

Name: _____

Date: _____

Comprehend What You Read

Getting a complete understanding of what you are reading is important, and by practicing reading comprehension techniques, not only will you improve your understanding of the content, but you will be better able to utilize the information you have learned because of the thinking processes involved in reading critically.

Before You Read:

- Look at the title of the piece of writing to get an idea about the subject matter
- Think about what you already know about the topic
- Think about your purpose for reading
- Skim the piece of writing to help you select appropriate reading strategies

While You Read:

- Focus your attention on the piece of writing
- Use context clues to help you understand unfamiliar words and terminology
- Pick out main ideas
- Think about how the details and facts provided relate back to the main ideas
- Distinguish between facts and opinions
- When appropriate, make observations about how both facts and opinions are used in the article to support an argument
- Ask yourself what inferences are being made in the piece of writing
- Pay attention to the tone of the piece of writing

After You Read:

- Reflect on what you have read
- Summarize what you learned from your reading
- Ask yourself what questions you have as a result of your reading
- Seek additional information about the topic and your questions from reliable/expert sources

In the space below, you will practice the reading comprehension strategies described above. As you work through each phase, record your answers in the space provided.

Before I Read:

1. Based on the title, I thought the piece of writing was about....
2. Some things I already know about this topic are....
3. My purpose for reading this article was....
4. After I skimmed the article, some strategies I decided to use when I read it were....

While I Read:

1. The unfamiliar words/terms I encountered are listed below along with what I think each word meant in the article.
2. The main idea(s) of the article are listed below.
3. Important details and facts I found to support these main ideas were....
4. Opinions that were used in the article included....
5. Ways that facts and opinions were used to support an idea or argument were....
6. Inferences made in the articles included....

7. The tone of this piece of writing suggested....

After I Read:

1. I had the following thoughts/reflections about the piece of writing....

2. I could summarize this piece of writing by saying....

3. The questions I had about this topic after reading this piece of writing were....

4. Some other sources I could use to learn more about the topic or my questions could include...

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You Teach

You have had the opportunity to practice using reading comprehension strategies to improve your ability to understand what you read and to organize the information that is being presented into useful chunks of information. With your partner or group, you will utilize these skills to teach your classmates about a topic that is of interest to you. Your job will be to utilize the comprehension skills you have practiced to learn about your topic and create a short class activity that can be used to teach others what you have learned. Your group will have 10 minutes to make the presentation.

Step 1: Select a topic. A good resource is NOW's Keyword Search or Topic Search link available at <http://www.pbs.org/now/index.html>. Using these resources, you can access an entire library of articles and program transcripts about a wide range of topics.

Step 2: Using the reading strategies you practiced on the **Comprehend What You Read** activity, work with your partner/group to read the article or transcript. Many of the articles and transcripts have a video component as well. Feel free to view the video with your group after you have read the article or transcript.

Step 3: Discuss the article or transcript with your partner/group and work together to write a summary of it on the back of this page. You will use this summary as the basis for your presentation.

Step 4: Work together to think of a question, activity, picture, example, or something you can share to interest your classmates in the topic you've chosen. Begin your "lesson" with this item.

Step 5: Using the summary you created, "teach" your classmates about what you learned in the article or transcript. Again, you may have them involved in a very short discussion or some sort of reading or hands-on activity.

Step 6: See how successful you were in teaching your classmates about your topic. Use a written response, a short quiz or an activity that requires your "students" to share what they learned from your presentation.

Step 7: With your partner/group members, write a short written response that addresses the following questions.

- How did focusing on reading comprehension make learning and teaching information about your topic easier?
- In what other way(s) do you think you could use the skills you practiced in this lesson (i.e. on the job, as the leader of a group or club, etc.)
- How do you plan to use your increased awareness of reading comprehension strategies to help you in your school and leisure reading? Give examples.