

# Summer Reading Activities



<b>Second Grade – Activity #9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Research and Write
<b>Parent Information</b>	<p>Children love to investigate and learn interesting facts about a variety of topics. Animals, plants, rocks, dinosaurs, sports, space, and inventions are just a few ideas. When children can choose topics based on personal interest, it can increase motivation for reading and writing. Talk with your child about their interests and select non-fiction texts that will support their curiosity and learning.</p> <p>Helping our children recognize the difference between fact and opinion encourages critical thinking skills. Facts are true pieces of information that can be proven, while an opinion is how a person thinks or feels about a topic. Non-fiction text supports our thinking around both facts and opinions.</p> <p>Fact: Spiders are arachnids with eight legs. Opinion: I think spiders are... (interesting, scary, cool, etc.) because they have eight legs.</p>
<b>Objective</b>	Learn and write about topics of interest
<b>Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 – 30 minutes</li> <li>• Reading and writing may carry over several days</li> </ul>
<b>Materials</b>	Non-fiction texts, paper, pencils, or colored pencils
<b>Procedures</b>	<p>Identify a topic of interest with your child. Ask some guiding questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think you know about spiders?</li> <li>• What do you want to learn about spiders?</li> </ul> <p>Gather a variety of non-fiction texts on the topic to read with your child or that your child can read independently. As you read, highlight various text features that are often included in non-fiction such as bold headings, photographs and captions, labels and/or diagrams, etc.</p> <p>Encourage your child to record some of the interesting facts or take notes in a journal as they read and learn about the topic. Have your child include images or a quick sketch to help them remember key details, a process or challenging vocabulary.</p> <p>Talk with your child about the information in the text and ask some follow up questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What new information did you learn about spiders?</li> <li>• Did your thinking change about what you thought you knew about spiders?</li> <li>• What do you notice or still wonder about spiders?</li> </ul>

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	<p>Choose a writing project that fits the topic to follow the reading and research your child has completed.</p> <p><b>Informational Writing Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write a report about your topic with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Include interesting facts and details.</li><li>• Write to explain or describe the process of your topic (Ex. the water cycle or the food chain).</li><li>• Write to explain how something is made (Ex. movies, LEGO bricks, or paper).</li><li>• Write to compare two different but related topics (Ex. the difference between arachnids and insects).</li><li>• Keep an observation journal to record how something changes or grows (Ex. how plants grow or a science experiment).</li></ul> <p><b>Opinion Writing Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write your opinion about a preference you have discovered while reading and researching. Provide reasons for your opinion with facts and details (Ex. Have you ever seen a jellyfish? I think jellyfish are the most interesting creatures in the ocean. One reason is jellyfish can be transparent which mean you can see through them. Another reason...).</li></ul>
<b>Additional Resources and Information</b>	<p><u><a href="#">Visit EPS Student Tools:</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><a href="#">Britannica School</a></u></li><li>• <u><a href="#">Discovery Education</a></u></li></ul> <p>Visit your local library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><a href="#">Sno-Isle Libraries</a></u></li><li>• <u><a href="#">Everett Public Library</a></u></li></ul> <p>Visit National Geographic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><a href="#">National Geographic Kids</a></u></li><li>• <u><a href="#">Weird but True!</a></u></li></ul> <p>Visit Reading Rockets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u><a href="#">Nonfiction</a></u></li><li>• <u><a href="#">How to Read Nonfiction Text</a></u></li><li>• <u><a href="#">Writing Activities for Your Second Grader</a></u></li></ul>