

Teaching Notes

The goal of RI.4.7 is for students to interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively. Students should also be able to explain how the information contributes to an overall understanding of the text in which it appears. 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. Let the students choose a nonfiction book that interests them. Then, send them on a scavenger hunt to find the different text features in that book. Maybe the author uses timelines and graphs, or perhaps the author uses headings or a glossary and boldface words. A great lesson plan aligning with this activity can be found at this web page:
<http://betterlesson.com/lesson/483285/the-search-for-text-features>
2. Try to find a bland informational text without a lot of text features. Then, find one that has many text features to discuss. As a group, decide which one is more helpful to readers. Determine why, and talk about which text features students found more informative. A great example of this lesson can be found at this web page:
<http://www.theresourcefulroom.com/2012/09/text-features-help-us-find-information.html>

Writing Prompt

Encourage students to make their own timeline. Using a historical text on a unit currently being studied, have students draw their own timeline or use an online timeline generator (such as the one available at the link below). Then, have students write a paragraph about how the timeline reinforces ideas found in the text.

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

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.4.7:

Scholastic Resources: This website focuses on text features in the classroom and has some great tips and tricks showing how Scholastic materials can help reinforce knowledge of text features each day in the classroom:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top-teaching/2013/04/navigating-nonfiction-text-common-core-classroom-part-1>

Other Videos: This great website has links to other videos explaining text features and their use while reading nonfiction texts:

- <http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=5701>