

SMART™ Lesson

Summarizing Nonfiction Texts

Nonfiction texts are texts that describe real people, places, and events. Sometimes, we read nonfiction texts to learn about new things or to better understand things we already know about. Summarizing a nonfiction text means taking the important information from the text and putting it into your own words.

Identifying the Main Idea

The main idea is the most important information in a nonfiction text. You can find the main idea by asking yourself, "What is this text mostly about?" Once you have identified the main idea, you can begin to summarize the text.

Summarizing the Text

To summarize a nonfiction text, you should:

- Identify the main idea.
- Look for the key details that support the main idea.
- Put the important information into your own words.

When summarizing, it is important to remember that you don't need to include every detail from the text. You only need to include the information that is most important.

Practice

Read the following nonfiction text and answer the questions below:

Plants need sunlight, water, and nutrients from the soil to grow. Photosynthesis is the process by which a plant uses sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into glucose, which it uses for energy. Different plants require different amounts of sunlight, water, and nutrients. Desert plants, for example, need less water than plants that grow in rainforests. Farmers use fertilizers to add nutrients to the soil and help crops grow.

1. What is the main idea of this text?
2. What is photosynthesis?
3. Why do different plants require different amounts of sunlight, water, and nutrients?
4. What is fertilizer and how do farmers use it?