

SMART™ Lesson

Reading Nonfiction: Making Connections

Reading nonfiction can be very different from reading fiction. While fiction requires you to enter and imagine a world created entirely by the author, nonfiction requires you to connect what you're reading with things you already know or have experienced.

Making Connections

Making connections refers to finding ways to relate what you're reading to your prior knowledge and experiences. You can make connections in three ways:

- Text-to-self: connecting what you're reading to your own life experiences.
- Text-to-text: connecting what you're reading to books or articles you've read before.
- Text-to-world: connecting what you're reading to events or things happening in the world around you.

Why is making connections important in reading nonfiction? For one, it helps you to better understand the material you're reading. It also can help to make the reading more interesting and meaningful.

Practice Questions

1. What is the difference between reading nonfiction and reading fiction?
2. What does "making connections" mean in reading nonfiction?
3. List the three ways you can make connections in reading.
4. Why is making connections important in reading nonfiction?