

Science and Social Studies

Science and Social Studies Lessons in Reading Mastery Plus Levels III through VI

Science and social studies form an integral part of the Reading Mastery Plus III through VI programs. Students in these levels of Reading Mastery Plus learn key science and social studies concepts by reading realistic fiction, by applying science and social studies concepts in their written work, and by completing a variety of special projects.

Most of the science and social studies concepts presented in the programs are first presented in expository articles and then integrated into the stories. For example, the story "The Prince and the Pauper," which is presented in Reading Mastery Plus V, takes place in England in the early 1500s. Before reading the story, the students read a factual article about England during the 16th Century and a biography about Samuel Clemmens. Many of the facts presented in the expository article reappear in the story and are used by the students to answer inferential comprehension questions.

The daily written work includes many activities that relate to the science and social studies concepts found in the program. Students write answers to questions that require them to apply the concepts they have learned. They also complete vocabulary exercises that incorporate science and social studies terms. Finally, they work skill exercises that involve science and social studies concepts.

Special projects give students another opportunity to apply what they have learned. For example, after reading about the solar system, the students are asked to make a scale model of the solar system. To help them complete the model, they are directed to outside resource materials to find additional information. Other special projects include making large wall charts, drawing maps, and constructing specific objects.

Reading Mastery Plus provides a careful sequence by which specific facts are introduced, reviewed, and applied. The cycle not only ensures that students have sufficient background information to comprehend what they read, it guarantees that students learn that background knowledge serves as a basis for drawing inferences. The cycle demonstrates through reading activities that students are expected to learn new information, retain that information, and then use the information in a variety of contexts.

The following lists show the specific science and social studies facts taught and tested in Reading Mastery Plus III through VI. Each one of the listed facts has been presented in an expository passage or realistic story and then tested through the written work. Each fact has been incorporated into larger concepts about the world and into higher order thinking and reasoning skills.

The lists are organized by subject area. The science subjects include animals, astronomy, common objects, medicine, physical geography, and plants. The social studies subjects include anthropology, biography, economics, history, and law. The lists may be used by teachers to further develop units and activities to supplement the Reading Mastery Plus program.

The number following each list item indicates the lesson in which the fact was originally presented.

Only by teaching the Reading Mastery Plus program can one fully appreciate how much content is actually taught and how richly key concepts are developed. The attention to details in Reading Mastery Plus's design makes the program unique. With Reading Mastery Plus it is possible to teach students of all abilities the valuable skills of learning to read and reading to learn.