

Grade 6 English Language Arts  
Week of November 23 – November 27

**Lesson 1: Read About Social Responsibility**

Social responsibility involves many things. This unit is going to zoom in on the following question:

**How can we contribute to community and care for the environment?**

But you are just a kid? Kids (and everyone) can make a huge difference. While learning about and exploring non-fiction text, you will be inspired by ways in which people have shown social responsibility through their actions and ideas.



But, first, let's get inspired by "Kid President" - just please don't click on the links in the video: <https://youtu.be/4z7gDsSKUmU>

**Now complete the following Social Responsibility activity**

Answer the questions in complete sentences. As always, after you've written your response, check it over to make sure it makes sense and is in complete sentences with your best capitals, usage (grammar), punctuation, and spelling.

1. What ways can you think of that you could (or already do) contribute to the community? (You will have more ideas about this by the end of the unit, but see if you can come up with a couple of ideas now.)

2. How can young people help to care for the environment?

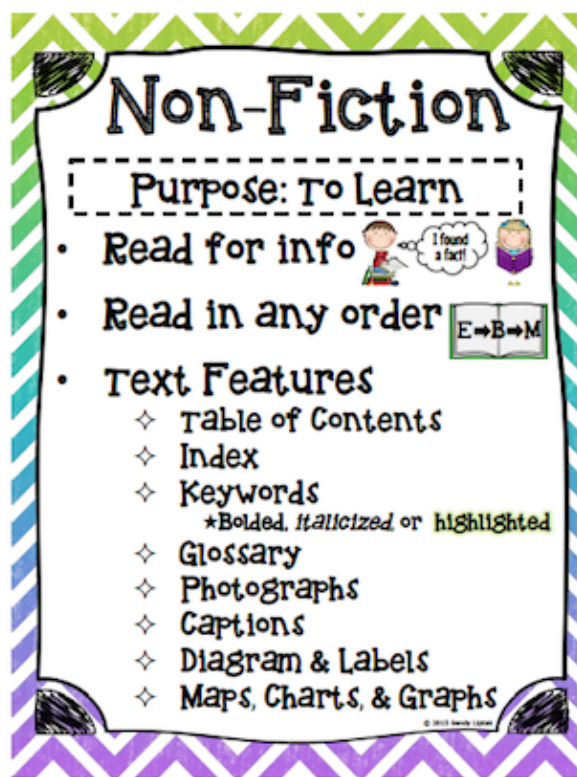
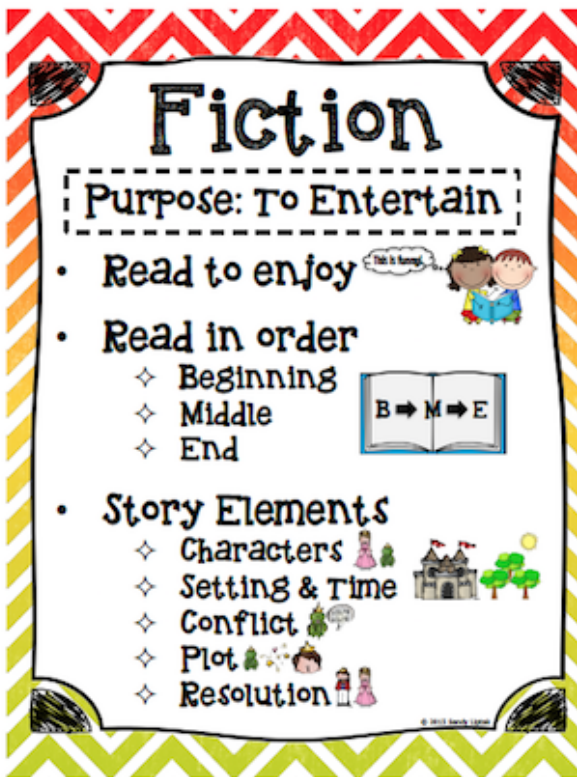
This unit focuses on non-fiction text.

### What is nonfiction?

Nonfiction means based in fact. It includes many categories: biography, business, cooking, health and fitness, pets, crafts, home decorating, languages, travel, home improvement, religion, art and music, history, self-help, science, and more.

- It can have a range of purposes: inform, explain, instruct, describe, persuade.
- It can be read in any order.
- It has text features you will be learning more about.
- It has many forms and structures.

Look around your house. What nonfiction can you find? Walk around right now and try this.



Categorize the following as fiction or non-fiction:

	Fiction	Non-Fiction
Recipe		
Fable		
Map		
Novel		
Manual for GPS		
Volunteering in Your Community Pamphlet		
To-Do list		
Newspaper article about youth doing a river clean-up		
Ingredients on food packing		
Percy Jackson novel		
Biography of Terry Fox		

Recipe, non; Fable, fic; Map, non; Novel, fic; Manual for GPS, non; Volunteer pamphlet, non; To-Do list, non; newspaper article, non; ingredients, non; Percy Jackson novel, fic; Bio of Terry Fox, non.

## Introducing Non-Fiction

This unit is build around non-fiction text (articles, videos, infographics) that help to answer the question: **How can we contribute to community and care for the environment?**

### What features make nonfiction different from fiction?

Non-fiction texts often have a lot going on on each page. Good readers can use the features to zoom-in on certain features to find needed information: photos, bold headings, labels and captions, some bolded text. These are **nonfiction text features** and most nonfiction books include some of them.

Let's look at a content page. Notice the way the page is laid out. It's different than a fiction book. This page is from the book, *How Engineers Find Solutions*.

What is different about this page compared to most novels and fiction books you have read? How many differences can you notice?



Did you notice all of these differences?

- different kinds of printing on the page
- different sizes of printing on the page
- photographs have captions that explain what is being shown

Here is another example of a non-fiction text page. Some of the features are labelled:

**Heading** → **Diagrams and blueprints**

**Bold Letters** → **diagram** is a drawing that shows the parts of an object and how it works. A diagram has labels. Labels are words that name or describe the different parts and help others understand the model better.

**Caption** → This is a diagram of a backpack. The labels give information about its special features.

**Subheading** → **think?**  
 Draw a diagram of your favorite toy. What labels can you add that will help others understand your model better?

**Labels** → glow-in-the-dark material, padded straps, hidden speakers


**Diagram** → [Backpack drawing]

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An author may choose graphic aids. How are graphic aids used?

## How are **graphic aids** used in **nonfiction**?

- **maps, charts, diagrams, photographs** are usually included to illustrate or *summarize information*



• **Diagram**



• **Photo with caption**

2006 METEOR SHOWERS		
Name of Meteor Shower	Date	Place in Sky
Quadrantids	January 3	east
Lyrids	April 22	northeast
Aquarids	May 6	east
Perseids	August 12	northeast
Orionids	October 21	east

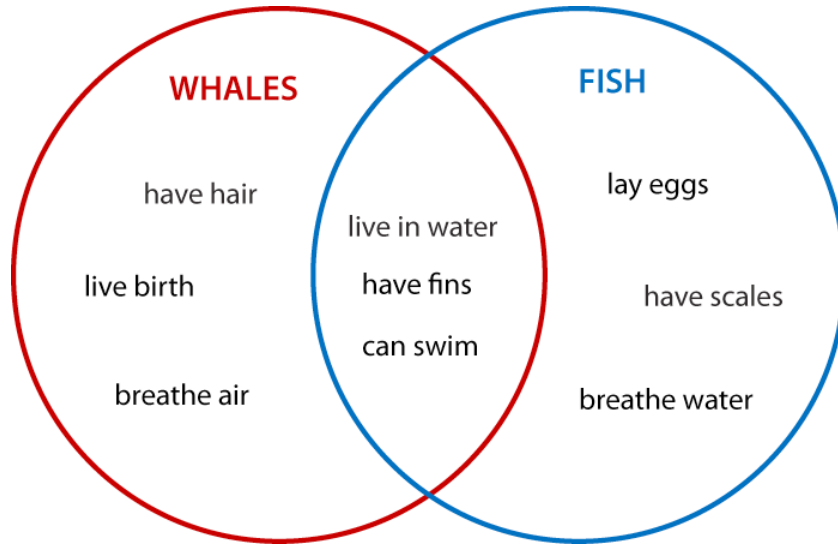
• **Table**

- **captions or labels** must be *examined carefully for relevant information*

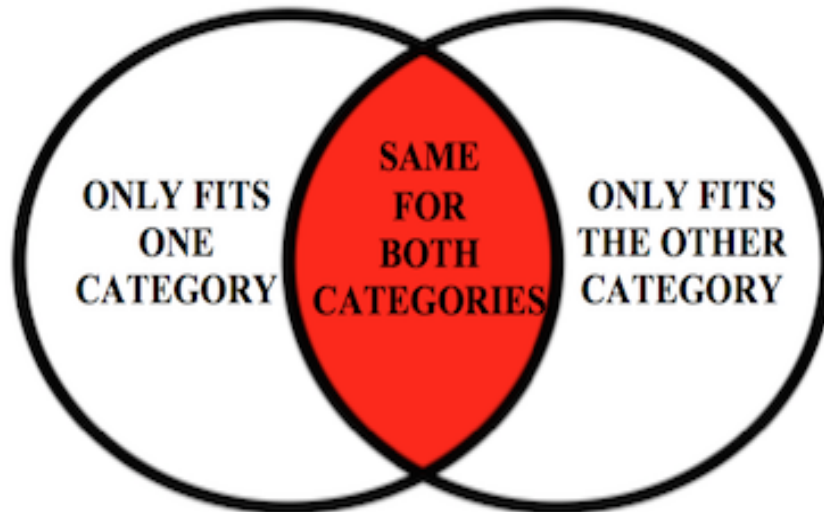


Learn more: <https://youtu.be/3mAl9QMJJTo>

Why do you think nonfiction books have these special features but most fiction books do not? A Venn Diagram can be used to compare and contrast to things or ideas. Here is a Venn diagram comparing fish and whales.



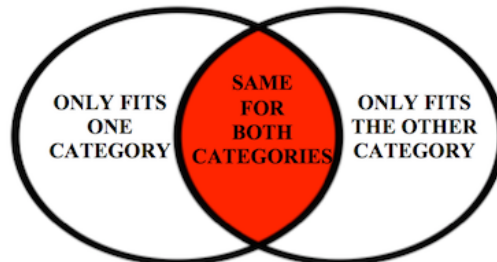
Notice that where the circles overlap, there are qualities that are the SAME. Where the circles are not overlapping, there are qualities that are DIFFERENT and belong to only fish or only whales.



In the following activity, compare (things that are the same) and contrast (things that are different) fiction and nonfiction. What nonfiction features were pointed out in today's lesson? What is different about fiction? What do they have in common?

### 3.1B Introduction Non-Fiction

## **Venn Diagram – Compare and Contrast Fiction and Nonfiction**



Directions:

Compare (things that are the same) and contrast (things that are different) fiction and nonfiction. What nonfiction features were pointed out in today's lesson? What is different about fiction? What do they have in common?

Put the following items in the correct sections of the Venn Diagram:

Facts, Fiction, Plot, Charts, Graph, Title Page, Headings, Page Numbers, Characters, Maps, Index, Glossary, Captions, Labels, Fable, Have to read from beginning, Setting, Photographs, Fact boxes, Climax, Diagram

