NONFICTION
Better Than Basal
EARTH SCIENCE
for 1st & 2nd graders

Ideas by Jivey

Name: Possible Answers
The Magic School Bus Weathers The Storm
Answer the questions

What does D.A. teach us about water vapor in her report?

Part of the air is made of water. It is invisible. When there is a lot of water vapor in the air, it makes a hot day feel even hotter.

What does Carlos teach us about clouds in his report?

Water in the air turns to tiny drops as it cools. The drops form clouds.

What does _____ teach us about lightning in her report?

Lightning is dangerous. It is electricity created when water drops bump into ice crystals.

What does Tim teach us about storm clouds in his report?

Storm clouds hold a lot of water. They look gray because they block the sun's light.

Name: Possible Answers
The Magic School Bus Weathers The Storm
Draw and describe the weather cycle

- water rises
- Condensation: water cools, turns into drops
- Collection: water returns to lakes or _____
- Precipitation: water falls to the ground

Name: Possible Answers
Down Comes the Rain
Answer the questions

What is water vapor?
Water vapor is water that has changed to an invisible gas that you can't see, smell, or feel.

When does water change to water vapor?
Water changes to water vapor when it is heated.

From where does water evaporate?
Water evaporates from lakes, rivers, oceans, animals, people, and plants.

Why does it rain?
It rains because clouds are full of droplets. The clouds get so full that the water falls.

Name: Possible Answers
Down Comes the Rain
Use the text to help you define these words

word	illustration	definition
vapor		water changed to an invisible gas
evaporates		water is heated and turned to a gas
condenses		water vapor cools and becomes a liquid
hailstones		small balls of ice- frozen water droplets

Name: Possible Answers
Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll
Give three key details that support the main idea

Main Idea:
Lightning is dangerous.

- Lightning can start fires.
- _____ over trees and telephone poles.
- It can injure or kill animals and people.

Name: Possible Answers
Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll
What was the author's purpose?

inform | entertain | persuade

How do you know?

The author gives a lot of information about storms, and how to stay safe in a storm.

Name: Possible Answers
Snowflake Bentley
Ask questions before, during, and after reading or listening to the book.

Question Before:	Was your question answered?	Answer:
Where was Wilson Bentley born?	YES / NO	He was born in Vermont in the "snowbelt" where there is a lot of snow.
Question During: How was Wilson Bentley able to photograph snowflakes?	YES / NO	He captured them on a black tray and quickly took the picture.
Question After: What did Wilson Bentley discover about snowflakes?	YES / NO	No two snowflakes were alike.

Name: Possible Answers
Snowflake Bentley
Find reasons the author gives to support this point.

Wilson Bentley never gave up.

1. For the winters he tried drawing snow crystals. They always melted before he could finish.

2. His first pictures were failures, just shadows. Mistake by mistake, snowflake by snowflake, he worked through every storm.

3. He waited for hours for just the right crystal and didn't notice the cold.

Name: Possible Answers
Recess at 20 Below
Give three key details that support the main idea

Main Idea:
Alaskan children have fun at recess.

- They go sledding during recess.
- They make snow forts and tunnels.
- They toss up puffy snow clouds.

PREVIEW

Recess at 20 Below
Where can we find this in the story?

It is dark when students walk to school.	text (words) / pictures (photographs) / both
The slide is covered with ice crystals.	text (words) / pictures (photographs) / both
Eyelashes and hair freeze in the cold.	text (words) / pictures (photographs) / both
Students don't go out for recess when it's colder than 20 below.	text (words) / pictures (photographs) / both

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The Reasons For Seasons
Find three reasons to answer the question.

Why do we have seasons?

1. The Earth is tipped, or tilted.

2. Different parts of the Earth are closer to the sun than others.

3. The Earth circles the sun.

The Reasons For Seasons
What was the author's purpose?

[inform] [entertain] [persuade]

How do you know?

The author gives a lot of information about the seasons and why they happen.

The Moon Book
Give examples from the book of each of these text features.

diagram — Moon, Earth, orbit

heading — PHASES OF THE MOON

caption — A HIGH TIDE happens about every 13 hours.

The Moon Book
Describe the phases of the moon.

A new moon looks dark.	A waxing crescent is a sliver of sunlight reflecting on the moon.
A first quarter moon looks half lit on the right.	The waxing gibbous moon is almost full.
The full moon is when we see the entire face of the moon.	A waning gibbous moon is when the lit surface gets smaller.
The last quarter moon looks half lit on the left.	A waning crescent is a sliver of moon before the new moon again.

The Moon Seems to Change
Use the text to help you define these words.
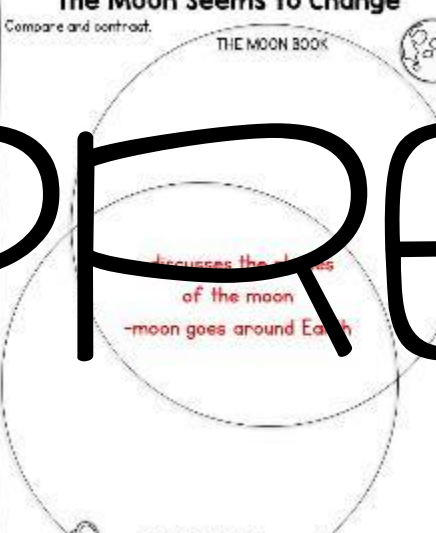
word	Illustration	definition
waxing		grows bigger; more light
waning		grows smaller; less light
crescent		small part is lit
phases		changes; stages

The Moon Seems to Change
Compare and contrast.

THE MOON BOOK — THE MOON SEEMS TO CHANGE
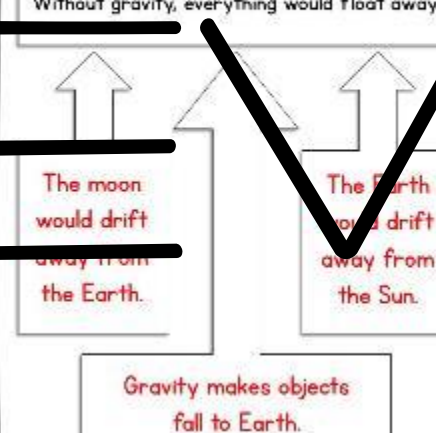
discusses the phases of the moon
-moon goes around Earth

Gravity
Give three key details that support the main idea.

Main Idea:
Without gravity, everything would float away.

The moon would drift away from the Earth.

The Earth would drift away from the Sun.

Gravity makes objects fall to Earth.

Next Time You See a Sunset
Ask questions before, during, and after reading or listening to the book.

Question Before: Why does the sun set in the sky?	Was your question answered? YES / NO	Answer: The Earth is rotating, moving away from the sun.
Question During: Where can we see the sunset every day?	Was your question answered? YES / NO	Answer: The sun sets in the west.
Question After: Why are there such pretty colors in a sunset?	Was your question answered? YES / NO	Answer: The light scatters, and we only see red, orange, and yellow.

Next Time You See a Sunset
Find three details to answer the question.

What really happens when the sun sets?

1. Your place on Earth is turning away from the Sun.

2. The Sun lights half the Earth while the other half is dark.

3. When you see a sunset, people on the other side of the world see a sunrise.

EVERY BOOK HAS:

Down Comes the Rain
By Franklyn M. Branley

Mentor Sentence Focus Standard: L.1 (plurals)

Reading Lesson Ideas:
R.1: Students answer questions about evaporation.

R.2: Students identify the main idea of the book and retell key supporting details.

R.3: Students explain the connection of concepts.

R.4: Students determine the meaning of unknown words.

R.6: Determine the author's purpose- why did Franklyn M. Branley write this book?

R.7: Tell how pictures help explain processes in the book.

R.9: Compare the book to Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll. What facts were presented? What did you learn in one but not the other?

Writing Lesson Ideas:
W.3: Students write a story as though they are a water droplet going through the water cycle.

List of lesson activity ideas aligned with Common Core Anchor Standards

Name:
Down Comes the Rain
Answer the questions.

What is water vapor?

When does water change to water vapor?

From where does water evaporate?

Why does it rain?

Name:
Down Comes the Rain
Use the text to help you define these words.

word	illustration	definition
vapor		
evaporates		

Multiple organizers you can choose from depending on the skill you are teaching (with ANSWER KEYS!)

Name:
Down Comes the Rain
Pretend you are a water droplet. What happens to you?

Writing Prompt based on the theme of the book

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