

**Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin  
Grade 6**

**Theme 1**

***How to Read a News Article***

*Media Link, p. 46*

1. Look first at the **headline** to find out what the article is about.
2. Then look for answers to these questions:  
**Who** is the article about?  
**What** happened?  
**Where** and **when** did the event occur?  
**Why** did it happen?
3. Look at the **photographs** and read the **captions** to help you picture the event.

***How to Read Primary Sources***

*Primary Sources Link, p. 68*

A primary source is a document or firsthand account from a period of history.

1. First read the **title** and **introduction**. Ask yourself:  
**What event** does this passage describe?  
**What special insights** might this source offer?  
**What can I learn** from this source?
2. Look for information that only a person who lived through the event could know about.
3. Pay special attention to **details**.

***How to Read a Social Studies Article***

*Social Studies Link, p. 90*

*Before you read...*

- **Scan** each page of the article. Read the title, subtitle, and headings.
- Note the **time** and **location** of the topic.
- **Ask** yourself what you already know about the topic. **Predict** what you will learn by turning each heading into a question.

*While you read...*

- Look for answers to your questions.
- Use **context clues** to help you understand unfamiliar words.
- Look for **sequence words** that show the order of events.

***How to Take Notes***

*Social Studies Link, p. 112*

*As you read...*

1. Look for the big ideas. Write headings that give the main ideas.
2. Under each heading, jot down supporting details. Keep your notes short.
3. Underline and define key terms in your notes.

**Theme 2**

***How to Outline an Article***

*Social Studies Link, p. 160*

1. First, write the title of the article.
2. On the next line, write the **main topic** of the first section. Label it Roman number I.

## Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin Grade 6

3. List the important facts of the first section as **subtopics**, starting with the letter A.
4. If you find a similar group of facts under a subtopic, group them together and write a **subheading** that describes them. There should be at least two details under a subheading.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each paragraph of the article. Renumber when you start a new main topic.

### ***How to Read a Poem***

*Poetry Link*, p. 184

*Here are some tips:*

1. The end of a line doesn't always mark the end of a sentence. Read on until you come to the end of a thought.
2. Poets often use figurative language to create vivid pictures. As you read, picture in your mind the comparisons the poet is making.
3. The first time you read a poem, enjoy its rhythm and sound. Then reread it and think about what the poet is saying.

### ***How to Categorize Information***

*Career Link*, p. 210

*As you read...*

1. **Take notes.** When you come to an item or idea, identify what **category** or group of similar items or ideas it goes with. Write **headings** for each category.
2. Divide a big category into two or more **narrower categories**. List details or facts that belong to that category.

*After you read...*

- **Review** your notes. **Remember** information by identifying the category to which it belongs.

## Theme 3

### ***How to Skim and Scan***

*Social Studies Link*, p. 268

*Skim to Identify Main Points*

1. **Preview** the title, the headings, and the introduction. Read the first and last paragraphs.
2. Read the first sentence in each remaining paragraph. **Note key words** within paragraphs.

*Scan to Find Information Quickly*

Look quickly over the article with a particular topic or key word in mind.

### ***How to Read an Interview***

*Before you read...*

1. **Read** the title and introduction.
2. **Identify** questions and answers.
3. **Skim** the questions first to get a sense of what topics the interview will cover.

*While you read...*

**Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin  
Grade 6**

1. **Ask** yourself, "What am I learning about the person being interviewed?"
2. **Reread** any answers you don't understand.

## Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin Grade 6

### ***How to Read a Persuasive Article***

*Health Link*, p. 316

*While you read...*

- **Identify** the author's opinions. **Look for** facts that support them.

*After you read...*

1. **Evaluate** the author's message. Ask yourself, "Which points do I agree with? Is there anything I don't agree with?"
2. **Think critically** about the article. Is the author's argument effective? Why or why not?

### ***How to Read a Science Article***

*Science Link*, p. 348

*Before you read...*

1. **Skim** each page. Look at headings, photos, and captions to get a sense of what it's about.
2. **Predict** what you will learn to help you set a purpose for reading.

*While you read...*

1. **Identify** the main ideas and supporting details.
2. **Look** for words that signal cause and effect or sequence.
3. When you don't understand something, ask yourself questions. Then **reread** to find the answers.

## Theme 4

### ***How to Adjust Your Rate of Reading***

*Science Link*, p. 380

*Before you read...*

**Identify** the **purpose** of your reading. For example, are you studying for a test? Are you reading for pleasure? Your purpose will determine your reading rate.

*As you read...*

- Keep in mind the purpose of your reading.
- Stop occasionally to **monitor** your understanding. Ask yourself **questions** about your reading. If you don't understand the material, slow down. If the material is easy to understand, speed up your rate.
- Remember that it often helps to read nonfiction more slowly than fiction.

### ***How to Read a Timeline***

*Technology Link*, p. 404

*Before you read...*

- Notice how the timeline is organized. Timelines are read from left to right or from top to bottom.
- Determine the total number of years covered.

*As you read...*

- When you read about an event in the main text, locate the event on the timeline.
- As the years labeled **B.C.** get larger in number, they go back in time. To figure out how many years passed between B.C. events, subtract the smaller number from the larger number.

## Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin Grade 6

- To figure out how many years passed between a B.C. event and an **A.D.** event, add the B.C. number to the A.D. number.

### **How to Read a Diagram**

*Social Studies Link, p. 426*

#### *Interpreting a Diagram*

- Identify whether the diagram shows a **cross-section**, a **cut-away view**, or a view from above.
- Read **labels** to identify different items or parts of the diagram. Ask yourself: Are the labels clear? What do they add to my understanding?
- Compare the diagram to the text. Ask yourself: What does the diagram add to the text? How is the diagram useful? Should more information be included?

## Theme 5

### **How to Read a Magazine Article**

*Music Link, p. 470*

#### *Before you read...*

1. **Identify** the magazine that the article comes from. Ask: Who is the **audience** for this magazine? How can knowing the audience prepare me for reading the article?
2. **Preview** the article. Notice headings, photos, and captions. If there is a **sidebar**, notice how it relates to the main article.

#### *As you read...*

1. Keep in mind **the main idea** of each section. Think about how the details **support** the main ideas.
2. Think about whether you agree with the main idea. Think of **questions** to ask about the article.

### **How to Skim and Scan**

*Social Studies Link, p. 492*

#### *Skim to Identify Main Points*

- Read the title and the headings. Read the first and last paragraph or section.
- Read the first sentence in each of the remaining paragraphs or sections.  
**Note key words.**

#### *Scan to Find Information Quickly*

Look quickly over the article with a particular topic or key word in mind. It may be helpful to run your index finger down the margins of the text as you look.

### **How to Look at Find Art**

*Art Link, p. 514*

Identify the title, the time period, and the name of the artist. Note whether the painting is **representational** or **abstract**. Ask yourself three questions:

- What **shades** and **tones** of **color** are used in the painting? What feelings do the colors convey?
- What **shapes** appear in the painting? What do I think of these shapes?
- How has the artist used **horizontal** and **diagonal lines**? Are there many lines, or only a few? Why?

**Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin  
Grade 6**

- What is the overall **composition** of the painting? How do the colors, shapes, and lines work together?

**Curriculum Links: Houghton Mifflin  
Grade 6**

**Theme 6**

***How to Read a Technology Article***

*Technology Link, p. 566*

*Before you read...*

- **Identify** the topic of the article. Ask yourself what you already know about the topic.
- **Preview** diagrams, illustrations, and photographs. Read the captions.

*As you read...*

- If you come to an unfamiliar **term**, **reread**, or **read ahead** to find its definition. Look at diagrams or illustrations that explain the term.
- If you come to an unfamiliar **abbreviation**, **scan** back to the first time it appears. The full name is usually given there.
- Try breaking a long, difficult sentence into parts. Ask yourself: what is the subject? What is the verb?

***How to Follow Directions***

*Science Link, p. 590*

1. **Read** through the directions to the end, noticing the **materials** needed and the **sequence** of steps. Preview **diagrams** that show the steps or finished product.
2. **Gather** the materials. **Reread** the steps and **follow** each step in sequence.
3. If you don't get the desired result, **reread** the directions. Check diagrams.

***How to Adjust Your Rate of Reading***

*Science Link, p. 612*

*Before you read...*

**Identify** the **purpose** of your reading. For example, are you studying for a test? Are you reading for pleasure? Your purpose will determine your reading rate.

*As you read...*

- Keep in mind the purpose of your reading.
- Stop occasionally to **monitor** your understanding. Ask yourself **questions** about your reading. If you don't understand the material, slow down. If the material is easy to understand, speed up your rate.
- Remember that it often helps to read nonfiction more slowly than fiction.

***How to Use the SQP3R Strategy***

*Career Link, p. 636*

Use the SQP3R Strategy to help you organize and remember facts in many nonfiction articles.

*As you read...*

- S – **Survey** the article by reading the title, looking at the pictures, and noting words that seem important.
- Q – Read the first heading and turn it into a **question**.
- P – **Predict** what the answer will be.
- R – **Read** the section that follows the heading to find the answer.
- R – **Recite** the answer from memory.
- R – **Review** each heading and recall the answer to each question.