



Informative Summary

Dear Parents,

Over the next few weeks, our writing lessons will center on crafting summaries of informative texts. A summary of this kind is a shortened version of a text that highlights the main ideas and important points. Its purpose is to capture the essential information while leaving out unnecessary details. In third grade, students frequently read various texts and are often asked to understand them. When summarizing an informative text, they'll concentrate on picking out the most crucial details, facts, or ideas from the text. This type of writing aims to practice pinpointing key details, presenting the main ideas concisely, and expressing student understanding of the information clearly and simply.

Ideas for Home Support

As your child practices writing these summaries at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- Help your child see the relevance of summarizing by discussing how it's used in everyday life, such as writing book reports, summarizing news articles, or discussing world events.
- Turn summarizing into a game by challenging your child to summarize a text in a certain number of sentences or within a time limit. You can also play "Summarize and Swap" where you each summarize a text and then compare your summaries.
- Encourage your child to create visual summaries using drawings, diagrams, or concept maps to represent the main ideas and key points of a text.
- Choose a short passage from a book, article, or online resource appropriate for your child's reading level. Read it together and then discuss the main ideas and key points.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Informative Summary Rubric

3rd Grade

Genre Chart Summary: Informative	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
Uses a strategy to engage the reader	Engages the reader in a creative way	Engages the reader	Engaging sentence is weak or off-topic	Does not engage the reader
Includes the main idea and important details	Creatively includes important details of the main idea	Includes details of the main idea and important details	Includes some details of the main ideas	Main idea is not clear or has no details
Paraphrases information	Effectively paraphrases the most important information	Paraphrases information appropriately	Paraphrases some information but retells large portions or gives too few details	Does not paraphrase information or retell the whole story
Uses simple and compound sentences	Uses several simple and compound sentences	Uses both simple and compound sentences	Uses mostly simple sentences	Uses sentence fragments or many run-on sentences
Ends with a concluding statement	Ending sentence is creative and makes a statement about the main idea	Ending sentence makes a statement about the main idea	Has an ending sentence, but does not make a statement about the main idea	No ending sentence
Correct conventions support the meaning	No errors or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors but they do not interfere with meaning	Frequent errors that distract the reader	So many errors that it is hard to read

The First Video Game

Did you know that the very first video game was invented a long time ago? It all started in the year 1958 when a clever man named William Higinbotham created a game called "Tennis for Two."

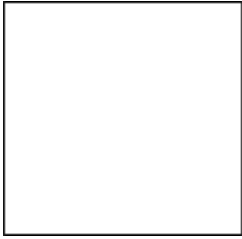
Instead of playing tennis outside, people could play this game on a big computer screen! It was like magic! Players used controllers to hit a computerized tennis ball back and forth, just like in a real game of tennis.

"Tennis for Two" was played on a very special machine that took up a whole room! Can you imagine having a video game that big? It was so exciting that people lined up just to have a turn to play.

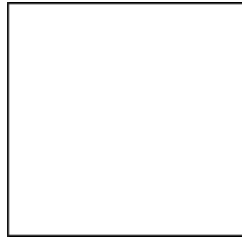
Even though it was made many years ago, "Tennis for Two" was the beginning of something amazing. It showed people that you could have fun playing games on a screen, and it inspired lots of other inventors to create even cooler video games!

Now, when you play your favorite video game, you can remember that it all started with a simple game of tennis on a big computer screen.

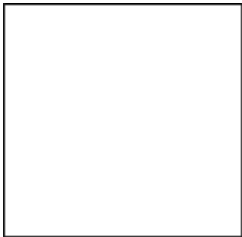
The Amazing Story Behind the Eiffel Tower



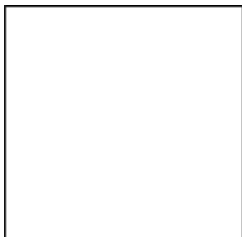
Did you know that the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, is one of the most famous landmarks in the world? Let me tell you the amazing tale of how this magnificent structure came to be.



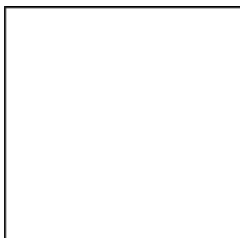
In the late 1800s, a brilliant engineer named Gustave Eiffel had an incredible idea to build a tall tower for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. He wanted to create something unique and memorable that would showcase France's creativity and engineering skills.



Gustave Eiffel and his team worked tirelessly to design and construct the tower. They used over 18,000 iron pieces and more than 2.5 million rivets, all carefully assembled like a giant puzzle. It took about two years to build, and when it was finished, the Eiffel Tower stood over 1,000 feet tall!

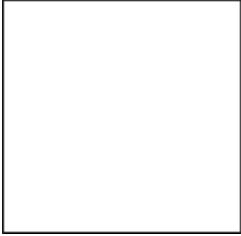


The Eiffel Tower opened to the public on May 6, 1889. People from all over the world marveled at its beauty and grandeur. Visitors could take elevators or climb stairs to reach the top where they enjoyed breathtaking views of Paris.

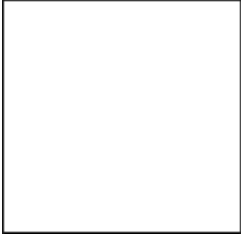


Popular with those who went to the World's Fair in 1889, the Eiffel Tower continues to be a beloved tourist attraction and has become a symbol of France. It reminds us of the power of human imagination and the amazing things we can accomplish when we work together.

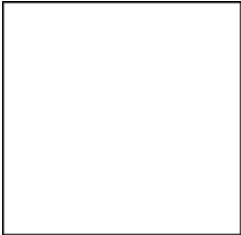
The History of Hello



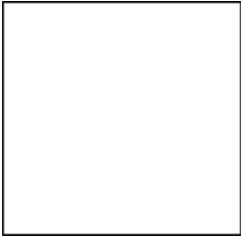
Your phone rings. You answer it and say, "Hello", of course. The word "hello" has a fascinating history tied to the telephone and two great inventors.



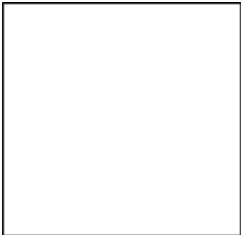
The first use of the word "Hello" dates to 1827, and it wasn't used as a greeting. It was first used to attract someone's attention, such as, "Hello, what are you doing?" or to show surprise, like "Hello, what have we here?"



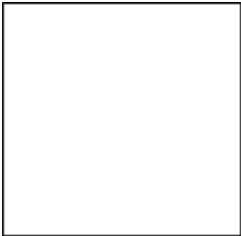
"Ahoy" was a greeting that had been used by sailors for more than one hundred years. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, wanted this word to be used to answer the phone. He felt so strongly about its use that this was the way he answered the phone for the rest of his life.



Thomas Edison, another famous inventor, preferred "Hello." He thought that this was a simpler word and easier for people to pronounce. Edison used his influence to promote the use of "Hello."

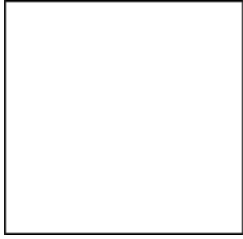


The debate between these two words continued for some time. The first phone books had a section instructing people on how to use the new invention. It included directions for the correct way to begin a conversation, with a greeting of "Hello."

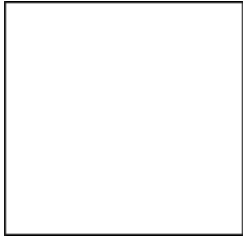


Eventually, "Hello" won out. So the next time you tell someone "Hello," you might remember the friendly debate between Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.

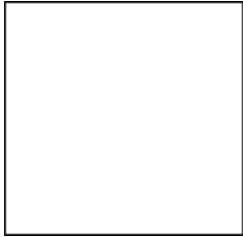
The Sticky Surprise



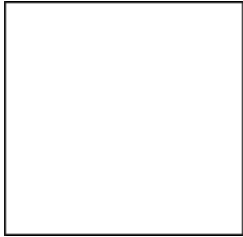
Have you ever gone on a hike and ended up with bur stuck to your socks and shoelaces? This same thing happened to a curious man and it led to the creation of something that is a part of our everyday lives, Velcro.



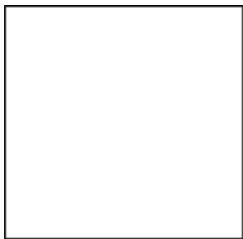
A long time ago, in 1948, George de Mestral went for a walk with his dog. George was an engineer and lived in Switzerland. He loved the outdoors. As George and his dog roamed through the fields, they both became covered in cockleburs, those little burrs that stick to everything.



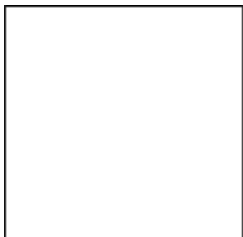
George was curious so he examined the burrs under a microscope. He thought the pods looked like a monster's mouth, full of spiked fangs. Those tiny hooks snagged on anything with a loop, like clothes, dog fur, and human hair.



After experimenting with different materials, George created Velcro, a two-part fastener consisting of hooks and loops. Velcro was first described as a "zipperless zipper." It soon became popular because it was easy to use and reusable.



Velcro's popularity really took off when NASA astronauts used it to keep pens, food packets, and other equipment from floating away. Now, Velcro is used on bags, shoes, to hang pictures on walls, and in many other ways.



So next time you fasten your shoes with a strip of Velcro, think of a man and a dog covered in stickers and how his curiosity led to an ingenious fastener that is part of our daily lives.

Name _____ Date _____

Informative Summary Organizer

Article title:

Circle the strategy used to engage the reader: question sound effect action

Engaging beginning sentence:

Main idea:

Key Words:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Conclusion:

Informative Summary Organizer Model

Article title: The Sticky Surprise

Circle the strategy used to engage the reader: question sound effect action

Engaging beginning sentence:

Ugh! Grr! These stickers are all over my shoes and socks and they are so hard to get off.

Main idea: Curiosity can lead to invention and changes in everyday life.

Key Words

1.
creation Velcro

2.
George de Mestral and dog covered in burrs

3.
curious, examined under microscope, saw hooks snagged

4.
created Velcro, hooks, and loops

5.
many uses, NASA, home

6.

Conclusion:

New ideas come from being curious; can change how things done

Informative Summary Model

A Summary of "The Sticky Surprise"

Ugh! Grr! These stickers are all over my shoes and socks and they are so hard to get off! If you like to go on hikes, you have probably had this happen to you. It happened to a man named George de Mestral. The article "The Sticky Surprise" tells how this mans curiosity turned an ordinary experience into an invention used all over the world, Velcro.

George was an engineer living in switzerland. He and his dog enjoyed hiking in the fields near his home. On these walks, cockleburs stuck to george's clothes and his dog's fur. George wondered why the burrs were so difficult to remove. His curiosity led him to study them under a microscope. He discover that the burrs had hooks. The hooks caught on anything with a loop, like fur socks and shoes. George wondered if he could make something similar that could be used as a fastener. After trying different materials, he created Velcro. Now Velcro is used all over the world on clothes, bags, too hang things on walls, and in lots of other ways.

In the future, wen you cinch up your shoes with Velcro, remember that new ideas can come from being curious and sometimes those new ideas can change how things are done.

Informative Summary Model Annotated

A Summary of “The Sticky Surprise”

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George was an engineer living in ~~switzerland~~ **Switzerland**. He and his dog enjoyed hiking in the fields near his home. On these walks, cockleburs stuck to george's **George's** clothes and his dog's fur. George wondered why the burrs were so difficult to remove. His curiosity led him to study them under a microscope. ~~He discovered that the burs had hooks. The hooks caught on anything with a loop, like fur socks and shoes~~ **He discovered that the burrs had hooks and that the hooks caught on anything with a loop, like *fur, socks, and shoes.** George wondered if he could make something similar that could be used as a fastener. After trying different materials, he created Velcro. Now Velcro is used all over the world on clothes, bags, ~~tee~~ ***to** hang things on walls, and in lots of other ways.

In the future, ~~wen~~ *when you cinch up your shoes with Velcro, remember that new ideas can come from being curious and sometimes those new ideas can change how things are done.

Annotations

Uses a strategy to engage the reader is in red

Includes the main idea, is in green, and important details are included throughout the summary

Paraphrases information is evident throughout the summary

Compound sentences is in orange

Ends with a concluding statement is in red

Convention edits are in black

*Edits related to the Writing Warm-Up are in black with an asterisk

Revision: Informative Summary

3rd Grade

Name _____ Date _____

Partner _____ Rubric Score _____

Self

Partner

Genre Chart

___ ___ **Uses a strategy to engage reader**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Includes the main idea and important details**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Paraphrases information**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Uses simple and compound sentences**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Ends with a concluding statement**

Suggestions: _____

Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence . ? ! |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)



Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title |
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| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)

Nature's Acrobats

Are you ready to leap into the world of flying squirrels? Let's discover the secrets of these amazing creatures and learn how they earned their name as nature's acrobats.



Flying squirrels are mammals that have developed the ability to glide through the air. They can't fly like birds, but they can soar from tree to tree. These squirrels have extra folds of skin that stretch from their wrists to their ankles. These flaps of skin act like wings, allowing them to glide for long distances, sometimes as far as 150 feet. That is longer than a full-size basketball court.

With a keen sense of direction, flying squirrels can navigate the forest canopy with ease. They control the direction of their glide by turning their legs and body and flapping their tail. Their sharp claws allow them to grip the tree bark when they are ready to land.

Flying squirrels may not have the power of flight like birds, but their ability to glide through the air is truly remarkable. By studying these incredible animals, we gain a better understanding of the wonders of nature.