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Introduction

The Need for Practice

To be successful in today’s reading classroom, students must deeply understand both concepts and procedures so that they can discuss and demonstrate their understanding. Demonstrating understanding is a process that must be continually practiced for students to be successful. According to Robert Marzano, “Practice has always been, and always will be, a necessary ingredient to learning procedural knowledge at a level at which students execute it independently” (2010, 83). Practice is especially important to help students apply reading comprehension strategies and word-study skills. *180 Days of Reading* offers teachers and parents a full page of reading comprehension and word recognition practice activities for each day of the school year.

How to Use This Resource

Unit Structure Overview

This resource is organized into 12 units. Each three-week unit is organized in a consistent format for ease of use.

Week 1: Nonfiction

Day 1	Students read nonfiction text and answer multiple-choice questions.
Day 2	Students read nonfiction text and answer multiple-choice questions.
Day 3	Students read nonfiction text and answer multiple-choice, short answer, and open response questions.
Day 4	Students read longer nonfiction text, answer multiple-choice questions, and complete graphic organizers.
Day 5	Students reread the text from Day 4 and answer reading response questions.

Week 2: Fiction

Day 1	Students read fiction text and answer multiple-choice questions.
Day 2	Students read fiction text and answer multiple-choice questions.
Day 3	Students read fiction text and answer multiple-choice, short answer, and constructed response questions.
Day 4	Students read longer fiction text, answer multiple-choice questions, and complete graphic organizers.
Day 5	Students reread the text from Day 4 and answer reading response questions.

Week 3: Nontraditional Text

Day 1	Students read nontraditional text and answer multiple-choice and open response questions.
Day 2	Students complete close reading activities with paired text from the unit.
Day 3	Students complete close reading activities with paired text from the unit.
Day 4	Students write responses to prompts that have them connect and reflect on different genres of texts from this unit.
Day 5	Students write their own versions of the nontraditional text from Day 1 of this week.

How to Use This Resource *(cont.)*

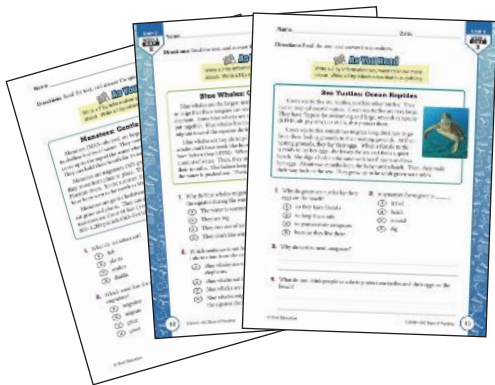
Unit Structure Overview *(cont.)*

Paired Texts

State standards have brought into focus the importance of preparing students for college and career success by expanding their critical-thinking and analytical skills. It is no longer enough for students to read and comprehend a single text on a topic. Rather, the integration of ideas across texts is crucial for a more comprehensive understanding of themes presented by authors.

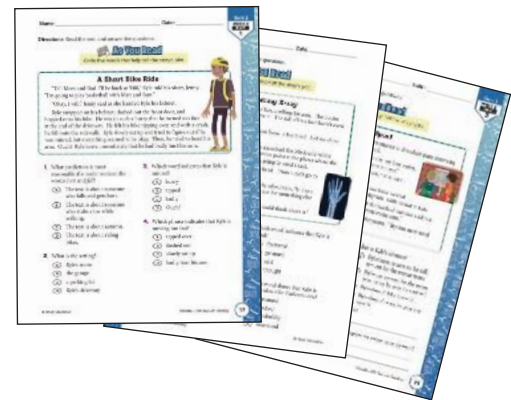
Literacy specialist Jennifer Soalt has written that paired texts are “uniquely suited to scaffolding and extending students’ comprehension” (2005, 680). She identifies three ways in which paired fiction and nonfiction are particularly effective in increasing comprehension: the building of background knowledge, the development of vocabulary, and the increase in student motivation (Soalt 2005).

Each three-week unit in *180 Days of Reading* is connected by a common theme or topic. Packets of each week’s or each unit’s practice pages can be prepared for students.

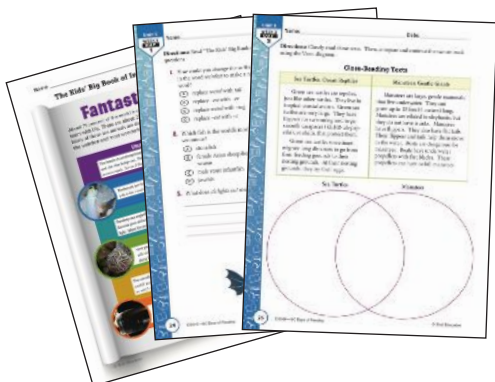


During Week 1, students read nonfictional texts and answer questions.

During Week 2, students read fictional texts and answer questions.



During Week 3, students read nontraditional texts (advertisements, poems, letters, etc.), answer questions, and complete close reading and writing activities.



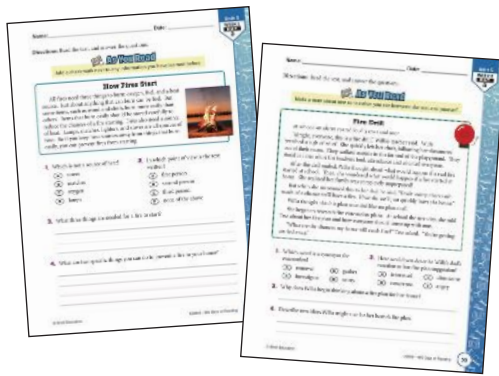
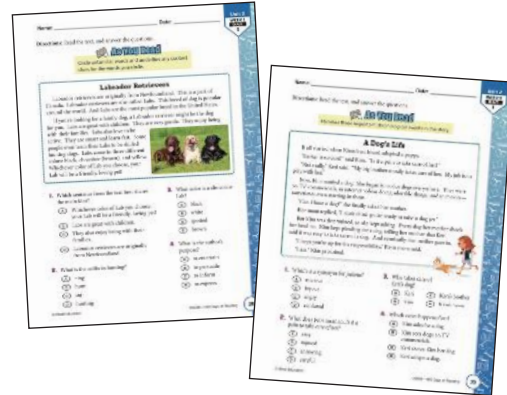
How to Use This Resource *(cont.)*

Student Practice Pages

Practice pages reinforce grade-level skills across a variety of reading concepts for each day of the school year. Each day's reading activity is provided as a full practice page, making them easy to prepare and implement as part of a morning routine, at the beginning of each reading lesson, or as homework.

Practice Pages for Weeks 1 and 2

Days 1 and 2 of each week follow a consistent format, with a short text passage and multiple-choice questions.



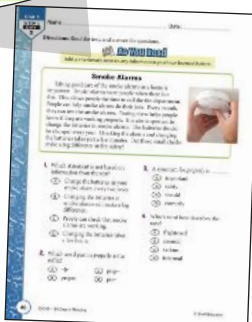
Days 3 and 4 have a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and open-response questions.



On day 5, students complete text-based writing prompts.

As You Read

Add a checkmark next to any information you have learned before.



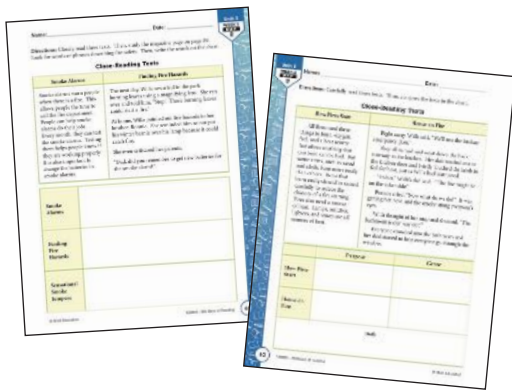
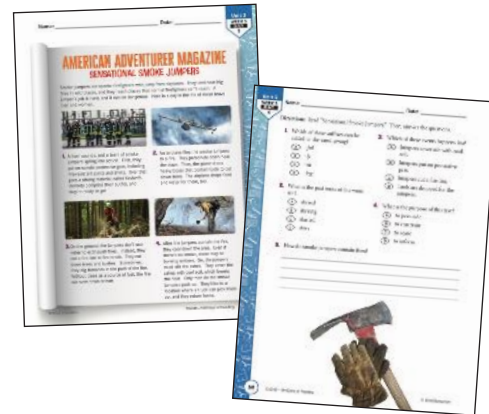
The As You Read activities give students a purpose for reading the texts and provide opportunities to practice various reading skills and strategies.

How to Use This Resource

Student Practice Pages (cont.)

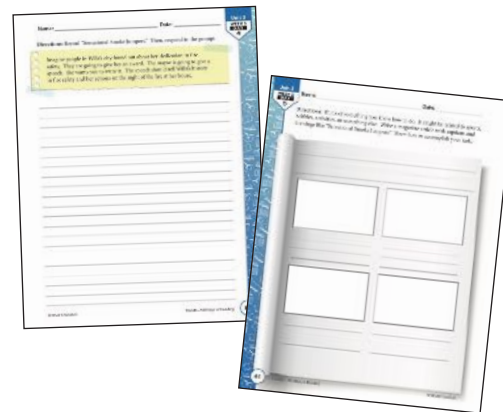
Practice Page For Weeks 3

Day 1 of this week follows a consistent format, with a nontraditional text and multiple-choice and constructed response questions.



On days 2 and 3, students engage in close reading activities of paired texts. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast different aspects of the texts they read in the entire unit.

On days 4 and 5, students think about the texts in the entire unit, respond to writing prompts, and construct their own versions of diverse texts. Students are encouraged to use information from texts throughout the unit to inspire and support their writing.



Instructional Options

180 Days of Reading is a flexible resource that can be used in various instructional settings for different purposes.

- Use these student pages as daily warm-up activities or as review.
- Work with students in small groups, allowing them to focus on specific skills. This setting also lends itself to partner and group discussions about the texts.
- Student pages in this resource can be completed independently during center times and as activities for early finishers.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the text, and answer the questions.

As You Read

Write a ? by information you want to know more about. Write a ! by information that is surprising.

Manatees: Gentle Giants

Manatees (MAN-uh-tees) are large mammals. They live in shallow bodies of water. They need to breathe air. They come up to the top of the water when they need more air. They can hold their breath for 15 minutes!

Manatees are migratory (MY-gruh-tor-ee). This means they move from place to place. They spend winters in Florida's rivers. In the summer, they move northwest. They have been seen as far north as Massachusetts!

Manatees are gentle herbivores (HUHR-buh-vorz). They eat grass and plants. They can grow to be very large. Adult manatees are about 10 feet (3 meters) long. They weigh 800–1,200 pounds (363–544 kilograms). That's about the size of a small bus!



- What do manatees eat?
 - fish
 - plants
 - snakes
 - sharks
- Which word has the same root as *migratory*?
 - migraine
 - migrate
 - grate
 - great
- Migratory animals are animals that _____.
 - move from one place to another
 - eat other animals
 - stay in one place all year long
 - eat grass and plants
- What type of text would have a similar tone?
 - a history book
 - a science-fiction novel
 - a science textbook
 - a travel magazine

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the text, and answer the questions.

As You Read

Write a ? by information you want to know more about. Write a ! by information that is surprising.

Blue Whales: Ocean Giants

Blue whales are the largest mammals on Earth. They are so large that their tongues can weigh nearly as much as a small elephant. Some blue whales are as long as three school buses put together. Blue whales live in every ocean on Earth, and they migrate toward the equator during the winter.



Blue whales eat tiny shrimp-like animals called krill. Blue whales don't have teeth like humans do. Instead, blue whales have baleen (bay-LEEN). When blue whales are hungry, they swallow a large amount of water. Then, they use their huge tongues to force the water out of their mouths. The baleen keeps the krill inside their mouths while the rest of the water is pushed out. Then, they can swallow their food.

- Why do blue whales migrate toward the equator during the winter?
 - The water is warmer there.
 - They are big.
 - They run out of krill.
 - They don't like winter.
- Which sentence is **not** based on information from the text?
 - Blue whales are smaller than elephants.
 - Blue whales eat krill.
 - Blue whales are mammals.
 - Blue whales migrate during the winter.
- What does the suffix *-est* in the word *largest* mean?
 - the most
 - the least
 - already happened
 - belonging to
- Which definition of *live* is used in this sentence from the text?
They live in every ocean on Earth...
 - current
 - inhabit
 - in person
 - stay

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the text, and answer the questions.

As You Read

Write a ? by information you want to know more about. Write a ! by information that is surprising.

Sea Turtles: Ocean Reptiles

Green sea turtles are reptiles, just like other turtles. They live in tropical coastal waters. Green sea turtles are very large. They have flippers for swimming and large, smooth carapaces (KEHR-uh-pay-sihs), or shells, that protect them.

Green sea turtles sometimes migrate long distances to go from their feeding grounds to their nesting grounds. At their nesting grounds, they lay their eggs. When a female turtle is ready to lay her eggs, she leaves the sea and finds a quiet beach. She digs a hole in the sand with her flippers and lays her eggs. About two months later, the baby turtles hatch. Then, they make their way back to the sea. They grow up to be adult green sea turtles.



- Where do green sea turtles lay their eggs?
 - underwater
 - in a hole in the sand
 - next to large rocks
 - in a coral reef
- A synonym for *migrate* is _____.
 - travel
 - hatch
 - coastal
 - dig

- Why do turtles need carapaces?

- What do you think people can do to protect sea turtles and their eggs on the beach?

Name: _____ Date: _____



As You Read

Write a ? by information you want to know more about.

Write a ! by information that is surprising.

A World Under the Water

Some animals know how to swim from the time they are born. This is because they live underwater, and they have to be able to swim to survive. Many different kinds of animals live underwater. They all face challenges from humans.

Manatees are large, gentle mammals that live underwater. They can grow up to 13 feet (4 meters) long. Manatees are related to elephants, but they do not have trunks. Manatees have flippers. They also have flat tails. Their flippers and tails help them move in the water. Boats are dangerous for manatees. Boats have underwater propellers with fast blades. These propellers can hurt or kill manatees.



Blue whales are the largest underwater mammals on Earth. An adult blue whale is about the size of a large airplane! Blue whales eat a kind of shrimp called krill. They use the baleen in their mouths to filter them out of the water. In the past, people used to hunt blue whales for their resources. Blue whales almost became extinct. People used whale oil for many uses, including cooking and lamp lighting. They used baleen because it was light but strong. It took time, but laws were made to protect blue whales. Now, most countries do not allow blue whale hunting.

Green sea turtles live underwater, too. But they are not mammals. Green sea turtles are reptiles. They live in warm coastal waters. Green sea turtles eat plants that grow underwater. Some green sea turtles come out of the water to warm up on dry land. Female green sea turtles also come out of the water to lay their eggs. When the babies are born, they make their way back to the sea. Later, those turtles have babies of their own. People kill green sea turtles for their meat and their eggs. Boats and fishing nets can also hurt green sea turtles.



Manatees, blue whales, and green sea turtles are just a few of the wonderful sea animals living underwater. They all face many dangers from humans. But they are able to overcome them and live peacefully underwater.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read “A World Under the Water.” Then, answer the questions.

1. The author most likely wrote the text to _____.
 - (A) tell about animals that live underwater
 - (B) get you to go swimming
 - (C) tell how to catch a manatee
 - (D) tell about ocean plant life
2. How are manatees and blue whales alike?
 - (A) They both eat krill.
 - (B) They are both the size of an airplane.
 - (C) They are both mammals.
 - (D) They are both related to elephants.
3. Which keywords are most important to the text?
 - (A) *gentle, flippers, and boats*
 - (B) *water, airplane, and coastal*
 - (C) *manatees, whales, and turtles*
 - (D) *elephants, oil, and mammals*
4. What is the main idea of the text?
 - (A) Manatees, blue whales, and green sea turtles are all sea animals that face dangers from humans.
 - (B) Blue whales were almost extinct, so laws were made to protect them.
 - (C) Green sea turtles live in warm coastal areas and lay eggs on the beach.
 - (D) Boat propellers can hurt or kill manatees.
5. Choose two animals from the passage. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them.

