Genre: Informational Reports

Genre Features
- things you did
- things you saw
- thoughts and feelings
- illustrations

Oral Genre Vocabulary
- describe
- feelings
- illustrate
- illustration
- journal
- thoughts

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 “Insects All Around” (pages 4–7). Invite children to retell facts they learned from the text (with the book closed).
3. Read aloud and discuss the mentor reports based on “Insects All Around” (pages 8–9).
4. Read aloud the nonfiction text “Dinosaurs Were Big and Small” (pages 10–13).
5. Read aloud and discuss the mentor reports based on “Dinosaurs Were Big and Small” (pages 14–15).
6. Review the steps for writing a report and the writer’s checklist (page 16).
7. Use the write-on/wipe-off report frame on the inside back cover of the book to model writing your own report based on “Insects All Around” or “Dinosaurs Were Big and Small.”
8. Model writing additional reports based on other nonfiction books before asking children to write their own reports.
9. Support children as they write their own reports in small groups or independently.
What Is a Report?

A report is a nonfiction text. A report gives true information about a topic.

Volcano Times
Will this volcano erupt?

Scientists are keeping watch on this volcano for signs that it may be about to erupt. Yesterday, scientists detected a small earthquake in the area. This could be a sign that the volcano will erupt.

Why Do People Write Reports?

People write reports to share facts they have learned about a topic.

All About Volcanoes

The lava from a volcano can be more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
How Do You Write a Report?

First, learn about your topic. You can learn by reading nonfiction books.

Insects All Around

Insects are everywhere. Some are as small as a dot. Others are four inches long! All insects have three body parts and six legs.

Some insects have antennae. They use their antennae to smell and feel. Some insects make sounds. Some insects can fly.
Some insects are pests! Mosquitoes bite people. Beetles eat leaves. Termites hurt homes.

Some insects are helpful. Bees carry seeds. Bees make honey, too.

Insects are all around!
Many Kinds of Insects

There are many kinds of insects. Butterflies and crickets are insects. Mosquitoes and termites are also insects. Some insects help people, but other insects are pests.

Insects

Insects are animals. You can find insects everywhere. Some insects have antennae. Some insects can fly. All insects have six legs and three body parts.
Read to Learn About a Topic
This nonfiction text tells many facts.

Dinosaurs Were Big and Small
Many people think all dinosaurs were huge, but that is not true. Some dinosaurs were as small as a bird.

Brachiosaurus was one of the biggest dinosaurs. It was as heavy as six elephants! Its neck was about thirty feet long. That is as long as two minivans. This dinosaur ate plants.

The photographs give information, too.
Tyrannosaurus Rex was another big dinosaur. It was about as long as a bus. It had powerful jaws and sharp teeth. This dinosaur ate meat.

Microraptor was a very small dinosaur. It had four wings and feathers all over its body. It was less than two feet long!
**Use Facts to Write a Report**

Your report can describe.

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**One Big Plant Eater**

Brachiosaurus was a very big dinosaur that ate plants. Brachiosaurus had a very long neck. Its neck was thirty feet long!

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**Two Very Different Giants!**

Brachiosaurus and T-Rex were similar and different. They were both big dinosaurs. Brachiosaurus had a very long neck. T-Rex had sharp teeth. Brachiosaurus ate plants, but T-Rex ate meat.
First, Write Your Own Report

1. Pick a nonfiction topic to learn about.
2. Read books about your topic.
3. Write a topic sentence (the main idea).
4. Write as many facts as you can remember from the books you read.
5. Draw pictures to support your facts.

Next, Review Your Checklist

I remembered to . . .

☐ Read a book about my topic.
☐ Write my topic sentence or main idea.
☐ Write facts from the book that I remember.
☐ Draw pictures to support my facts.

My report: ______________

Topic sentence (main idea):

Facts I remember:
Informational Reports

Find out how you can share what you know by writing a report. You’ll learn the features of a good report and read sample reports to discover how writers organize their facts and details.

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Steve W. Dunn
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Enjoy all of these My First Readers’ & Writers’ Genre Workshop titles!