

Summer Reading Activities



	Second Grade – Activity #9
Title	Research and Write
Parent Information	<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.</p> <p>Opinion: I think spiders are... (interesting, scary, cool, etc.) because they have eight legs.</p>
Objective	Learn and write about topics of interest
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 – 30 minutes • Reading and writing may carry over several days
Materials	Non-fiction texts, paper, pencils, or colored pencils
Procedures	<p>Identify a topic of interest with your child. Ask some guiding questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think you know about spiders? • What do you want to learn about spiders? <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"> • What new information did you learn about spiders? • Did your thinking change about what you thought you knew about spiders? • What do you notice or still wonder about spiders?

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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>Informational Writing Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a report about your topic with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Include interesting facts and details. • Write to explain or describe the process of your topic (Ex. the water cycle or the food chain). • Write to explain how something is made (Ex. movies, LEGO bricks, or paper). • Write to compare two different but related topics (Ex. the difference between arachnids and insects). • Keep an observation journal to record how something changes or grows (Ex. how plants grow or a science experiment). <p>Opinion Writing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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...).
Additional Resources and Information	<p><u>Visit EPS Student Tools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Britannica School</u> • <u>Discovery Education</u> <p>Visit your local library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sno-Isle Libraries</u> • <u>Everett Public Library</u> <p>Visit National Geographic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National Geographic Kids</u> • <u>Weird but True!</u> <p>Visit Reading Rockets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Nonfiction</u> • <u>How to Read Nonfiction Text</u> • <u>Writing Activities for Your Second Grader</u>