



Reading Comprehension

These activities are designed to check for understanding and to deepen students' engagement with the text by focusing on background knowledge, vocabulary, syntax, and inferencing skills. The aim is to create a more holistic reading experience, ensuring students not only comprehend what they read but also connect it to broader contexts and linguistic structures.

1. Timeline Construction for Historical Context

Objective: To help students understand the sequence of events and the historical context within a story.

Activity: After reading a historical fiction book or a non-fiction text, students use building blocks to create a timeline of key events. Each block represents a significant event, with dates or periods written on them. This visual and hands-on activity aids in solidifying students' understanding of chronological order and historical context, enhancing their background knowledge related to the text.

2. Vocabulary Building: Ranking Adjectives

Objective: To expand vocabulary and understand the nuances of descriptive language.

Activity: Provide students with a list of adjectives from the text, ranging from simple to complex. Using the blocks, students rank the adjectives based on their intensity or order them categorically (e.g., emotions, sizes, colors). This exercise helps students grasp the subtleties of language and encourages them to use more descriptive words in their speaking and writing.

3. Constructing Knowledge Pyramids for Comprehension Check

Objective: To assess students' comprehension and help them summarize information.

Activity: After reading, students build knowledge pyramids using blocks, with each layer representing a different aspect of the text (e.g., bottom layer for setting, middle for main events, top for the climax or resolution). This structure helps students distill the essence of the story, ensuring they understand the plot and can identify key elements.

4. Building Cause and Effect Chains

Objective: To identify and understand the cause-and-effect relationships within the text.

Activity: Students use blocks to build cause-and-effect chains, linking actions and outcomes from the story. Each pair of blocks represents a cause and its corresponding effect, helping students visualize the connections and consequences of events within the text. This enhances their analytical skills and deepens their understanding of narrative structures.

5. Creating Character Profiles with Attribute Towers

Objective: To explore character development and infer traits from the text.

Activity: For each main character in the story, students build an attribute tower using blocks, where each block represents a character trait, action, or motivation inferred from the reading. This activity encourages deeper engagement with the characters, promoting inferential thinking as students deduce traits from actions and descriptions within the text.

6. Phonemic Awareness Puzzles

Objective: To develop phonemic awareness through the manipulation of sounds in words.

Activity: Pupils use blocks to create simple puzzles that represent the phonemic breakdown of words from the text. Each block represents a different sound (phoneme) in a word. Pupils then practice assembling the sounds to form words, enhancing their decoding skills and phonemic awareness.

7. Syntax Sorting for Sentence Structure

Objective: To understand sentence structure and syntax through hands-on manipulation.

Activity: After reading a passage, pupils use blocks to sort sentences or parts of sentences according to their structure (e.g., simple, compound, complex). Each block can represent a clause or a conjunction, helping pupils visualize and comprehend how different parts of sentences fit together.

8. Background Knowledge Building Blocks

Objective: To connect pupils' prior knowledge with new information from the text.

Activity: Before reading, pupils use blocks to construct a structure that represents what they already know about a topic. After reading, they add to this structure with new blocks that represent new information learned from the text. This activity bridges the gap between prior knowledge and new content, enhancing comprehension and retention.

9. Inference Towers

Objective: To foster inferential thinking by building logical connections not explicitly stated in the text.

Activity: Pupils read a story or passage and then use blocks to build an "inference tower." Each level of the tower represents an inference made based on details in the text. This encourages pupils to read between the lines and develop a deeper understanding of the text beyond its literal meaning.

10. Theme Bridges

Objective: To identify and connect themes within a story or across multiple texts.

Activity: Pupils use blocks to construct bridges, where each bridge represents a theme or central idea in the text. The length and design of each bridge can vary based on the complexity and depth of the theme. This visual representation helps pupils see how themes connect different parts of a story or relate multiple stories, fostering a deeper understanding of literary elements.

These activities leverage the tactile and visual aspects of structural learning blocks to enrich reading comprehension, making the process interactive and engaging for primary school students. By integrating Scarborough's Reading Rope model, these ideas aim to strengthen not just decoding and language comprehension strands, but also students' overall reading proficiency.