Canadian-Based Curriculum

Canadian Daily Reading Comprehension

3

TEACHER RECOMMENDED

Includes

- Understanding Context
- Making Connections
- Critical Thinking
- Teaching Tips
- Graphic Organizers

Read with Confidence!

Chalkboard Publishing Inc

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

Tips for Reading Comprehension

- Have your child read the text aloud to you, or take turns reading alternate sentences or paragraphs together.
- Talk with your child about what they have read, and brainstorm ways the information in the text relates to their life.
- Discuss the meanings of unfamiliar words that they read and hear.
- Help your child monitor his or her understanding of what they have read. Encourage your child to consistently ask themselves whether they understand what the text is about.
- To ensure understanding of the text, have them retell what they have read.

Tips for Completing Activities

- Review instructions with your child to ensure they understand the questions.
- Encourage your child to go back to the article to support his or her answers. Then have your child highlight the important information from the text passage to help them answer the question.
- Offer your child ample opportunities to share with you their answers and the thinking processes they used to arrive at those answers.

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Canadian Daily Reading Comprehension Grade 3
ISBN 978-1-77105-265-8

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for our publishing activities.
Distributed by Nelson Education Ltd.
Printed in Canada.

Contents

Introduction

Reading comprehension is the cornerstone of a child's academic success. By completing the activities in this book, children will develop and reinforce essential reading comprehension skills. Children will benefit from a wide variety of opportunities to practice engaging with text as active readers who can self-monitor their understanding of what they have read.

Children will focus on the following:

Identifying the Purpose of the Text
- The reader understands, and can tell you, why they read the text.

Understanding the Text
- What is the main idea of the text?
- What are the supporting details?
- Which parts are facts and which parts are opinions?

Analyzing the Text
- How does the reader's background knowledge enhance the text clues to help the reader answer questions about the text or draw conclusions?
- What inferences can be made by using information from the text with what the reader already knows?
- How does the information from the text help the reader make predictions?
- What is the cause and effect between events?

Making Connections
How does the topic or information they are reading remind the reader about what they already know?
- Text-to-self connections: How does this text relate to your own life?
- Text-to-text connections: Have I read something like this before? How is this text similar to something I have read before? How is this text different from something I have read before?
- Text-to-world connections: What does this text remind you of in the real world?

Using Text Features
- How do different text features help the reader?

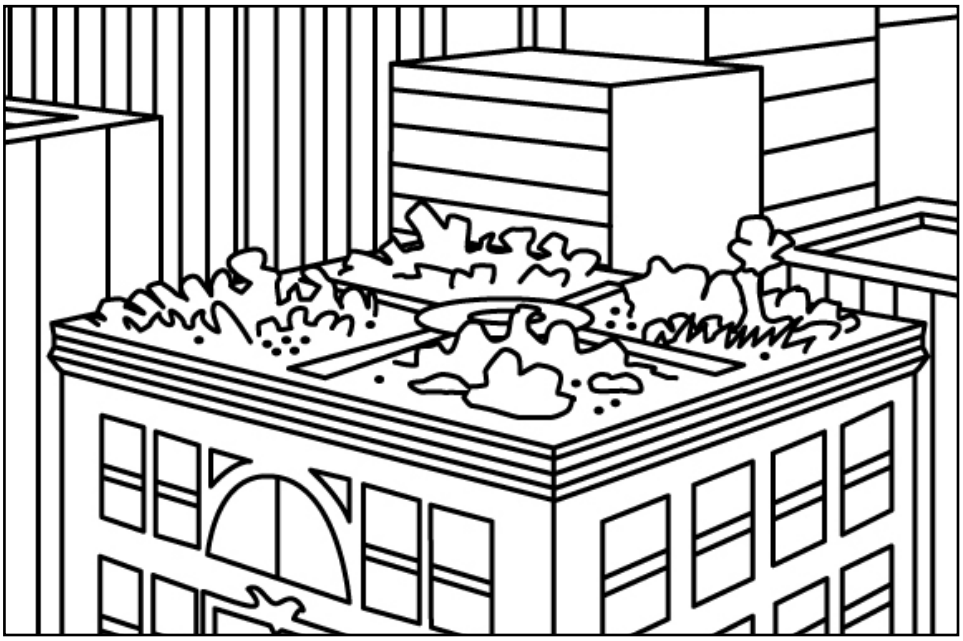
Text Features

Text features help the reader to understand the text better. Here is a list of text features with a brief explanation on how they help the reader.

Contents	Here the reader will find the title of each section, what page each text starts on within sections, and where to find specific information.
Chapter Title	The chapter title gives the reader an idea of what the text will be about. The chapter title is often followed by subheadings within the text.
Title and Subheading	The title or topic is found at the top of the page. The subheading is right above a paragraph. There may be more than one subheading in a text.
Map	Maps help the reader understand where something is happening. It is a visual representation of a location.
Diagram and Illustration	Diagrams and illustrations give the reader additional visual information about the text.
Label	A label tells the reader the title of a map, diagram, or illustration. Labels also draw attention to specific elements within a visual.
Caption	Captions are words that are placed underneath the visuals. Captions give the reader more information about the map, diagram, or illustration.
Fact Box	A fact box tells the reader extra information about the topic.
Table	A table presents text information in columns and rows in a concise and often comparative way.
Bold and Italic text	**Bold** and *italic* text are used to emphasize a word or words, and signify that this is important vocabulary.

A Garden on the Roof

Not all gardens grow in the ground. Today, you can find gardens on the roofs of many large buildings in cities. Even some homes with flat roofs have **roof gardens**. Why do people grow roof gardens?



Making Cities More Beautiful

Flowers, grasses, green plants, and even small trees and bushes can grow in a roof garden. Plants are much nicer to look at than a boring, flat roof. You can find gardens on the roofs of many different city buildings.

Creating a Home for Wildlife

A roof garden can be a home for many different types of insects. Butterflies and dragonflies are two insects that can be seen in roof gardens. Some birds build their nests in a roof garden. The sound of birds singing is nice to hear in a busy city.

Helping to Clean the Air

Plants help to remove **pollution** from the air. In some cities, there is lots of **air pollution**! A roof garden can help to clean the air.

Saving Energy

Heating a building in winter takes lots of energy. A roof garden helps to keep out the winter cold, so it saves on energy used for heating. In summer, air conditioning can use up lots of energy. Roof gardens help to keep the sun from making the inside of a building too warm. Less air conditioning is needed, so energy is saved.

"A Garden on the Roof"—Think About It

1. The author wrote this text to answer a question. What is the question?

_____

2. What are two places where roof gardens can be found?

_____

_____

3. Tell how a roof garden helps people save energy in winter and in summer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. How can roof gardens help more birds live in cities?

_____

_____

_____

5. The text has subheadings in bold print. How are the subheadings helpful to readers?

_____

_____

_____

A Plant That Eats Insects

Most plants make their own food in their leaves. To make food, they use light, air, water, and **nutrients** found in soil. If the soil does not contain enough nutrients, the plant cannot survive.

The Venus flytrap is a very interesting plant. It grows in soil that does not contain enough nutrients to help it survive. So how does a Venus flytrap get the nutrients it needs? It eats insects!

Be Careful—It Is a Trap!

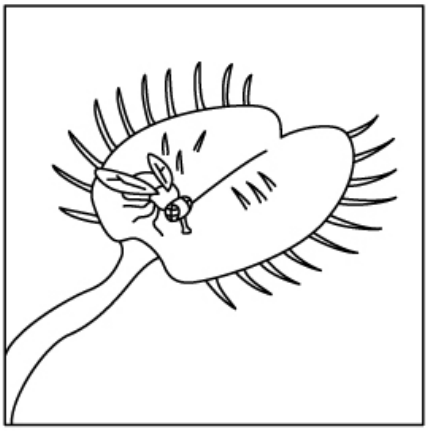
The Venus flytrap has special leaves that are perfect for catching insects. Inside each leaf are **trigger hairs**. When an insect such as a fly lands inside a leaf, the insect touches the trigger hairs. The trigger hairs send a signal to the plant to quickly close the leaf trap.

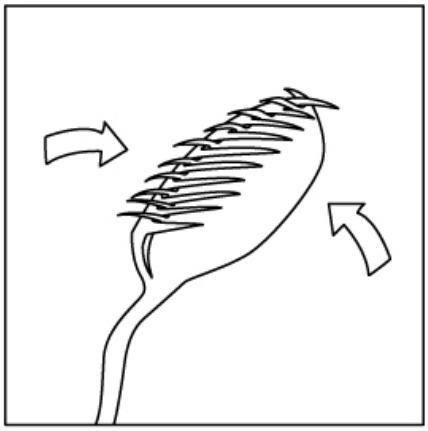
It takes a lot of energy for the Venus flytrap to close a leaf trap. The plant does not want to waste energy by trapping tiny insects. It wants a nice, big meal! The leaf traps will not close unless the insect is big enough to contain lots of nutrients.

When the leaf trap closes, it crushes the insect and kills it. The trap stays closed for one to two weeks while the plant absorbs the nutrients in the insect. Then the trap opens again, ready to catch another insect. Each leaf trap can only catch an insect three or four times. After that, the trap will no longer work.

After eating an insect, the Venus flytrap is not in a hurry for its next meal. The Venus flytrap can go without a meal for one to two months, but will eat about once a week if it can.

Fly entering a leaf trap





Leaf trap closed

"A Plant That Eats Insects"—Think About It

1. Why can a Venus flytrap grow in soil that other plants could not grow in?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. How does a Venus flytrap save energy?

_____

_____

_____

3. Why does a Venus flytrap need to have many leaf traps, and not just one?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Why do you think humans need to eat much more often than Venus flytraps? (Hint: Think about size and energy.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. What surprised you about Venus flytraps?

_____

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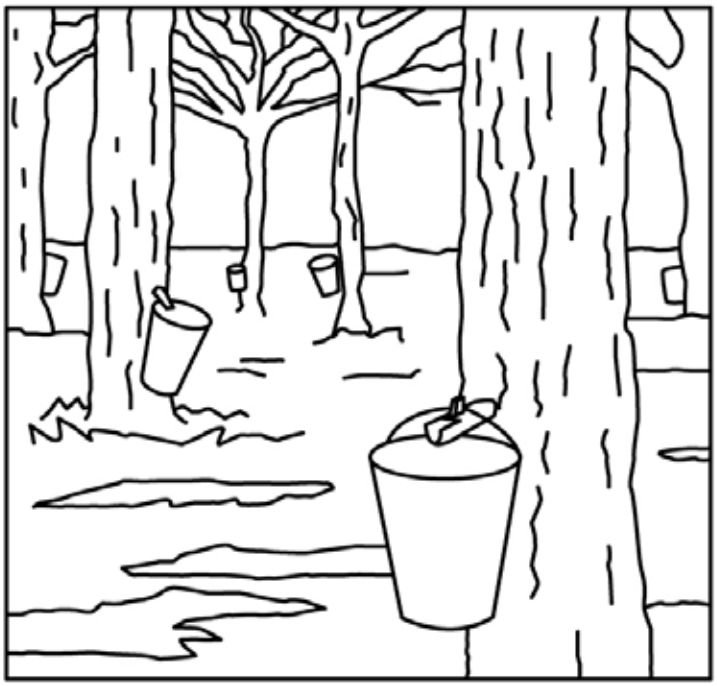
Where Does Maple Syrup Come From?

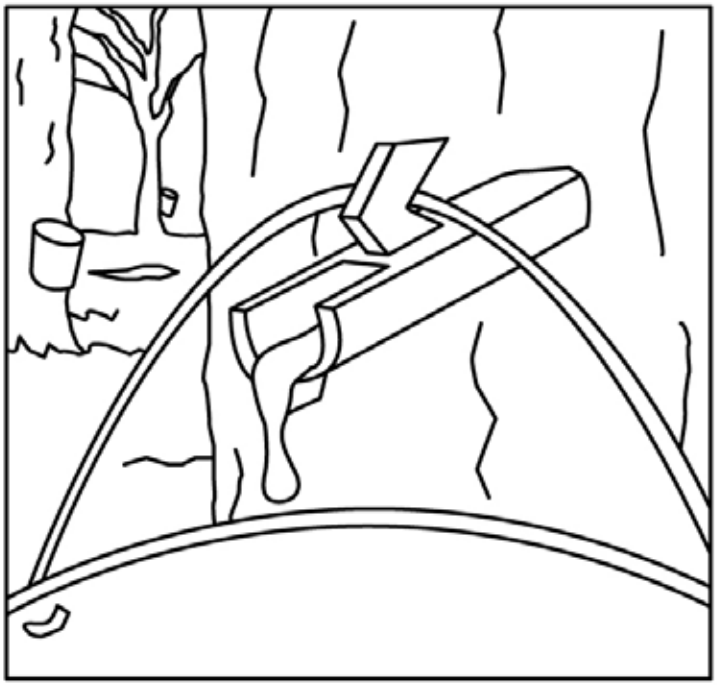
Sap is a liquid that flows inside trees. Maple **syrup** is made from the sap of maple trees. Here are the steps farmers use to make maple syrup.



Step 1: Drill a hole in the trunk of a maple tree.

Step 2: Place a metal spout inside the hole. Then hang a bucket under the spout.

Step 3: Wait for the bucket to fill with sap. The sap is clear and comes out one drop at a time. It takes a long time for the bucket to fill with sap.



Step 4: Boil the sap for many hours. This makes the sap change from clear to golden. The sap also turns into a thick syrup.

Step 5: Wait for the syrup to cool. Then pour some on pancakes or waffles.

Did You Know?
Sap contains lots of water. When the sap boils, the water turns to **steam** and escapes. As steam rises from the sap, the sap gets thicker and thicker.

"Where Does Maple Syrup Come From?"—Think About It

1. How does the sap get from inside a maple tree into the bucket?

_____

_____

_____

2. It takes a lot of sap to make a little bit of maple syrup. What disappears from the sap? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. How is maple sap different from maple syrup?

_____

_____

_____

4. Farmers often cover the buckets so no rain gets in. Why would farmers not want rain to get in the sap?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Do you like maple syrup? Tell why or why not.

_____

_____

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