

Grade 8 First Nine Weeks

Acquisition of Vocabulary
A1. Define unknown words through context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect.
C2. Apply knowledge of connotation and denotation to determine the meaning of words.

Reading Processes: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies
A.1 Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.
B.2 Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.
C.3 Monitor own comprehension by adjusting speed to fit the purpose, or by skimming, scanning, reading on, looking back, note taking or summarizing what has been read so far in text.
C.4 Use criteria to choose independent reading materials (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres or recommendations from others).
C.5 Independently read books for various purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, for literary experience, to gain information or to perform a task).

Reading Applications: Informational, Technical and Persuasive Text
A1. Compare and contrast text features, including format and headers of various informational texts in terms of their structure and purpose.
A2. Identify and use the organizational structure of a text, such as chronological, compare-contrast, cause-effect, problem-solution, and evaluate its effectiveness.
A5. Assess the adequacy, accuracy and appropriateness of an author's details, identifying persuasive techniques (e.g., bandwagon, testimonial and emotional word repetition) and examples of bias and stereotyping.
A6. Identify the author's purpose and intended audience for the text.
A7. Analyze an author's argument, perspective or viewpoint and explain the development of key points.
A9. Distinguish the characteristics of consumer materials (e.g., warranties, product information, instructional materials), functional or workplace documents (e.g., job-related materials, memoranda, instructions) and public documents (e.g., speeches or newspaper editorials).

Reading Applications: Literary Text
A.1 Identify and explain various types of characters (e.g., flat, round, dynamic, static) and how their interactions and conflicts affect the plot.
B.2 Analyze the influence of setting in relation to other literary elements.
F.7 Identify examples of foreshadowing and flashback in a literary text.

Writing Processes
A.1 Generate writing ideas through discussions with others and from printed material, and keep a list of writing ideas.
A.3 Establish a thesis statement for informational writing or a plan for narrative writing.
A.4 Determine a purpose and audience and plan strategies (e.g., adapting focus, content structure and point of view) to address purpose and audience.
B.5 Use organizational strategies (e.g., notes and outlines) to plan writing.
C.6 Organize writing with an effective and engaging introduction, body and a conclusion that summarizes, extends or elaborates on points or ideas in the writing.
C.8 Group related ideas into paragraphs, including topic sentences following paragraph form, and maintain a consistent focus reinforced by parallel structures across paragraphs.
C.9 Use precise language, action verbs, sensory details, colorful modifiers and style as appropriate to audience and purpose.
C.11 Reread and analyze clarity of writing and consistency of point of view.
C.13 Rearrange words, sentences and paragraphs, and add transitional words and phrases to clarify meaning.
C.14 Use resources and reference materials (e.g., dictionaries and thesauruses) to select more effective vocabulary.
D.15 Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization) and identify and correct fragments and run-ons.
E. 16 Apply tools (e.g., rubric, checklist and feedback) to judge the quality of writing.

Writing Applications
B.2 Write responses to literature that organize an insightful interpretation around several clear ideas, premises or images and support judgments with specific references to the original text, to other texts, authors and to prior knowledge.

Writing Conventions
A.1 Use correct spelling conventions.
B.2 Use correct punctuation and capitalization.
C.3 Use all eight parts of speech (e.g., noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection).
C.6 Use proper placement of modifiers.
C.7 Maintain the use of appropriate verb tenses.
C.8 Conjugate regular and irregular verbs in all tenses correctly.

Communications: Oral and Visual
A.1 Apply active listening strategies (e.g., monitoring message for clarity, selecting and organizing essential information, noting cues such as changes in pace).

Number, Number Sense and Operations
B, I2. Recognize that natural numbers, whole numbers, integers, rational numbers and irrational numbers are subsets of the real number system.
B, I3. Apply order of operations to simplify expressions and perform computations involving integer exponents and radicals.
C4. Explain and use the inverse and identity properties and use inverse relationships (addition/subtraction, multiplication/division, squaring/square roots) in problem solving situations.
F5. Determine when an estimate is sufficient and when an exact answer is needed in problem situations, and evaluate estimates in relation to actual answers; e.g., very close, less than, greater than.
G6. Estimate, compute and solve problems involving rational numbers, including ratio, proportion and percent, and judge the reasonableness of solutions.
H7. Find the square root of perfect squares, and approximate the square root of non-perfect squares as consecutive integers between which the root lies; e.g., $\sqrt{13}$ is between 11 and 12.

Patterns, Functions and Algebra
C1. Relate the various representations of a relationship; i.e., relate a table to graph, description and symbolic form.
A2. Generalize patterns and sequences by describing how to find the n th term.

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Earth and Space Sciences
A1. Describe how objects in the solar system are in regular and predictable motions that explain such phenomena as days, years, seasons, eclipses, tides and moon cycles.
A2. Explain that gravitational force is the dominant force determining motions in the solar system and in particular keeps the planets in orbit around the sun.
A3. Compare the orbits and composition of comets and asteroids with that of Earth.
A4. Describe the effect that asteroids or meteoroids have when moving through space and sometimes entering planetary atmospheres (e.g., meteor-"shooting star" and meteorite).
B5. Explain that the universe consists of billions of galaxies that are classified by shape.
B6. Explain interstellar distances are measured in light years (e.g., the nearest star beyond the sun is 4.3 light years away).
B7. Examine the life cycle of a star and predict the next likely stage of a star.
B8. Name and describe tools used to study the universe (e.g., telescopes, probes, satellites and spacecraft).

Science and Technology
A2. Examine how choices regarding the use of technology are influenced by constraints caused by various unavoidable factors (e.g., geographic location, limited resources, social, political and economic considerations).

Scientific Inquiry
A1. Choose the appropriate tools or instruments and use relevant safety procedures to complete scientific investigations.
A2. Describe the concepts of sample size and control and explain how these affect scientific investigations.
B3. Read, construct and interpret data in various forms produced by self and others in both written and oral form (e.g., tables, charts, maps, graphs, diagrams and symbols).
B4. Apply appropriate math skills to interpret quantitative data (e.g., mean, median and mode).

Scientific Ways of Knowing
A1. Identify the difference between description (e.g., observation and summary) and explanation (e.g., inference, prediction, significance and importance).

History
A1. Select events and construct a multiple-tier time line to show relationships among events.
D2. Describe the political, religious and economic aspects of North American colonization including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reasons for colonization, including religion, desire for land and economic opportunity; b. Key differences among the Spanish, French and British colonies; c. Interactions between American Indians and European settlers, including the agricultural and cultural exchanges, alliances and conflicts; d. Indentured servitude and the introduction and institutionalization of slavery; e. Early representative governments and democratic practices that emerged, including town meetings and colonial assemblies; f. Conflicts among colonial powers for control of North America.
E3. Identify and explain the sources of conflict which led to the American Revolution, with emphasis on the perspectives of the Patriots, Loyalists, neutral colonists and the British concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, the Tea Act and the Intolerable Acts; b. The Boston Tea Party, the boycotts, the Sons of Liberty and petitions and appeals to Parliament.

Geography
B1. Compare places and regions in the United States as they existed prior to 1877 with the same places and regions today to analyze changes in land use and population, political, social and economic characteristics.
C2. Analyze how physical characteristics of the environment influenced population distribution, settlement patterns and economic activities in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries.

People in Societies
B1. Trace the development of religious diversity in the colonies, and analyze how the concept of religious freedom has evolved in the United States.
B2. Describe and explain the social, economic and political effects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stereotyping and prejudice; b. Racism and discrimination; c. Institutionalized racism and institutionalized discrimination.
B3. Analyze how contact between white settlers and American Indians resulted in treaties, land acquisition and Indian removal.
B4. Analyze the economic, geographic, religious and political factors that contributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The enslavement of Africans in North America; b. Resistance to slavery.

Economics
B2. Discuss how mercantilism and the establishment of colonies led to increased global trading during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Social Studies Skills and Methods
A1. Compare accuracy and point of view of fiction and nonfiction sources about a particular era or event.
C2. Construct a historical narrative using primary and secondary sources.
C3. Write a position paper or give an oral presentation that includes citation of sources.
D4. Organize and lead a discussion.
D5. Identify ways to manage conflict within a group.