South Pass, Wyoming at 55 years old. |
| | 2. Morris believed that women should be able to hold office same as a man. |
| | 3. She contacted Colonel William Bright when she arrived in South Pass City. |
| | 4. Colonel Bright was opposed by Benjamin Sheeks. |
| | 5. In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to vote and hold office. |
| | 6. Newspapers reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace resigned. |
| | 7. Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City Justice of the Peace which made her the first female in the U.S. to hold office. |
| | 8. The man she was replacing refused to give up the court docket. |
| | 9. Ben Sheeks escorted an opponent out of Morris's courtroom. |
| | 10. Sheeks knew he was wrong. |
| | 11. Morris didn't inflict a punishment on Mr. Sheeks. |
| | 12. (continue to analyze paragraphs) |

Color-Coded Biography Thinking Guide



Title of the Selection When Esther Morris Headed West
Genre: Informational

| | |
|--|---|
| Topic of Selection | Esther Morris |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Fought for women's right to vote and hold office. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. Esther Morris moved to South Pass, Wyoming at 55 years old. |
| | 2. Morris believed that women should be able to hold office same as a man. |
| | 3. She contacted Colonel William Bright when she arrived in South Pass City. |
| | 4. Colonel Bright was opposed by Benjamin Sheeks. |
| | 5. In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to vote and hold office. |
| | 6. Newspapers reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace resigned. |
| | 7. Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City Justice of the Peace which made her the first female in the U.S. to hold office. |
| | 8. The man she was replacing refused to give up the court docket. |
| | 9. Ben Sheeks escorted an opponent out of Morris's courtroom. |
| | 10. Sheeks knew he was wrong. |
| | 11. Morris didn't inflict a punishment on Mr. Sheeks. |
| | 12. (continue to analyze paragraphs) |

Esther Morris fought for women's right to vote and hold office. She moved to South Pass City, Wyoming and contacted Colonel Bright. Women were given the right to vote and hold office in Wyoming in 1869. Morris became the South Pass City Justice of the Peace and was the first female to hold office in the U.S. She had many people who opposed her, but was never gave up. (continue to write summary with remaining paragraphs)

Outline Scramble

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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 |
|------------------|--|
| | Ben Sheeks escorted an opponent out of Morris's courtroom. |
| | Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City Justice of the Peace which made her the first female in the U.S. to hold office. |
| | Esther Morris moved to South Pass, Wyoming at 55 years old. |
| | In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to vote and hold office |
| | Colonel Bright was opposed by Benjamin Sheeks. |
| | Morris believed that women should be able to hold office same as a man. |
| | Morris didn't inflict a punishment on Mr. Sheeks. |
| | Newspapers reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace resigned. |
| | Sheeks knew he was wrong. |
| | She contacted Colonel William Bright when she arrived in South Pass City. |
| | The man she was replacing refused to give up the court docket. |

Pre-Reading Activity



Directions and Activity Variations -

Students may work individually or with a partner. Teacher shows the titles, subtitles, photos with captions, etc. as a pre-reading activity. Students take notes and list all clues as a pre-reading activity. Teachers and students may discuss. Then have student(s) write the prediction for the topic and central idea of the expository selection.

Title: When Esther Morris Headed West

Photos or Illustrations- list and explain the message of the pictures:

Photos with captions:

Subtitles in Bold Print:

Other text features:

Other Media:

Combine all the clue and make a prediction. What is the topic? What is the central idea, or what specifically will you be learning about the topic? Write your prediction. Then, read only the introductory paragraphs or pages and verify your prediction.

Matching Main Idea 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.



- Ben Sheeks escorted an opponent out of Morris's courtroom.
- Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City Justice of the Peace which made her the first female in the U.S. to hold office.
- Esther Morris moved to South Pass, Wyoming at 55 years old.
- In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to vote and hold office
- Colonel Bright was opposed by Benjamin Sheeks.
- Morris believed that women should be able to hold office same as a man.
- Morris didn't inflict a punishment on Mr. Sheeks.
- Newspapers reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace resigned.
- Sheeks knew he was wrong.
- She contacted Colonel William Bright when she arrived in South Pass City.
- The man she was replacing refused to give up the court docket.

Biography Thinking Guide

Cloze – 1st Letter Activity

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Directions

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Topic of Selection | E_____ M_____ |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Fought for w_____ right to v_____ and hold o_____. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. Esther Morris moved to S_____ P_____, Wyoming at 55 years old. |
| | 2. Morris believed that women should be able to h_____ o_____ same as a m_____. |
| | 3. She contacted Colonel W_____ Bright when she arrived in South Pass City. |
| | 4. Colonel Bright was o_____ by Benjamin Sheeks. |
| | 5. In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to v_____ and hold o_____. |
| | 6. N_____ reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace r_____. |
| | 7. Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City J_____ of the P_____ which made her the first f_____ in the U.S. to hold office. |
| | 8. The man she was replacing refused to give up the court d_____. |
| | 9. Ben S_____ escorted an o_____ out of Morris's courtroom. |
| | 10. Sheeks knew he was w_____. |
| | 11. Morris didn't inflict a p_____ on Mr. Sheeks. |
| | 12. (continue to analyze paragraphs) |

Biography Thinking Guide
Cloze – Blank Activity

Title of the Selection When Esther Morris Headed West
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Directions

As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

| | |
|--|--|
| Topic of Selection | _____ |
| Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection) | Fought for _____ right to _____ and hold _____. |
| Main Idea of Each Paragraph | 1. Esther Morris moved to _____, Wyoming at 55 years old. |
| | 2. Morris believed that women should be able to _____ same as a _____. |
| | 3. She contacted Colonel _____ Bright when she arrived in South Pass City. |
| | 4. Colonel Bright was _____ by Benjamin Sheeks. |
| | 5. In 1869 the women of Wyoming were given the right to v _____ and hold o _____. |
| | 6. _____ reported different opinions, and the South Pass City justice of the peace _____. |
| | 7. Esther Morris applied, and was awarded, the position of South Pass City _____ of the _____ which made her the first _____ in the U.S. to hold office. |
| | 8. The man she was replacing refused to give up the court _____. |
| | 9. Ben _____ escorted an _____ out of Morris's courtroom. |
| | 10. Sheeks knew he was _____. |
| | 11. Morris didn't inflict a _____ on Mr. Sheeks. |
| | 12. (continue to analyze paragraphs) |

Biography Thinking Guide
Write Main Ideas

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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. |
| | 8. |
| | 9. |
| | 10. |
| | 11. |
| | 12. |

When Esther Morris Headed West Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

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



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 article.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.