

Informative Writing

Rivers

Objectives & Common Core Connections

- * Introduce the topic for a selected audience.
- * Focus on the purpose of informative writing.
- * Develop the topic with researched facts and details.
- * Organize the information to make the topic clear.
- * Use linking words to connect ideas.
- * Write a concluding sentence.
- * Write an informative paragraph.

Introduction Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 42). Have students read the title and first line. Tell them that they will write an informative paragraph about rivers for an elementary grade social studies book. Explain that often it is necessary to do research for informative writing. Have some relevant books ready.

Model Help students begin their text by introducing the topic. For example:

- Rivers are moving bodies of water that flow downhill.

Have students use the reference materials to find other facts and details about rivers. For example:

- water from rainfall, springs, melting snows
- used for transport
- flows through a channel
- provide water for drinking, irrigation
- harness power for electricity

Encourage students to use what they know about organizing information. Point out that some of the information tells what a river is and does

while other facts tell how people use rivers. Coach students in developing complete sentences to use in a paragraph. Model how some ideas can be connected with linking words, such as *also* or *and*. For example:

- River water comes from rainfall, springs, and melting snow and ice.
- A river flows through a channel or path in the land.
- People use rivers for transportation, and they harness the water power to make electricity.
- Rivers also provide water for drinking and irrigation.

Explain that an informative paragraph often has a concluding sentence. For example:

- Rivers are important geographical features.

Guided Practice Have students complete the writing frame. Encourage students to use other facts they have researched about rivers. Provide additional paper for students' paragraphs.

Review Invite volunteers to read their finished paragraphs to the class. Have listeners use items 1, 2, 4–6, 9, 11, and 12 on the assessment checklist (page 63) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students' work.

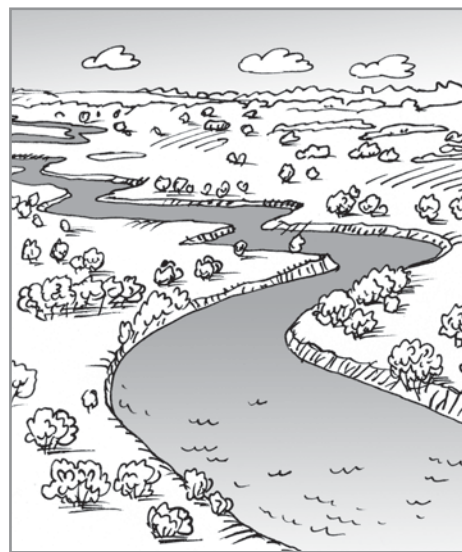
Independent Practice Use the On Your Own activity (page 43) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they learned in the lesson to complete the assignment. Tell them that they can choose a geographical feature from the Idea Box or use their own idea. Have appropriate reference materials and a computer with Internet access available for student research.

Rivers



What is a river?

- Introduce the topic with your audience in mind.
- Focus on your writing purpose.
- Research and list facts and details about the topic.
- Use linking words to connect ideas.
- Organize the information to make the topic clear.
- Write a concluding sentence.
- Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.



Topic _____

Audience _____

Facts and Details _____

Possible Linking Words _____

Organizing Information


Group 1 _____


Group 2 _____


Concluding Sentence _____

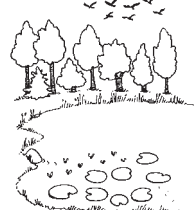
On Your Own

Choose a geographical feature from the Idea Box or think of another one. Complete this page. Then, write a paragraph on another sheet of paper telling about the feature.

 **Idea Box**

Mountain 

Waterfall 

Lake 

My Idea: _____

Topic _____

Audience _____

Facts and Details _____

Possible Linking Words _____

Organizing Information

Group 1 _____

Group 2 _____

Concluding Sentence _____

Student Assessment Checklist

Informative/Explanatory Writing

1. Introduced the topic.
2. Focused on the writing purpose.
3. Summarized or paraphrased information in notes.
4. Developed topic using researched facts, examples, and/or details.
5. Organized the information to help the reader.
6. Used linking words to connect ideas.
7. Listed materials and steps.
8. Included an illustration to aid comprehension.
9. Addressed the audience appropriately.
10. Used subject-specific words and precise language.
11. Provided a concluding sentence.
12. Wrote an informative/explanatory paragraph.

★ ★
**More Things
to Check**
★

- Capitalized proper nouns.
- Capitalized the first word of sentences.
- Used correct punctuation.
- Spelled words correctly.
- Followed correct paragraph form.