



## 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 fourth grade, when summarizing an informative text, students will concentrate on picking out the most crucial details, facts, or ideas from the text and academic language from the article. Creating a summary of a text helps with the retention of information and promotes critical thinking skills.

### **Ideas for Home Support**

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

- Break down longer texts into smaller sections and ask your child to summarize each part separately. This can help them focus on one chunk of information at a time and practice summarizing effectively.
- Encourage your child to identify the main ideas or central themes of a text by highlighting or underlining key sentences or phrases.
- Play "Summarize and Swap" where you each summarize a text and then compare your summaries.
- Discuss local, national, or world events with your child and summarize the events together.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

## Informative Summary Rubric 4th Grade

Genre Chart Summary: Informative	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
<b>Has an engaging introductory paragraph</b>	Has an introductory paragraph that engages the reader in a creative way	Has an introductory paragraph that engages the reader	Engaging introduction is weak or off-topic	Does not have an engaging introduction
<b>Paraphrases the main idea and important details</b>	Creatively paraphrases the most important details of the main idea	Paraphrases the most important details of the main idea	Some of the important details of the main idea are paraphrased	Many important details are copied
<b>Uses academic language</b>	Uses academic language several times	Uses academic language	Uses very little academic language	Does not use academic language
<b>Has sentences with varied lengths</b>	Sentence lengths are varied and unique	Has varied sentence lengths	Some sentence lengths are varied	Most sentences begin with the same words
<b>Ends with a concluding statement</b>	Ending paragraph is creative and makes a statement about the main idea	Ending paragraph makes a statement about the main idea	Has an ending paragraph, but does not make a statement about the main idea	No ending paragraph
<b>Correct conventions support the meaning</b>	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 Thirty-one Day President

Most presidents serve for four or eight years. Some have held office for less and one was in the White House for much longer. One man, William Henry Harrison, was president for barely one month. What could have caused a president to only be in office for thirty-one days?

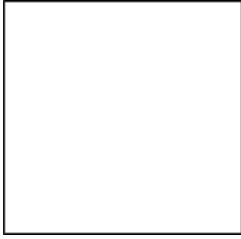
William Henry Harrison was a celebrated war hero during the War of 1812, and went on to become a popular figure in American politics. In the presidential election of 1840, Harrison won in a landslide.

The day that Harrison took office was cold and blustery. He wore no overcoat, hat, or gloves. Standing outside, he gave a speech that lasted nearly two hours. Three weeks after his inauguration, the president became ill.

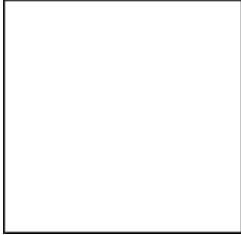
Despite the best efforts of doctors, Harrison's health rapidly declined, and he passed away on April 4, 1841, just thirty-one days after he was sworn in as President of the United States. Historians have debated what caused his death, but some think that Harrison died of pneumonia as a result of exposure to the cold and wet weather during his long speech.

Even though William Henry Harrison was president for only a short time, he left a lasting impact on American history. His sudden death led to an amendment to the Constitution that clarifies what happens when a president can't complete a full term.

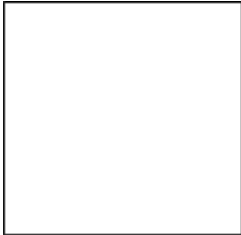
## Exploring the Mystery of the Loch Ness Monster



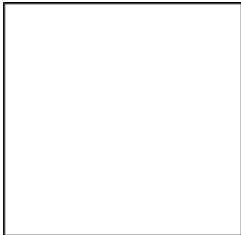
Deep in the heart of Scotland, nestled in the rolling hills, lies one of the world's most lasting mysteries - the Loch Ness Monster, known as Nessie. For centuries, people have told tales of a strange creature living in the water of Loch Ness.



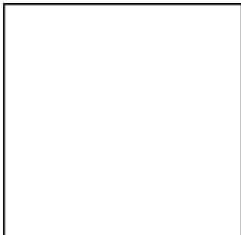
The legend of Nessie dates back to ancient times, but it wasn't until more recently that the world became captivated by the story. In 1933, a newspaper reported a sighting of a strange creature in the waters of Loch Ness, sparking a frenzy of interest and speculation.



Since then, there have been many reported sightings of Nessie, with witnesses describing a creature that looked like a long-necked dinosaur or a giant serpent. Despite numerous expeditions, scientific studies, and even the use of advanced technology like sonar and underwater cameras, no conclusive evidence of Nessie's existence has ever been found.

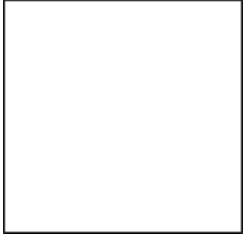


So, what could Nessie be? Some people believe that Nessie is a surviving dinosaur that somehow managed to evade extinction. Others think that Nessie could be a large fish that has grown to an exceptional size. Skeptics argue that the sightings are simply a hoax.

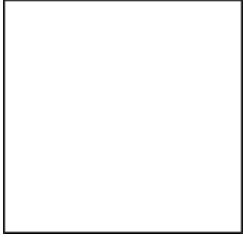


Regardless of the truth, the legend continues to capture the imaginations of people around the world. Perhaps one day, the truth behind Nessie will finally be revealed, but until then, the mystery remains unsolved, waiting to be explored.

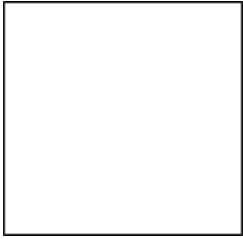
## The Spy with a Wooden Leg



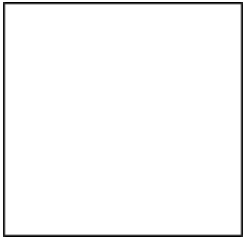
In the danger of World War II, one amazing woman stood out for her bravery and determination - Virginia Hall. Born in 1906, Virginia's life would take her on a journey of courage and heroism that would leave a lasting mark on history.



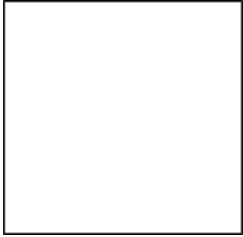
As a young woman, Virginia dreamed of making a difference in the world. She learned to speak four languages, English, French, German, and Italian. Her adventurous spirit led her to work in many countries, where she learned about different cultures. When war began across Europe in 1939, Virginia knew she had to do more, so she became one of the first female spies in World War II.



Virginia worked in France, risking her life as she faced constant danger of being captured by the Nazi occupiers. She did all this with a wooden leg, which she named "Cuthbert." Virginia's leg had been amputated years earlier due to a hunting accident.



Her bravery inspired those around her. She gathered important information, rescued downed pilots, and sabotaged enemy operations. The Nazis relentlessly pursued Virginia, whom they called "The Limping Lady," but she was always able to avoid capture.



Virginia Hall's remarkable story is an example of bravery and determination. Despite her physical challenges, she showed how one person, possessed with grit and courage, can make a difference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Informative Summary Organizer

Article title:

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

Engaging introductory paragraph:

Main idea:

Key Words

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Conclusion:

## Informative Summary Organizer Model

**Article title:** The Spy with a Wooden Leg

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

**Engaging introductory paragraph:**

Imagine being a spy and having to blend in like a chameleon. Even though Virginia Hall had a wooden leg and walked with a noticeable limp, she became one of the best spies in World War II. Her story is filled with bravery, cleverness, and determination.

**Main idea:**

Despite physical challenges, one person can make difference

**Key Words**

1.

Virginia Hall, World War II, made history

2.

wanted make difference, World War II spy

3.

risked life, France, wooden leg

4.

operations against Nazis, never caught

5.

**Conclusion:**

example, can make difference

## Informative Summary Model

### The Spy with the Wooden Leg

Imagine being a spy and having to blend in like a chameleon. Even though Virginia Hall stood out with her wooden leg and walked with a noticeable limp, she became one of the best spies in World War II. The article "The Spy With The Wooden Leg" tells the story of this courageous woman.

From the time she was a young woman, Virginia Hall wanted to help people and make a difference in the world. This was despite the fact that her leg had been amputated after a hunting accident, leaving her with a wooden leg and a limp. Virginia did not let that stop her. She worked in many countries around the world and learned to speak four languages. After the start of World War II, Virginia knew she had to help. She volunteered. She became one of the first female spies in Europe.

Virginia was sent to France, a country occupied by the Nazis. She risked her life over and over again. Virginia worked with others fighting the Nazis. Helped to rescue downed pilots, collected important information, and sabotaged the enemy.

The Nazis knew about Virginia and were desperate to find her, but they did not know her name or where she stayed. They called her "The Limping Lady." Despite their persistent efforts, they were never able to capture her. Hall worked in France for more than a year. She fled the country just as the Nazis were closing in on her.

The incredible tale of Virginia Hall teaches us about being brave and never giving up. Even though she had great physical challenges, the spy with the wooden leg showed how someone with determination, can make a big difference.



## Informative Summary Model Annotated

### The Spy with the Wooden Leg

Imagine being a spy and having to blend in like a chameleon. Even though Virginia Hall stood out with her wooden leg and walked with a noticeable limp, she became one of the best spies in World War II. The article "The Spy ~~With The~~ \*with the Wooden Leg" tells ~~tells~~ explores the story of this courageous woman.

From the time she was a young woman, Virginia Hall wanted to help people and make a difference in the world. This was despite the fact that her leg had ~~ben~~ **been** amputated after a hunting accident, leaving her with a wooden leg and a limp. Virginia did not let that stop her. She worked in many countries around the world and learned to speak four languages. After the start of World War II, Virginia knew she had to help. She volunteered, ~~She became~~ **becoming** one of the first female spies in ~~europa~~ **Europe**.

Virginia was sent to France, a country occupied by the Nazis. She risked her life over and over again. Virginia worked with others fighting the Nazis. \***She** helped to rescue downed pilots, collected important information, and sabotaged the enemy.

The Nazis knew about Virginia. ~~and~~ **They** were desperate to find her, but they did not know her name or where she stayed. They called her "The Limping Lady." Despite their persistent efforts, they were never able to capture her. ~~Hall worked in France for more than a year. She~~ **After conducting operations in France for more than** \***than one year, she** fled the country just as the Nazis were closing in on her.

**The incredible tale of Virginia Hall teaches us about being brave and never giving up. Even though she had great physical challenges, the spy with the wooden leg ~~showed~~ demonstrated how someone with determination, can make a big difference.**

#### Annotations

Has an engaging introductory paragraph is in red

Paraphrases the main idea and important details appears in each paragraph

Uses academic language is in blue

Has sentences with varied lengths 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

## 4th Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Rubric Score \_\_\_\_\_

Self

Partner

### Genre Chart

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Has an engaging introductory paragraph**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Paraphrases the main idea and important details**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Uses academic language**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Has sentences with varied lengths**

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

- |       |       |   |
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| _____ | _____ | 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)*

# Independent Assessment: Informative Summary

**Objective** – Use the elements in the genre chart to independently write an informative summary

## Independent Assessments

Assessments are provided as a resource for teachers to further evaluate students' ability to write independently. This prompt is provided as one idea for assessing student writing. If you prefer, have students write to an alternative prompt.

For this assessment, students write a summary of informative text that includes the elements listed on the genre chart.

## Instructions

Display the genre chart and any previously created word banks that students might use as a resource. Remind students of the characteristics of an informative summary and review the elements on the genre chart. Point out any word banks and read the listed items with the class.

Read together an informative summary from the previous week's writing. Identify each genre chart element in the piece of writing.

Give students the following prompt:

Display the article "Heating Up Modern Life," that follows this prompt. Read it twice to students and then have them read it independently a third time.

*Say: You will write an informative summary of "Heating Up Modern Life." Include the main idea and important details from the article in your summary. Make sure to include all five elements from the genre chart in your paper.*

### Summary

Students will write an informative summary that:

- Has an engaging introductory paragraph
- Paraphrases the main idea and important details
- Uses academic language
- Has sentences with varied lengths
- Ends with a concluding statement

### Materials

- Informative Summary Genre Chart
- Student writing paper
- Copies of "Heating up Modern Life"
- Informative Summary writing from the previous week

# Heating Up Modern Life

Get ready to heat things up as we uncover the surprising origins of one of the most convenient kitchen appliances - the microwave oven. Join us on a journey through time to learn how this accidental invention transformed the way we cook and eat.

The microwave oven was invented by accident and has since become a staple in kitchens around the world. Its creation was a result of an accidental discovery and years of experimentation by curious scientists.

The story begins in 1945 when engineer Percy Spencer was conducting experiments with radar technology. During one experiment, he noticed that a candy bar in his pocket melted after being exposed to microwave radiation. This observation sparked an idea. Could this radiation be used to cook food? Mr. Spencer conducted further experiments, eventually developing the first microwave oven in 1947. It consisted of a metal box with a tube that produced radiation, capable of heating food much faster than traditional ovens.

In 1947, the first commercial microwave oven, called the "Radarrange," was introduced. It was large and expensive and mostly used in commercial settings like restaurants and ships. However, as technology improved, the cost decreased and microwave ovens became more accessible to the general public. They slowly found their way into households worldwide.



In conclusion, the accidental invention of the microwave oven is a testament to the power of curiosity and experimentation. What started as a simple observation in a laboratory, led to a groundbreaking innovation that changed the way we prepare and enjoy food. So, the next time you pop a bag of popcorn or warm up leftovers in the microwave, remember the accidental discovery that made it all possible.