

GRADE 4 English Language Arts **Using Information Resources: Lesson 5**

Read aloud to the students the material that is printed in **boldface type** inside the boxes. Information in regular type inside the boxes and all information outside the boxes should **not** be read to the students. Possible student responses are included in parentheses after the questions.

Any directions that ask you to do something, such as to turn to a page or to hand out materials to students, will have an arrow symbol (\implies) by them.

Purpose of Lesson 5:

In this lesson, the tutor and students will

- ◆ practice reading and following written directions;
- ◆ practice using the following information resources- a tour guide, an internet website, encyclopedia, and excerpts from a textbook;
- ◆ practice skimming;
- ◆ find key words in questions; and
- ◆ answer questions using the Information Resources Booklet.

Equipment/Materials Needed:

- ◆ pencils
- ◆ Student Worksheet: Information Resources Lesson 5-1
- ◆ Information Resources Booklet (one per student)

Introduction:

Today you will practice using resources. When you have to do a project or write a report, the first thing you do is look for information. We have already discussed the many resources we can find at the library, at school, and even in our homes.

You have probably spent time in the library finding resources for reports or projects. The library is a great place to find many kinds of resources. Sometimes we call resources *sources*. Let's review some of the resources we can find in the library. Name some of them.

Pause. (books, textbooks, magazines, dictionary, atlases, encyclopedias, Internet, etc.)

Today you will practice finding information from sources. You won't really do research, or write a report. You will just practice finding information from resources to show that you *could* do an assignment requiring research. Doing this activity will be very much like answering questions about information resources on a test.

⇒ Distribute the Information Resources Booklet.

To practice finding information from references, you will use the same Information Resource Booklet you got a little familiar with during our last lesson. Remember, this booklet has parts of different information resources such as books, encyclopedias, and magazines, etc. The first page of this booklet has three main parts: an introduction, the topic, and directions. It is very important that you read this page of the booklet very carefully before you answer the questions. This step is very important. If you don't read this page (especially the directions) carefully, you might make mistakes and waste a lot of time.

Although you have seen this booklet before, we will take just a few minutes to review the first page. Look at the top of the first page where it says *Introduction*. Follow along silently as I read aloud.

In this section of the test, you are asked to look at some reference materials and then to use the materials to answer the questions on your worksheet.

Notice that the *first* thing you are supposed to do is look at the sources. *After* you look at the sources, you begin answering the questions.

What is the next heading after *Introduction* ? Pause. (topic)

You can see that it is very easy to find out what topic the resources cover. In this case what is the topic? Pause. (Discovering Louisiana)

Now read the section under *Topic* silently while I read it aloud.

Suppose you want to find out more about Louisiana for a family vacation or a report you are writing. Four different sources of information about Louisiana are contained in this section of the test. The information sources and the page numbers where you can find them are listed below.

Here is a real reason for doing research. When you go on a vacation, you need to find specific information. If you wanted to visit interesting places in Louisiana or write a report about Louisiana, materials in this booklet would help you find the information you would need.

How many kinds of information resources with information about Louisiana are listed on this page? Pause. (four)

Quickly scan this section of the page to get familiar with these sources. What are the four sources? Pause. (Tour Guide, Internet Website, Encyclopedia, and the Index from a textbook)

Each source also has information about specific parts and the page numbers on which each part is found: for example, look at the first source. What parts of this source are included in the booklet and where are they located? Pause. (Map of Louisiana on page 227B, Table of Contents on page 228B, State Symbols/ Climate on page 229B)

What kind of source is listed next? Pause. (Internet Website information)

What specific website is included in the booklet? Pause. (LouisianaTravel.com on page 230B)

What is the third source? Pause. (encyclopedia) **What part of the encyclopedia is included in the booklet?** Pause (Louisiana Fact Sheet)

What is the fourth source? Pause. (Index from Social Studies text)

Now let's go on to *Directions*, the third and last section on the first page of this booklet. Read silently as I read aloud.

Skim the pages in your booklet to become familiar with the information contained in these sources. Remember that these are reference sources, so you should not read every word in each source. Once you have skimmed through these sources, answer the questions on your worksheet. Use the information sources to help you answer the questions. As you work through the questions, go back and read the parts that will give you the information you need.

Did everyone notice that the directions said to skim the information in the sources *before* answering the questions? You were also told to skim the information in the introduction. Look at the introduction again. It says to *look at some reference materials and then to use the materials to answer the questions.* These directions are given twice, so they must be very important. Are there any questions about how to use the **Information Resource Booklet? (Review or clarify as needed.)**

Now we are ready to practice using information resources by doing an activity like one you might do on a test. When you take a test, you will have a packet of reference sources included with your test booklet.

To do this activity, pretend that you are doing a report or project about Louisiana. You have gone to the library, chosen the books and encyclopedia articles you need, and then selected only the parts of the books and articles you need to do the project. All the resources that you need are in this booklet.

Now take a few minutes to scan the pages in your **Information Resources Booklet. You don't need to read every word of this booklet. Just read over the pages very quickly to learn about the information in them.**

Allow a few minutes for students to scan the booklet.

Now let's practice finding information from this booklet before doing the worksheet on information resources.

Raise your hand if you know the answer. Are you ready? Let's begin.

Remember, there are four information sources in this booklet. Which one of these four sources would tell me which cities in Louisiana are close to the Gulf of Mexico? You might already know the answer, but I want you to tell me which information source would tell you which cities are close to the Gulf of Mexico. Pause. (Map of Louisiana on page 227B)

You probably found this answer very quickly, especially if you remembered there was a map of Louisiana in this booklet. Since you scanned the booklet first, you knew where to find the answer quickly.

What are the key words in this question? Pause. (*which, source, close, Gulf of Mexico*) Notice that you did not have to give the names of the cities near the Gulf of Mexico; you just had to tell *which source* gave that information. It is important to identify the key words in the question so you don't get side tracked and look for the wrong information.

Now let's try another question. Which source would tell us when special outdoor events are held in Louisiana? Pause. (Internet Website, LouisianaTravel.com)

It took a little more time to find the answer to this question. First you should have identified the key words in the question. What are the key words in this question? Pause. (special outdoor events, Louisiana)

If you had skimmed the materials first, you would have known just where to look. You could have found these key words quickly. Everyone look at the Internet Website source on page 230B. Look at the symbols on the left side of the page. (Point the symbols out to the students.) Now look for the word *outdoors* and the picture of a canoe next to it. This picture of a canoe and the word *outdoors* tell us where to click with a "mouse" to find more information about outdoor events.

Now let's try another question. Where would I look to find out what kind of clothes to pack for a vacation to Louisiana during February? Pause. (State Symbols/Climate on page 231B of the Louisiana Tour Guide)

You had to think a little harder to answer this one. First you had to find the key words. The key words in this question are *kind of clothes, vacation, Louisiana, and February*. Do you see any key words in the titles or bold words in the sources? Pause. (yes, LouisianaTravel.com, Louisiana Tour Guide)

Do you see any other key words? Pause. (no)

Since you don't see the exact key words you need, you have to skim for words that mean the same thing, or words that would lead you to the answer. In this case, what information do we know in order to pack the right clothes for Louisiana during the month of February? Pause. (something about the weather)

Yes, to find out about the weather, we would skim the pages for words with *weather*. Did anyone see any pages with the word *weather* in titles, headings, or in bold print? Pause. (no)

Since we can't find the word *weather* when we skim, should we just give up and guess? Pause. (no)

No, we don't need to guess. Can anyone think of a word that has a similar meaning as *weather* or that would lead us to information about the weather in Louisiana during February? Pause. (climate)

Where do you see the word *climate*? Pause. (on the State Symbols/Climate page in the Louisiana Tour Guide)

Remember to skim for key words, or words that mean the same thing as the key words, in order to find information you need.

Let's try to answer one more question about finding information from this booklet before doing the worksheet.

Where would I look to find information about Louisiana events especially for children? Pause. (Internet Website, LouisianaTravel.com)

This question was another one that made you think a little. What are the key words in this question? Pause. (Louisiana events, children)

When you skim the titles, headings, and words in bold print, do you see these words? Pause. (*Louisiana events*, but not *children*)

Where are the words *Louisiana events* found? Pause. (Internet Website, LouisianaTravel.com)

Now look at the website page in your booklet and look for the word *children*. We don't see the word *children*. Can you think of another word for *children*? Pause. (*kids*)

I see the word *kids* in three places on this page, in the title, at the bottom of the left column of symbols, and in the first sentence of the section written under the title, *The Big Scoop on "LittleLou."* (Point these places out to the students.)

Read this sentence silently while I read it aloud.

"Little Lou" is a rollerblading cayenne pepper who stars in a special brochure just for kids all about the great things they can do in Louisiana.

This sentence tells us that there is a section with information about great things children can do in Louisiana.

Finding this answer may have taken a little longer than finding the other answers. You had to know what each source was about. Often, the main point of a source is found in the first sentence. In this case, if you had skimmed the first sentences in each source, you may have found the answer quickly. You did not have to read every word in each source. In fact, all you needed to read was the first sentence. Scanning the booklet and skimming pages by reading titles, headings, and words in bold print should have saved you a lot of time.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Using Information Resources Lesson 5-1. Pretend you are taking a test with a section on using information resources. Use this booklet to answer the questions on this worksheet. Find and circle the key words in each question. Then scan the information sources so that you can find the answer quickly. After students have completed the worksheet, discuss the answers to each question.

Answers to Worksheet on Using Information Resources:

Key words are highlighted.

1. Which resource gives the best information about the location of Louisiana in the United States?

- ◆ Choice A, *Internet website information for Louisiana Travel.com*, is incorrect because it gives no information about the location of Louisiana.
- ◆ Choice B, *Louisiana Tour Guide page on State Symbols/Climate*, is not correct because it focuses on state symbols and climate, but gives no information about location.
- ◆ Choice C, *Index from the social studies textbook*, is incorrect; no information about the location of Louisiana is given.
- ◆ Choice D, *Louisiana Fact Sheet from the World Book Encyclopedia*, is correct. This resource includes a map that clearly show the location of Louisiana in relation to the entire United States.

2. Which index entry from the social studies textbook has a map in it?

- ◆ Choice A, *Abilene, Kansas*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice B, *Arkansas*, is correct; if you look very carefully, next to *Arkansas* you can see the italicized *m*.
- ◆ Choice C, *Appalachian Mountains*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice D, *Bayou*, is incorrect.

To answer this question, you had to find the index from the social studies textbook and read under *Index* the sentence which said that entries with an italicized *m* had maps. If you didn't know this information you wouldn't have been able to answer the question. You also needed to know that entries are in alphabetical order so that you could find them quickly.

(Answers to worksheet continued)

3. In which months are the average daily temperatures in Louisiana the highest?

- ◆ Choice A, *April and May*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice B, *May and June*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice C, *June and July*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice D, *July and August*, is correct.

To answer this question, you had to find the section on climate in Louisiana on the State Symbol/Climate page from the Louisiana Tour Guide. You had to read the Louisiana Climate Chart on this page. Everyone turn to this page now and find the chart. Notice the two lines on the chart. Can anyone tell what these lines mean? Pause. (the solid line tells the average daily high temperature; the dotted line tells the average daily low temperature.)

Now look across the top of the chart where you can see the months of the year. Put your finger on the solid line (Demonstrate to students by pointing out this line on the page) and find where it reaches the highest point. You can see that the temperatures are highest during July and August. Does everyone understand how to read this chart? (Explain again and clarify as necessary.)

To understand charts, you have to read the title and all other words on the chart carefully. These words will tell you what the symbols or lines on the chart mean.

4. Which resource would tell you the price of a fishing license in Louisiana?

- ◆ Choice A, *Table of Contents from the Louisiana Tour Guide*, is correct. The entry *Fishing/Boating* should give information about the price of a fishing license.
- ◆ Choice B, *State Symbols/Climate from the Louisiana Tour Guide*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice C, *Louisiana Fact Sheet from World book Encyclopedia*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice D, *Internet website, LouisianaTravel.com*, is incorrect.

To find this answer, you had to skim the Table of Contents for the word *fishing*. Turn to this page now and find the word *fishing*. Since there are two entries including *fishing*, this resource would probably have the best information about a fishing license in Louisiana.

(Answers to worksheet continued)

5. Circle the resources which would provide information about Louisiana's becoming a state.

- ◆ Choice A, *Table of Contents*, is correct and should be circled.
- ◆ Choice B, *Index from Social Studies Text*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice C, *Map of Louisiana*, is incorrect.
- ◆ Choice D, *Louisiana Fact Sheet*, is correct and should be circled.

To find this answer quickly, you needed to scan the resource in each choice. Look at the Table of Contents page. Now scan the headings in bold print for information about Louisiana's becoming a state. If you look under *Statewide Information*, you can find *Louisiana History*, which should lead to information about Louisiana's becoming a state.

Look at *Index from Social Studies Textbook*. If you skim the index quickly, you will see that there is no place for entries beginning with the letter *L*; an entry for *Louisiana* would not be found here. This answer cannot be correct. The index we are using is only a part of the complete index, which probably has a place for entries beginning with the letter *L*.

Now look at *Map of Louisiana*. There is no information about Louisiana's becoming a state.

Look at *Louisiana Fact Sheet*. Notice that it is divided into several sections. *Important Dates* has an entry next to 1812. This entry says *Louisiana became the 16th state on April 30*.

You have done a great job practicing finding information quickly. This skill will help you find the information you need to work on projects and reports. Let's review a few tips for using information resources and answering the kind of questions about them that you might see on a test:

- ◆ *Read the first page* of the Information Resource Booklet very carefully. This page contains the *directions* and *contents* of the Booklet.
- ◆ *Follow the directions!* Remember, you are told *twice* on the first page to *look at the reference materials before answering the questions*.
- ◆ *Scan* the resources and *skim* the articles; you do not have time to read every word in every article and information resource.
- ◆ To find main ideas of articles and other resources quickly, *read titles, headings, words in bold print, and first sentences of paragraphs*.

Student Worksheet: Using Information Resources Lesson 5-1

NAME _____

Use the Information Resources Booklet to answer the following questions.
Circle the key words in each question.

1. Which resource gives the best information about the location of Louisiana in the United States ?
 - ◆ A. Internet website information for Louisiana Travel.com
 - ◆ B. Louisiana Tour Guide page on State Symbols/Climate
 - ◆ C. Index from the social studies textbook
 - ◆ D. Louisiana Fact Sheet from the World Book Encyclopedia

2. Which index entry from the social studies textbook has a map in it?
 - ◆ A. Abilene, Kansas
 - ◆ B. Arkansas
 - ◆ C. Appalachian Mountains
 - ◆ D. Bayou

3. In which months are the average daily temperatures in Louisiana the highest?
 - ◆ A. April and May
 - ◆ B. May and June
 - ◆ C. June and July
 - ◆ D. July and August

4. Which resource would tell you the price of a fishing license in Louisiana?
 - ◆ A. Table of Contents from the Louisiana Tour Guide
 - ◆ B. State Symbols/Climate from the Louisiana Tour Guide
 - ◆ C. Louisiana Fact Sheet from World book Encyclopedia
 - ◆ D. Internet website, LouisianaTravel.com

5. Circle the resources providing information about Louisiana becoming a state.
 - ◆ A. Table of Contents
 - ◆ B. Index from Social Studies Text
 - ◆ C. Map of Louisiana
 - ◆ D. Louisiana Fact Sheet