Discover Informational Reports

by Steve W. Dunn and Carrie Smith
How to Use This Book with Children

1. Read about informational reports (pages 2-3).
2. Model how to read a nonfiction text to learn information for your report. Read aloud “A Whale Is Not a Fish!” (pages 4-7).
3. Invite children to retell facts they remember from the text.
4. Read aloud and discuss the mentor reports based on “A Whale Is Not a Fish!” (pages 8-9).
5. Read aloud the nonfiction text “Coral Reefs” (pages 10-13).
6. Read aloud and discuss the mentor report based on “Coral Reefs” (page 14).
7. Review the steps for writing a report and the writer’s checklist (page 16).
8. Use the write-on/wipe-off report frame on the inside back cover of the book to model writing your own reports based on “A Whale Is Not a Fish!” or “Coral Reefs.”
9. Model writing additional reports based on other nonfiction books before asking students to write their own reports.
10. Support students as they write their own reports.
What Is a Report?

A report is a nonfiction text. A report gives facts about a topic.

Why Do People Write Reports?

People write to share information. They share what they have learned.
How Do You Write a Report?

First, read about your topic.

A Whale Is Not a Fish!

Whales are the largest ocean animals. They are mammals, like people.

Some whales have teeth. These whales eat fish and other big animals.
Some whales do not have teeth. These whales eat very small animals.

Whales breathe air. They breathe through a blowhole. They come to the surface of the water to get air.
Now write your report. First, draw pictures that show your topic.

**Whales**

There are many kinds of whales.

Some whales have teeth. Some whales do not have teeth.

Next, write a topic sentence. The topic sentence tells your main idea. Then, write facts you learned by reading.

**The Biggest Ocean Mammals**

Whales breathe air.

They swim to the top of the water. They breathe through a blowhole.
Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are in oceans. They are home to many plants and animals.

Fish live on coral reefs. Crabs and lobsters live there, too.
Algae live on coral reefs. Sea grasses also live on coral reefs.

Pollution hurts coral reefs. People hurt coral reefs, too. Plants and animals need coral reefs.
Use Facts to Write a Report

Read this report. What facts from “Coral Reefs” did the report writer use?

Coral Reef Plants

Many plants grow on coral reefs.

Sea grasses live on coral reefs.

Now tell your own report. What facts from “Coral Reefs” will you use?
First, Write Your Own Report

1. Pick a nonfiction topic.
2. Read a book about your topic.
3. Draw a picture.
4. Write a topic sentence.
5. Write as many facts as you can from the book.

Next, Review Your Checklist

I remembered to . . .

☐ Read about my topic.

☐ Draw a picture.

☐ Write a topic sentence.

☐ Write facts from the book.

My Report: ______________________________
Discover Informational Reports

Learn the features of an informational report, and discover how writers find out about a topic in order to write a report. You’ll learn how to write your own reports, too!

Steve W. Dunn
is a former teacher and principal. He now works with teachers and principals across the country on how to help their students become better readers and writers.

Carrie Smith
is an award-winning novelist and author of short stories who has also written and edited hundreds of books for children. She lives in New York City.