

# SMART™ Lesson

## Summarizing Nonfiction Texts

### Introduction

Nonfiction texts are an important source of information, covering a wide range of topics from science and history to current events and politics. However, due to their length and complexity, it can often be challenging to understand the key ideas presented in these texts. That's where summarizing comes in!

### What is summarizing?

Summarizing is the process of condensing a large amount of information into a shorter text that includes only the most important details. Effective summaries communicate the main ideas and supporting details in a concise and understandable way.

### Why is summarizing important?

There are several reasons why summarizing is an important skill:

- Helps you understand the key ideas of a text
- Allows you to remember information better
- Makes it easier to study for exams
- Enables you to communicate the main points of a text to others

### How to summarize nonfiction texts

Follow these steps to summarize nonfiction texts:

1. Read the entire text to understand the main idea and supporting details.
2. Identify the most important information, including the main idea and supporting details.
3. Condense the information by focusing on the essential points, while leaving out any unnecessary details.
4. Write a summary that includes the main idea and key details. Use your own words, but make sure to accurately represent the information in the original text.
5. Check your summary for accuracy and ensure that it effectively communicates the main ideas of the original text.

### Practice Questions

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

*The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system and one of the most important natural wonders on the planet. The reef extends for over 2,300 kilometers along the coast of Australia and is home to an incredibly diverse range of marine life, including over 1,500 species of fish and 600 types of coral. However, the reef is under threat from climate change, pollution, and overfishing.*

1. What is the Great Barrier Reef?
2. What are some threats to the reef?
3. How long is the reef?
4. What types of marine life can be found in the reef?

Write a summary of the passage in your own words.

## Conclusion

Summarizing is an essential skill that can help you better understand nonfiction texts and communicate their key ideas to others. By following these steps and practicing with different texts, you can improve your ability to summarize effectively and efficiently.

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