

Teaching Notes

The goal of RL.4.3 is for students to explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based upon specific information in the text. This standard leads to great cross-subject activities. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. Closely examine a historical or scientific text about an event or idea that your class is already learning about. Explain how a close read of this text not only helps students' reading comprehension but also allows them to learn more about the subject.
2. Mix-Ups! After reading a historical passage, create a display for each individual event. Use strips of paper for group work or large poster board for class discussion. Mix up the order of events and have students return to the passage to determine the order in which the events occurred. Make sure students are able to prove their work by citing where in the passage each event occurs or by looking at dates throughout the passage. Mix-Ups also work with procedural passages in which one step must come before another in order for the procedure to be completed successfully.
3. Timelines allow students to organize information and see the relationship between events and ideas. Have students make a timeline for an important historical figure or scientific discovery. The following are two online timeline generators that will encourage the use of technology for this activity:

"Timeline": http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/

"Timeline Maker": http://www.softschools.com/teacher_resources/timeline_maker/

Writing Prompt

Show the students a set of instructions for building Ikea furniture, or a similar set of directions that do not contain words or written explanations. Have them write directions for each step, describing what should be done. Encourage them to use boldface or underlining during important steps.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.4.3:

"RI.4.3": This website from the New York State Education Department provides many units and lessons for teaching the skills in RI.4.3:

- <https://www.engageny.org/ccls-ela/ri43>

"Comprehension of Informational Texts": Although this video was created for parents, teachers can use it to learn more about how to help readers with informational texts. It can also be shared with parents:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kjpf_gbhH5w