

# Weird and Interesting Non-Fiction Texts

- What is Earwax?
- Why Do We Bruise?
- A Sprain or a Broken Bone?
- Why Do We Poop?
- What are Boogers?
- Why Do We Throw Up?
- What are Scabs and Blisters?
- Why Do Our Baby Teeth Fall Out?
- Why Do We Burp?
- Why Does Mold Grow?

## Annotate the Text

1 Number the paragraphs

2 Underline important statements

3 Circle unknown words

4 Write questions

5 Write answers

## Close Reading Steps

1 Read the text

2 Annotate the text

3 Read the text again

4 Define unknown words

5 Read the text again

6 Respond to reading

# This resource includes:

- Teacher Tips
- Questions to Ask Students
- Student Bookmarks:
  - Close Reading Steps
  - Annotate/Mark the Text
- 10 Informational Texts
- 10 Multiple Choice Questions for Each Text
- 7 Graphic Organizers
- Multiple Choice Answer Keys

# Informational Texts

- What is earwax?
- Why do we bruise?
- A sprain or a broken bone?
- Why do we poop?
- What are boogers?
- Why do we throw up?
- What are scabs and blisters?
- Why do our baby teeth fall out?
- Why do we burp?
- Why does mold grow?

## Includes:

- Teacher Tips
- Questions to Ask Students
- Close Reading Steps - Bookmark
  - Version with "Mark the text"
  - Version with "Annotate the text"
- Steps to "Mark the Text" Bookmark
- Steps to "Annotate the Text" Bookmark
- Informational Text: The
- 10 Multiple Choice Questions
- 7 Graphic Organizers

# Teacher Tips & Suggestions

## Questions to Ask Students

- What is the text mostly about?
- Who is the audience for this text?
- What's is the writer's purpose of this text?
- What's your favorite part of the passage?
- What words are new to you? What do you think the words mean?
- What detail stands out to you?
- What questions do you now have about the topic?
- If you can ask the author 2 questions, what would you ask them?
- In this paragraph, what is the author saying?
- What is the structure of the text? How does it help

## Teacher Tips

Close reading: A reading strategy that is used to comprehend and analyze a text closely. Students will typically read the text at least twice for comprehension, details, analysis, and deep questioning of the text's purpose and meaning.

1. Read the Text: When students read the text for the first time, they are reading just to identify what the passage is mostly about. The first read is surface level and allows the students to understand the gist of the text.
2. Mark Up the Text or Annotate the Text: Encourage students to use their annotation bookmarks (provided below) to make notes directly on the text. Students can write in the margins, use sticky notes to make notes, use color coding. You can even slip the text inside a dry-erase pocket and encourage students to use dry-erase markers to mark up the text.
3. Read the Text Again: If the teacher is working with the students for this, the teacher can read the text aloud this time. Model think-alouds and use expression while you read. If students are working with partners in a station, encourage them to each read a paragraph then switch readers.
4. Define Unknown Words: During this step, invite students to circle any unknown or unfamiliar words. Use the provided graphic organizer to select 4-5 unknown words and work to identify the meaning of each word.
5. Read the Text Again: With this third time reading the text, encourage the students to read the passage independently.
6. Respond to Reading: Students will now use the text to answer the 10



## What are Scabs and Blisters?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a scab?
  - a. Germs that can easily get into the body through an open wound.
  - b. An open wound
  - c. A layer formed above the wound to protect the damaged skin and tissue.
  - d. Platelets in blood
2. What is a blister?
  - a. Something you can only get on your hands.
  - b. A human band-aid
  - c. Friction
  - d. A raised area of the skin that contains fluid.
3. What is the main idea of the section titled "What are scabs?"
  - a. Its job is to keep the good stuff in, like blood, and the bad stuff out.
  - b. A scab forms to protect the damaged skin while it heals.
  - c. A scab can be dark a red or brown color.
  - d. Platelets help to clot blood.
4. What is one detail that supports your answer to question 3?
  - a. Its job is to keep the good stuff in, like blood, and the bad stuff out.
  - b. A scab forms to protect the damaged skin while it heals.
  - c. A scab can be dark a red or brown color.
  - d. Platelets help to clot blood.
5. What is the main idea of the section titled "What are blisters?"
  - a. A blister is a raised area of skin and is filled with fluid.
  - b. You can get blisters on your hands and feet.
  - c. Blisters are caused by friction when your skin rubs against something.
  - d. Blisters are usually filled with fluid.
6. What is one detail that supports your answer to question 5?
  - a. Blisters are usually filled with fluid.
  - b. You can get blisters on your hands and feet.
  - c. Blisters are caused by friction when your skin rubs against something.
  - d. Blisters are usually filled with fluid.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What are Scabs and Blisters?

7. Read the following sentence from the passage:

*Some scrapes are superficial, and barely scratch the surface of your skin.*

What is the meaning of superficial in this passage?

- a. damaging
- b. deep
- c. Not important
- d. Shallow

8. Why did the author write this passage?

- a. To entertain the reader with a funny story about a time when someone fell and scraped their knee.
- b. To inform the reader about scabs and blisters.
- c. To persuade the reader to wear protective gear.
- d. All of the above

9. Read the following sentences from the passage:

*You fell and scraped your knee. If the scrape is deep enough, it will start bleeding. Now you have an open wound that can be exposed to dangerous germs.*

What does the phrase open wound mean in this passage?

- a. Platelets clotting blood
- b. A cut nobody can see
- c. A cut that is exposed to the outside
- d. A wound that is healing

Which phrase from the passage is the author searching for the reason why scabs form?

- a. Blisters are usually filled with fluid.
- b. You can get blisters on your hands and feet.
- c. Blisters are caused by friction when your skin rubs against something.
- d. Blisters are usually filled with fluid.

# 10 Multiple Choice Questions for Each Text

Name:

## Why Do Our Baby Teeth Fall Out?

1. Teeth are not bones because they do not contain any living tissue.

- a. True
- b. False

2. Which is not a tissue found in teeth?

- a. pulp
- b. dentin
- c. enamel
- d. bone

3. What is the hardest substance in your body?

Name:

## Why Do Our Baby Teeth Fall Out?

7. Read the following sentence from the passage:

*As the babies grow into toddlers, the rest of the teeth will protrude through the gums by the time the child is about three.*

What is the best meaning of protrude in this passage?

- a. To break through the surface
- To stick up
- To stay below the surface
- To sit too close together

8. Why did the author write this passage?

- To persuade the reader to practice better dental hygiene
- To entertain the reader with a funny story about baby teeth
- To inform the reader about what teeth are
- All of the above

9. Which of the following sentences from the passage:

- ...children will lose their baby teeth, it is important to practice good dental hygiene. This will prevent severe decay.
- ...Children need to learn how to properly take care of their teeth.

10. Which does the phrase dental hygiene refer to?

- ...taking care of only your adult teeth
- ...when teeth start to decay
- ...when teeth are properly spaced
- ...brushing, and taking care of your teeth

11. Which word or phrase would be the best to use in the Internet?

- ...baby teeth
- ...teeth
- ...dental hygiene
- ...decay

## Why Do Our Baby Teeth Fall Out?

It happens to every child around the age of 6 or 7. It's almost a rite of passage. They lose their first tooth! It is so exciting for every child. There may be some tears, as it could be scary that something is falling out of your mouth, but eventually, every child gets excited. This means they are growing up!

### What are teeth?

Some people think teeth are bones, but they are not. Teeth and bone contain over 99% of the calcium in our bodies, but teeth are not bones. Bones contain living tissue, while teeth do not. Because teeth do not contain any living tissues, the outer layer of the tooth is harder than bones. This layer is called enamel. Enamel is the hardest substance in your body. Besides enamel, the tooth is made up of 3 other types of non-living tissue - dentin, cementum, and pulp.

### When do babies get their teeth?

When a baby is born, they have all 20 teeth already in their mouth, just below the gums. Around six to twelve months after a baby is born, the teeth will start to poke through the gums. The first tooth that a baby will get is usually a middle tooth on the lower jaw.

As the babies grow into toddlers, the rest of the teeth will protrude through the gums by the time the child is about three. The front teeth typically erupt first, with the molars coming in last. Around the age of three is when a child will have about all twenty primary teeth.

### Why do baby teeth fall out?

Around the age of 6 is when a child will lose their first tooth. What causes this? At this age, the adult teeth are starting to grow in. These permanent sets of teeth are located under the gums, and start to grow in. As the adult tooth pushes through the gums, it loosens the baby tooth. Eventually the baby tooth will fall out. After a child has lost a few baby teeth, the first set of permanent molars will also grow in. A child will lose all of their baby teeth by about 12. At this age, all twenty baby teeth have been replaced, and 8 new molars have also grown in, giving a teenager a total of 28 teeth.

### The Importance of Dental Hygiene

Even though children will lose their baby teeth, it is still important for them to practice good dental hygiene. When children lose their baby teeth, it is still important for them to practice good dental hygiene. When children lose their baby teeth, it is still important for them to practice good dental hygiene.

## Annotate the Text

1 Number the paragraphs

- Underline important statements

○ Circle unknown words

? Question? Confusing?

! Interesting!

# Close Reading

Close Reading: A reading strategy that is used to comprehend and analyze a text closely. Students will typically read the text at least twice for comprehension, details, analysis, and deep questioning of the text's purpose and meaning.

## Steps for Close Reading:

1. Read the Text
2. Mark Up the Text or Annotate the Text
3. Read the Text Again
4. Define Unknown Words
5. Read the Text Again
6. Respond to Reading



## What are Boogers?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Boogers are...

- a. snot
- b. dried mucus mixed with irritants
- c. dust
- d. pollen

2. What do boogers help trap from entering the lungs?

- a. pollen
- b. dust

## What are Boogers?

You know that feeling. You think to yourself, "Is there a booger hanging out of my nose?" You grab a tissue and wipe your nose, but it's not there. But you still feel it. You wipe again, and you got it! Whew. No more boogers hanging out of your nose for the world to see. But, what are boogers and where do they come from?

### What are boogers?

We know all about boogers, but what exactly are they? Boogers are dried mucus, or snot, that sit inside your nose. Did you know that your nose and throat can produce up to 2 quarts of snot everyday? We need snot for three reasons. One, it acts as a lubricant. This is important to keep your nose and sinuses from drying out. Second, snot acts as a shield to protect the very thin blood vessels and tissue inside your nose. Third, it helps to catch and get rid of irritants such as dust, pollen, viruses, and bacteria. These can cause infections and allergies.

### Where do boogers come from?

Remember that 2 quarts of snot your body produces everyday? It has to go somewhere! Most of the snot comes out of your sinuses and drains into your nose. When the snot mixes with the irritants that your body is trying to get rid of, boogers are produced. Boogers can form in an array of colors. If your snot has mixed with dirt and pollen, then your boogers might be a brown or yellow color. If your boogers are a greenish color, then your snot may have mixed with dead inflammatory cells. These can change colors when they are exposed to outside air.

### What's the difference between snot and boogers?

Snot and boogers may sound like the same thing, but they are very different! Snot is the liquid mucus produced by your body that can drip out your nose and down the back of your throat. Boogers are dried mucus that has hardened inside your nose. You may see an increase in snot when you are sick. This is the body's way of protecting itself. Snot is exposed to air when it comes out through your nose.

## What are Boogers?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Read the following sentence from the passage:

*Third, it helps to catch and get rid of irritants such as dust, pollen, viruses, and bacteria. These can cause infections and allergies.*

What does the word irritants mean in this passage?

- a. Things that are helpful
- b. Things that are nice
- c. Things that could poison
- d. Things that can harm

8. Why did the author write this passage?

- a. To entertain the reader
- b. To persuade the reader
- c. To inform the reader
- d. All of the above

9. Read the following sentence:

*Boogers can form in an array of colors. If your boogers might be a brown or yellow color.*

What does the word irritants mean in this passage?

- a. Too many to count
- b. Only one
- c. A matrix
- d. A wide variety

ch word or phrase that causes irritation?

irritants  
Mucus  
bacteria

## Annotate the Text

1 Number the paragraphs

2 Underline important statements

3 Circle unknown words

4 Question? Confusing?

5 Interesting?

we need them.

dirt and pollen, then your boogers will be a greenish color, then your snot will be a greenish color.

about what are boogers on the



## Why Do We Bruise?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Another name for bruises is:

- capillaries
- blood
- purple spots
- contusions

2. What is the main idea of the section titled "What is a bruise?"

- A bruise is the collection of blood underneath the skin capillary.
- The blood is what causes the bruise to turn dark purple.

## Why Do We Bruise?

It's happened to everyone. You fall or hurt yourself somehow. After a while you notice this dark purple-ish color forming where you hurt yourself. It's a bruise. We know we get them sometimes when we get hurt, but why? What is a bruise? Why do they form?

### What is a bruise?

Bruises, also known as contusions, form when the capillaries near the surface of the skin break or become damaged. Capillaries are small blood vessels. After the capillaries are damaged or broken, blood seeps out of the vessels. It pools under the surface of the skin because it has nowhere else to go. This is what you see when the dark purple color forms. It is completely normal and should not be a cause for concern. Eventually the body will absorb the excess blood and the injured area heals. The capillaries also heal.

### Why do we bruise?

Bruises result from an injury to the area, usually on the arms or legs. The injury can result from bumping into something, falling, or an accident. While anyone can get a bruise, some people bruise more easily than others. Why is that? There are a few reasons. First, some people don't have skin tissue as tough as other people. Therefore the capillaries aren't as protected when an injury occurs. Second, there are certain diseases that exist which make people more susceptible to bruising. Third, some medications make bruising easier for people. Lastly, as people get older, their capillaries become more fragile. They tend to break and damage easier than when the person was younger therefore bruising easier.

### How long do bruises last?

Most bruises last about two weeks. You can tell how old a bruise is by its color. When a reddish color. This is when the capillary is first damaged or broken. Within a day or two the hemoglobin in the blood is broken down into smaller pieces. Sometimes it can even turn green or yellow.

## Why Do We Bruise?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is one detail that best supports your answer to question 5?

- Newer bruises are red.
- Bruises can turn green, yellow, and/or brown as the bruise heals.
- Bruises can last about two weeks.
- You can tell how old a bruise is by its color.

Use the following sentences from the passage to complete questions 7 and 8:

Capillaries are damaged or break, blood seeps out of the vessels. It pools under the surface of the skin because it has nowhere else to go. The word seeps means \_\_\_\_\_.

The word pools means \_\_\_\_\_.

write this in the reader's notebook.

## Close Reading Steps

1 Read the text

2 Annotate the text

3 Read the text again

4 Define unknown words

5 Read the text again

6 Respond to

# Ideas for Use



- Whole Group Instruction
- Partner Practice
- Guided Reading Groups
- Substitute Plans
- Send home to practice
- ELA Work Stations or Centers
- Assessment



## Why Does Mold Grow?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is mold? Choose the BEST answer.

- a. Organic matter that has died.
- b. A fungus that can be found anywhere oxygen and moisture are present.
- c. The process of breaking down dead matter.
- d. Something to be avoided.

2. What are the two most important things to be present in order for mold to grow?

- a. Moisture and oxygen
- b. Moisture and food

## Why Does Mold Grow?

It's lunchtime and you're hungry. You dig into the loaf of bread sitting on your counter and you see it. Green fuzz on the slice you pull out. Oh no! There's mold on your bread! Should you toss just the one piece, or the whole loaf? Then you think to yourself, what is mold and why does it grow?

### What is mold?

Mold is a fungus that can be found anywhere that moisture and oxygen are present. In the outdoors, mold is a part of nature. It helps break down organic matter that has died, such as leaves and trees. However, mold growing indoors can be considered a health hazard. Indoor mold should always be avoided and removed by a professional.

### Why does mold grow?

In order for mold to grow, moisture, food, oxygen, and a desirable temperature must be present. Anything that contains water or moisture will be susceptible to the growth of mold. There are many different types of molds. No matter what type of mold it is, they all need some sort of moisture to grow. Mold also needs food to grow. It will feed off of dead or dying matter. Mold grows best in cool, dark, damp conditions. The ideal temperature for mold to grow is between 55 and 70 degrees.

Mold spreads by producing microscopic spores that float through the air. Some of these spores settle easily and can be moved when they are disturbed. Other spores are sticky and adhere to surfaces making them more difficult to move. When these spores attach themselves to a damp surface, they begin to grow and feed off of what they are growing on. In time, mold will destroy whatever it is growing on.

### Mold and food

Mold can grow on food and be harmful. The spores embed themselves into bread, cheese, meat, and fruit. As the spores grow, you will start to see fuzzy spots on the surface of the food. However, since the spores have embedded themselves into the food, mold is growing inside as well, even if you just cut off the part with the visible mold, it is possible there are additional mold spores that you simply cannot see. If you see mold on your food, it is safest to throw it away. Most strains of mold are not harmful to humans.

## Why Does Mold Grow?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Read the following sentences from the passage:

As the spores grow, you will start to see fuzzy spots on the surface of the food. However, since the spores have embedded themselves into the food, mold is growing inside as well, even if you can't see it.

What is the best meaning for the word embedded?

- a. inserted
- b. Gone away
- c. covered
- d. Burned

Why did the author write this passage?

- a. To entertain the reader about someone's house
- b. To inform the reader about mold
- c. To persuade the reader to avoid mold
- d. All of the above

Read the following sentence from the passage:

Anything that contains water or moisture will be susceptible to the growth of mold.

What does the word susceptible mean?

Not able to be affected  
capable of being affected  
likely to be affected  
unlikely to be affected

### Annotate the Text

- 1 Number the paragraphs
- Underline important statements
- Circle unknown words
- ? Question? Confusing?
- ! Interesting!



## What are Scabs and Blisters?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a scab?

- Germes that can easily get into the body through an open wound.
- An open wound
- A layer formed above the wound to protect the damaged skin and tissue.
- Platelets in blood

2. What is a blister?

- Something you can only get on your hands.
- A human band-aid

## What are Scabs and Blisters?

Most people have scraped themselves at one time or another. Some scrapes are superficial, and barely scratch the surface of your skin. However, others are much deeper and will eventually scab over. Have you ever worn a new pair of shoes and gotten a painful blister? What are scabs? What are blisters? How do they form and how do they heal?

### What are scabs?

You fell and scraped your knee. If the scrape is deep enough, it will start bleeding. Now you have an open wound that can be exposed to dangerous germs. Eventually a scab will form. A scab forms to protect the damaged skin while it heals. Its job is to keep the good stuff in, like blood, and the bad stuff out, like germs. It's like our own personal, human band-aid! Scabs are usually a dark red or brown color. Due to their color, it may seem like a scab is just the dried out blood, but there's more! Platelets are special cells in our blood and their main purpose is to control bleeding. As soon as your scrape or cut yourself, platelets get to work to stop the bleeding by sticking together. They form a clot which also contains fibrin. Fibrin also helps to hold the clot together. While the scab, or human band-aid, is protecting the open wound, the damaged skin and tissue beneath can start to heal without the threat of germs. Once the skin and tissue have healed, the scab will naturally fall off.

### What are blisters?

A blister is a raised area of skin and is filled with fluid. They are caused by friction when your skin rubs against another surface. The most common places to get a blister are on your feet and feet. People usually get blisters on their feet from shoes. The shoes rub the skin and irritate the skin. This irritation can cause a blister. If you're working with tools, such as a hammer, to protect your hands, a blister can

## What are Scabs and Blisters?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Read the following sentence from the passage:

Some scrapes are superficial, and barely scratch the surface of your skin.

What is the meaning of superficial in this passage?

- damaging
- deep
- Not important
- Shallow

8. Why did the author write this passage?

- To entertain the reader with a story about a person who scraped their knee.
- To inform the reader about blisters and scabs.
- To persuade the reader to be careful when working with tools.
- All of the above

9. Read the following sentences from the passage:

You fell and scraped your knee. It was a deep scrape, and you have an open wound.

What does the phrase open wound mean?

- Platelets clotting blood.
- A cut nobody can see.
- A cut that is exposed.
- A scab is forming.

10. Which phrase or question best describes the purpose of the passage?

- band-aids
- Cleaning a cut
- Why do platelets clot blood?
- How does a scab form?

## Close Reading Steps

1 Read the text

2 Annotate the text

3 Read the text again

4 Define unknown words

5 Read the text again

6 Respond to reading

# Graphic Organizers



- Main Ideas with Text Evidence
- Central Ideas with Text Evidence
- Central Ideas with Details
- Main Idea, Details, Conclusion
- KWL: What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned
- Overview: Topic, Author's Purpose, Key Vocabulary, Most Important Thing, I Wonder, Important Facts, Illustration
- Context Clues (3 Versions: 3 words, 4 words, 5 words)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unknown Word

Context Clue

Word Meaning

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What I Know

What I Want to Know

What I Learned

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic

Author's Purpose

Key Vocabulary

Most Important Thing

I Wonder...

Important Facts

Illustration

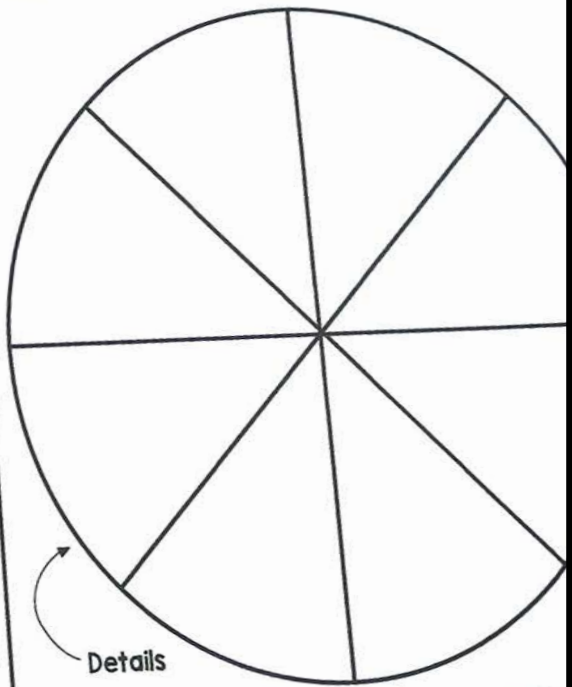
Graphic  
Organizers



Unknown Word	Context Clue

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Central Idea



Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Ideas

- 1
- 2
- 3

Text Evidence #1

Text Evidence #2

Text Evidence #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Idea

Detail

Detail

Detail

# Graphic Organizers

Purchase now to  
increase  
engagement  
while practicing  
reading skills!