

8th Grade Nonfiction Bundle

READING COMPREHENSION



NONFICTION BUNDLE
Readings & Assessments

10 HIGH-INTEREST Topics



8th Grade

by Danielle & Carina @ Nouvelle ELA

10 nonfiction articles written on a range of high-interest topics

<p>"For and Against Zoos" argument on the impact of zoos</p>	<p>"Decoding Dreams" cultural interpretations of dreams</p>
<p>"The Science of Superheroes" the science behind superpowers</p>	<p>"The Inventor of the Stoplight" about Garrett Morgan</p>
<p>"Auroras, Myths, & Legends" myths about the Aurora Borealis</p>	<p>"Espionage and Spycraft" a history of espionage and spies</p>
<p>"The Pit" 3 letters to the editors about a city dispute</p>	<p>"The Miracle on Ice" U.S. ice hockey team's win in 1980 Winter Olympics</p>
<p>"John Brown's Cabin" 3 versions of the sign for the cabin's wax replica display</p>	<p>"Celebrating Kwanzaa" the origination & traditions of Kwanzaa</p>

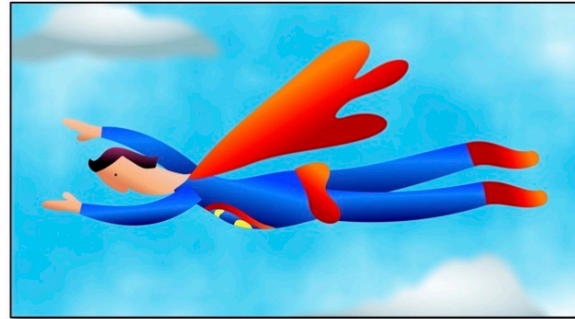


THE SCIENCE OF SUPERHEROES: Unraveling the Powers of Our Favorite Heroes

1 Have you ever wondered what makes superheroes so super? Is it just the flashy costumes and incredible feats of strength, or is there something more to it? Well, it turns out that the world of superheroes is closely tied to the world of science, and today, we're going to dive into the fascinating realm of the science behind our favorite heroes.

Superman: A Flying Phenomenon

2 Let's start with one of the most iconic superheroes of all time – Superman! He can fly through the sky faster than a speeding bullet, leap tall buildings in a single bound, and even shoot heat vision from his eyes. But how do his powers align with the laws of physics and chemistry?



A superhero in a cape flying in the sky. (public domain)

3 Superman's ability to fly appears to defy gravity, but there's a scientific explanation for it. In the world of comic books, he hails from the planet Krypton, where the gravity is much stronger than on Earth. His body has adapted to Earth's lower gravity, allowing him to leap great distances and fly. However, there's no known way for humans to replicate this feat.

4 His heat vision is another interesting power. It could be explained by the rapid emission of high-energy photons from his eyes, similar to lasers. But in reality, creating such an ability would require advanced technology far beyond our current understanding of physics and chemistry.

Black Panther: Vibranium and Super Senses

5 Now, let's turn our attention to Black Panther, the protector of Wakanda. His suit is made of a fictional element called vibranium, which can absorb and store kinetic energy. While vibranium is pure science fiction, it's inspired by real scientific concepts.

6 Vibranium's fictional energy-absorbing properties do exist in the real world. For instance, materials like Kevlar are designed to absorb and **disperse** the kinetic energy of bullets. While we're not close to vibranium-level capabilities, scientists are constantly exploring new materials with impressive energy-absorbing capabilities.

7 Black Panther also possesses superhuman senses, which allow him to track scents, hear whispers from miles away, and see through walls. These abilities are often attributed to the vibranium in his suit, which is said to enhance his natural senses.



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Each article is
approximately 750-
1000 words written for
8th graders

AURORAS, MYTHS, & LEGENDS: Illuminating Cultural Skies

1 As we gaze up at the night sky and witness the **ethereal** dance of the Northern Lights, we become part of a long tradition of wonder and storytelling. In these moments, we're connected not only with the vast universe but also with the countless generations before us who looked up in awe and whispered their own tales into the cold, starry night.



2 Today, we understand that the Aurora Borealis (known as the *Northern Lights*) is caused by particles from the sun interacting with the Earth's atmosphere, creating those mesmerizing colors. But even with this scientific explanation, the myths and legends surrounding the Aurora Borealis continue to captivate our imagination, reminding us of a time when the natural world was a canvas for storytelling and myth-making.

The Enchanting Dance of the Valkyries

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The Enchanting Dance of the Valkyries

Long ago, in the lands of the Vikings—warriors known for their bravery and exploration—there was a captivating tale about the Northern Lights. Imagine the dark, cold nights in Scandinavia, where the Vikings lived. On certain nights, the sky would suddenly light up with shimmering waves of green, purple, and red. The Vikings believed these lights were more than just a natural wonder; they were a bridge to a world beyond our own.

Each article includes a version with photos and one without to suit your printing and display needs



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FOR AND AGAINST ZOOS

Answer the following questions based on the articles "Understanding Zoos' Devastating Impact on Animals" and "Saved from Extinction: The Important Work of Zoos." Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which sentence best restates the main idea of "Understanding Zoos' Devastating Impact on Animals"?

 - a. Zoos should improve the way animals live instead of harming them.
 - b. Zoos should only be for scientific research and rehabilitation.
 - c. Zoos should be illegal because of all their problems.
 - d. Zoos are an entertaining way to spend the day.

2. Reread the sentence below from paragraph three in "Understanding Zoos' Devastating Impact on Animals."

We make small, fake habitats for polar bears in North Carolina and elephants in Oregon.

Which inference can be drawn from the sentence above? (RI.8.2)

- a. The author thinks that zoos can solve their problems by making bigger habitats.
 - b. The author thinks that zoos can solve their problems by making smaller habitats.
 - c. The author thinks that zoos can solve their problems by making fake habitats.
 - d. The author thinks that zoos can solve their problems by making real habitats.
1. Which sentence best restates the main idea of "Understanding Zoos' Devastating Impact on Animals"?
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 - b. Zoos should only be for scientific research and rehabilitation.
 - c. Zoos should be illegal because of all their problems.**
 - d. Zoos are an entertaining way to spend the day.

3. Select the word that best describes the author's tone in the sentence above.

- a. Humorous
- b. Ambivalent
- c. Sarcastic
- d. Informative

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Each article includes a 10 question, standards-aligned multiple-choice quiz with answer key

(Quizzes are also available as an editable digital Google doc)



ESPIONAGE & SPYCRAFT

SECTION	SUMMARIZE YOUR FINDINGS
Spies Throughout History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Egyptian, Greek, and Roman spies would sneak into enemy territories for crucial information

ESPIONAGE & SPYCRAFT: Short-Answer Questions

There are many "right" answers to the following questions, so it's all about how you support your ideas. Use evidence from the article to support your claims.

1. Reflect on the portrayal of spies and espionage in popular media. How do media portrayals of the spy world compare to the realities presented in the article? Some media examples: *Spy Kids*, James Bond, *007*, *Mission: Impossible*, *Kim Possible*.
2. Answer the thought-provoking question posed in paragraph ten of the article: is spying okay? Support your answer with evidence from this article, other texts, and/or personal experiences.

Each article also includes:

- * 2-3 short answer analysis-based questions
- * A graphic organizer to scaffold evidence collection
- * Extension ideas



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