

NON-FICTION ARTICLES

PDF & DIGITAL FORMATS

Bundle

- ✓ 10 Articles
- ✓ 14 Graphic Organizers
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ 2 Article Levels
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities



MIDDLE SCHOOL SET 3



2 Peas and a Dog

Middle School Teaching Resources

RESOURCE INCLUDES

- ✓ 10 High-Interest Articles
- ✓ Regular & Modified Articles
- ✓ Comprehension Questions
- ✓ 12 Graphic Organizers
- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities
- ✓ Assessment Options
- ✓ Answer Keys
- ✓ Print & Digital Formats

ARTICLE TOPICS

1. North American Amusement Parks
2. Crime Scene Investigations
3. Drones
4. eSports
5. Life In Space
6. Natural Disasters
7. Popular Desserts Around The World
8. Smartphone Addiction
9. The Homework Debate
10. The Mystery of Big Foot
11. Japan's Cat Islands

WHAT'S INSIDE?



LESSON PLAN

Amusement Parks

Teacher Instructions:

1. Have students complete columns 1 and 2 of the K-W-L chart.
2. Show this video: [Galaxyland Review West Edmonton Mall – Canada Amusement Park](#)
3. Have students read the article independently or follow along using the audio file.
4. After, have students independently complete the comprehension questions. Upon completion, collect the comprehension questions to grade.
5. Give students time to complete the long answer thinking question. Two options have been provided to assist with differentiation. Once complete, collect to assess.
6. Collect the articles and then have students complete the multiple choice questions about the article in Google Forms format.
7. Have students work with the teacher to complete the K-W-L column.

ESL/IEP Accommodations:

- Depending on the needs of your students, you can read the article out-loud yourself, or have them follow along using the audio file included. Then have them work on the post-reading activities independently or in pairs.
- The Google Translate iPad app allows for real-time translation. Just hold the iPad over the text for it to translate on the screen.
- A modified version of this article has been provided to help students who are reading below grade level.

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LESSON PLAN

Crime Scene Investigation

Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article, regular or modified version (audio file also included)

Video

- Video #1: [How is DNA fingerprinting used to identify a criminal? KS3 animation from Activate 3 Kerboodle](#)
- Video #2: [Crime Scene Evidence – National Geographic](#)

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LESSON PLAN

eSports

Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article, regular or modified version (audio file also included)
- Grammar questions (also available as a self-marking Google Forms Quiz)

Video

- Video #1: [Esports: How to Make Money in Esports](#)
- Video #2: [How Esports Scholarships Offer Gamers A New Path To College – NBC News](#)

Warning: Both videos show guns and shooting in a video game context. Preview these videos before showing them to your class.

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LESSON PLANS

WHAT'S INSIDE?



LIFE IN SPACE

Living in Space
Astronauts living at the International Space Station have to do all of the regular daily things they would do on Earth. They eat several times a day, use the washroom, sleep, and exercise to stay healthy.

Of course, they are also living in microgravity (seems weightless almost no gravity) so these tasks aren't as simple as they would be on Earth.

The International Space Station
The International Space Station (ISS), is a spacecraft that orbits Earth. It is a collaboration between several international space agencies and astronauts from many different parts of the world live in it.

There is enough room for 16 people, plus visitors, and the station can conduct scientific research in space. Astronauts usually live on the ISS for about six months at a time.

Eating in Space
It's not as easy to go and grab food for a meal when you live on the ISS. Due to microgravity, food has to be specially designed so that crumbs and liquids are not a problem.

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NATURAL DISASTERS

What are Natural Disasters?
Natural disasters can be caused by many natural events such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, blizzards. These severe natural events are outside the control of people.

A natural disaster can damage property or cause severe injury, sometimes even death. It can also have a severe economic impact, costing billions of dollars.

Cyclones, are giant storms that occur during the summer and fall months. At this time, the sun heats a large area of the Atlantic Ocean, creating warm and moist air. Lower and upper winds will then converge and form a circular pattern of clouds called a tropical depression.

Given the right conditions, a tropical depression can increase in strength and then become a tropical storm. If it reaches 74 miles per hour (km/hr), it is categorized as a hurricane.

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POPULAR DESSERTS

Dessert - The Best Part of Dinner
You quickly shovel dinner into your mouth because you want to get to the best part of the meal - dessert!

Have you ever wondered from where your favourite dessert originated? Technology and transportation methods have improved greatly over the last century making it easier to share recipes around the world.



S'mores are a popular treat.

North America
These popular North American desserts can be found in many homes, restaurants and grocery stores.

S'mores are a delicious dessert that is traditionally made over a campfire using graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows. First the marshmallows are melted over the campfire, and then placed between the two graham crackers and the chocolate.

The crackers are then pressed together to further melt the marshmallows and chocolate. There are a lot of different versions of this traditional recipe that can be found with a quick online recipe search.

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Apple Pie
Apple Pie is a famous Canadian dessert that got its name from the province of Ontario in British Columbia.

The pie is a three-layer dessert with a crumb crust, flavoured icing, and a chocolate topping. Many variations of this original recipe have developed over the years - that include coconut, nuts, and mint flavourings.

Hopefully, the apple pie you have eaten was created using ingredients such as fresh apples, homemade pie crust, and a gourmet ice cream topping. This dessert is best served directly out of the oven topped with vanilla ice cream or fresh whipped cream.

South America
Many people travel to South America to see the beautiful architecture and natural beauty of the regions, but the food is also on many peoples' vacation bucket lists.

ARTICLE QUESTIONS

/10

Name: _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What was the only thing that was invented decades ago?
2. Explain other ways that technology has changed the invention of the telephone.
3. Describe the first invention of the telephone.
4. What is the second most popular dessert in the world?
5. Why do you think people spend too much time using their phones?
6. What are some of the most popular desserts in North America?
7. What are some of the most popular desserts in South America?
8. Who can you ask for more information about your addiction?

THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

In your opinion, which of the arguments in support of homework is the strongest? Explain your thinking.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

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WHAT'S INSIDE?



SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. Where are all of the amusement parks in this article located?
In this article we take a quick tour of amusement parks in Canada and the United States.

2. Explain why people enjoy visiting amusement parks.
Answers need to contain:

- People love visiting amusement parks because of the delicious food.
- A day spent outside of schoolwork and other responsibilities.
- Amusement parks offer a fun and exciting experience.
- Visiting amusement parks is a great way to spend time with family and friends.
- Amusement parks are a great way to escape the stress of everyday life.

3. Where is Galaxyland located?
Galaxyland is located in the town of Aurora, Ontario, Canada.

4. Describe the Leviathan roller coaster.
It is 306 feet tall and has 10 inversions.

5. What is the name of the roller coaster at Cedar Point?
Cedar Point has 18 roller coasters, including The Incredible Hulk Coaster.

6. What is the name and location of the largest amusement park in Ontario, Canada?
With about 100 unique rides, Six Flags Great Escape & Escape is the biggest amusement park in Ontario, Canada.

7. Where would people visit to experience the world's longest roller coaster?
If you want to experience the world's longest roller coaster, visit the Six Flags Great Escape & Escape in Jefferson, New Hampshire.

8. Which amusement park is known for its 'Wizarding World of Harry Potter' area?
The Wizarding World of Harry Potter is located at Universal's Islands of Adventure in San Diego, California.

ANSWERS

Instructions: Answer the following questions on this paper.

1. What is forensics?
 - A. A piece of trace evidence
 - B. A character created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 - C. A type of fingerprinting system
 - D. **A branch of science that deals with crime investigation**
2. How are microscopes used in forensic science?
 - A. To solve codes
 - B. To secure a scene
 - C. **To examine evidence**
 - D. To take pictures

ANSWER KEYS

4. Which sentence has the correct spelling and punctuation?
 - A. **Sherlock Holmes is a fictional private detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887.**
 - B. sherlock holmes is a fictional private detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887
 - C. Sherlock Homes is a fictional private detective created by british author Sir Arthur conan Doyle in 1887.
 - D. Sherlock Holmes is a fitional Private Detective created by British Author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887!

REGULAR ARTICLE

MODIFIED ARTICLE

LIFE IN SPACE

Astronauts can request special foods for their stay on the ISS, either favourite foods or foods from their culture. For example, when Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield stayed on the ISS, he received maple syrup cookies and candied wild smoked salmon.



Many astronauts choose to use edible toothpaste while in space.

The toilet in space looks similar to toilets on Earth, however, when using it astronauts must strap themselves to it and use a device that sucks away urine. For solid waste, there is a special bag in the toilet and a vacuum that mimics gravity. The bag is then sealed and disposed of in a waste compartment.

Saving Water
With water so limited in space, astronauts can adapt some daily hygiene practices so they are using no water. For example, using electric razors in space allows for shaving and hair cutting while using no water. To collect the hair, astronauts use a tool that has a vacuum at the end.

LIFE IN SPACE

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Many astronauts choose to use edible toothpaste while in space.

Space Sleeping
The ISS is not a quiet place, so many astronauts wear earplugs and a sleep mask when they sleep.

The Bathroom
The toilet in space looks similar to toilets on Earth, but when using it astronauts must strap themselves to it and use a tool that sucks away the waste.

Saving Water
With water so limited in space, many astronauts choose to use an edible toothpaste to reduce their water use.

There is no laundry washing on the ISS. It would take too much water. Instead, astronauts wear their clothes until they are dirty and then throw them out.

Exercise
Exercise is an important part of daily life, and in space it is really important. Being in space causes the body of an astronaut to age prematurely.

To keep themselves healthy, astronauts need to exercise about 2 hours every day. They have a gym that includes a treadmill and stationary bike.

Space Life
There's no doubt living in space is very different from living on Earth. However, thanks to some creative thinking, those living in space can continue to do the things they do at home, just with some special space changes.

Word Bank

- Microgravity - having almost no gravity; weightlessness
- International - involving more than one country
- Rehydrated - fluid/liquid added back into an item
- Edible - safe to be eaten or swallowed
- Prematurely - happening too soon; happening earlier than normal

REGULAR & MODIFIED ARTICLES

TEACHER FEEDBACK

“I cannot say enough positive things about Two Peas and a Dog products. They are engaging, thought provoking resources that are totally ready to go. They are well researched, written at just the right level for 7 and 8 students. This was six weeks of additional reading for ELA students.” – collin A.



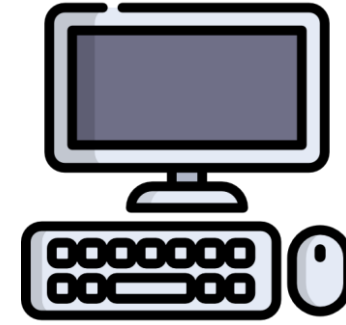
“Love this resource! I’ve used the other bundles and will continue to use. Great for reading comprehension and prep for EQAO!”
– HappyJuniorTeacher.

LESSON FORMATS



PDF

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



DIGITAL

✓ Google Slides

RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE