

# Bright Horizons Academy

Grade 6: Language Arts

## Summarizing Informational Texts

### Objective:

Students will learn to identify the main points in an informational text and write a concise summary that focuses only on the most important details.

### Core Content:

#### What is Summarizing?

**Summarizing** means taking the most important ideas and key details from a text and briefly writing them in your own words. A good summary:

- Focuses on the central ideas and core information of the text.
- Does not include unnecessary examples, small details, or personal opinions.
- Is short and to the point.

#### Why Summarize?

Summarizing helps you understand and remember the most important information in a text. It allows you to focus on the key points without getting lost in extra details.

### Examples:

1. Example 1:

- Text: An article explaining the water cycle describes evaporation, condensation, and precipitation in detail.
- Summary: “The water cycle moves water between the earth and the atmosphere through evaporation, cloud formation, and rainfall.”

2. Example 2:

- Text: A passage describes how volcanoes form, including molten rock rising to the surface, building pressure, and erupting.
- Summary: “Volcanoes form when molten rock rises, builds pressure, and erupts.”

3. Example 3:

- Text: A text about healthy eating lists many examples of foods that are good for you, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Summary: “Eating a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains helps keep you healthy.”

Each summary focuses on the main ideas without including extra details.

## Practice Questions:

Try these questions to practice summarizing informational texts:

1. If an article tells you about three types of renewable energy—solar, wind, and hydro—what main idea would you include in a summary?
2. If a passage describes the steps of photosynthesis in detail, how would you summarize it?
3. When summarizing a text, should you include minor examples or stick to the main points?
4. If the text lists many brands of healthy snacks, what should your summary mention?

5. Why is it helpful to summarize a text?

### Answers to Practice Questions:

1. Summary: Renewable energy can come from the sun, wind, and moving water.
2. Summary: Plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to produce food and oxygen.
3. Answer: Stick to the main points.
4. Answer: You should just note that healthy snacks exist, not list every brand.
5. Answer: Summarizing helps you understand and remember the key information without distractions.