



Genre – Expository Thinking Guide and Activities

Title of the Selection: *A Birds'-Eye View of Teamwork*

STAAR Grade 6 Reading Released Test Selection 2011

Click here to print the selection

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/testquestions/>

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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.

- ★ ***A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork*** 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



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Expository Thinking Guide
Content-Based Topic

Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork

Source: STAAR Grade 6 Reading 2011 Selection 1

Genre: Informational - Expository

Topic of Selection	Birds
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	Theories about formation patterns of different types of birds
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Many theories about the formation patterns of different types of birds
	2. To save energy
	3. To fly longer distances between meals
	4. To form an arrow pointing to the location of food
	5. To defend against an attack
	6. Birds care for their fellow fliers through teamwork.

Expository Thinking Guide
Content-Based Topic

Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork

Source: STAAR Grade 6 Reading 2011 Selection 1

Genre: Informational - Expository

Topic of Selection	Birds
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	Theories about formation patterns of different types of birds
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Many theories about the formation patterns of different types of birds
	2. To save energy
	3. To fly longer distances between meals
	4. To form an arrow pointing to the location of food
	5. To defend against an attack
	6. Birds care for their fellow fliers through teamwork.

There are many theories about the formation patterns of different types of birds. Their teamwork may save energy, manage meals and help prevent predator attacks.

Outline Scramble Activity

Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork

Source: STAAR 2011 Grade 6 Reading Selection 1

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
	To defend against an attack
	Theories about formation patterns of different types of birds
	Birds care for their fellow fliers through teamwork.
	To form an arrow pointing to the location of food
	To fly longer distances between meals
	To save energy
	Birds
	Many theories about the formation patterns of different types of birds

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

Birds
Theories about formation patterns of different types of birds
Many theories about the formation patterns of different types of birds
To save energy
To fly longer distances between meals
To form an arrow pointing to the location of food
To defend against an attack
Birds care for their fellow fliers through teamwork.

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – 1st Letter Activity



Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork

Directions

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

Topic of Selection	B _____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	T _____ about f _____ patterns of different types of b _____
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Many t _____ about the formation p _____ of different types of b _____
	2. To save e _____
	3. To fly longer d _____ between m _____
	4. To form an arrow p _____ to the location of f _____
	5. To d _____ against an a _____
	6. B _____ care for their fellow fliers through t _____.

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – Blank Activity

Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork



Directions

As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

Topic of Selection	_____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	_____ about _____ patterns of different types of _____ _____
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Many _____ about the formation _____ of different types of _____
	2. To save _____
	3. To fly longer _____ between _____
	4. To form an arrow _____ to the location of _____
	5. To _____ against an _____
	6. _____ care for their fellow fliers through _____ _____.

Write Main Ideas Activity

Title of the Selection A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork



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.

A Bird's-Eye View of Teamwork Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

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.

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

1. crisp
2. formation
3. theories
4. instinctively
5. resistance
6. conserving
7. course
8. starlings