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Introduction

If you are like most teachers, your classroom includes a wide variety of students: average students, English language learners, gifted students and learning disabled students. You may be expected to get your diverse student population, including special education students and those for whom English is a second language, to master year-level, content-area material. That's a challenging task and one that requires year-level, content-area materials written at several levels. *Differentiated Nonfiction Reading* was written specifically to help you respond to the demands of your local standards while meeting the needs of your students.

Purpose of This Book

Each passage in *Differentiated Nonfiction Reading* covers a year-level appropriate curriculum topic in science, geography, history or English. The Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) standard and benchmark related to each passage is listed on pages 10–13.

Each content-area passage is written at three different levels: easy (below year level), average (at year level) and challenging (above year level). After each passage is a set of comprehension questions that all of your students will answer. This enables your students to access the text and concepts at their instructional—rather than frustration—level, while requiring them to meet objective standards, just as they must do on standardised assessments.

Prepare Your Students to Read Content-Area Text

You can prepare your students to read the passages in *Differentiated Nonfiction Reading* by daily reading aloud a short nonfiction selection from another source. Reading content-area text aloud is critical to developing your students' ability to read it themselves.




Discussing content-area concepts with your class is also very important. Remember, however, that discussion can never replace reading aloud since people do not speak using the vocabulary and complex sentence structures of written language.

Readability

All of the passages in *Differentiated Nonfiction Reading* have a reading level that has been calculated by the Flesch-Kincaid Readability Formula. This formula determines a text's readability by calculating the number of words, syllables and sentences.

Each passage is presented at three levels: easy, average and challenging. *Easy* is below year-two level; *average* is at year-two level; and *challenging* is above year-two level.

To ensure that only you know the reading level at which each student is working, the levels are not printed on the passages. Instead, at the top of the page is a set of books with a specific pattern that will allow you to quickly match students and passages.

Pattern			
Reading Level	easy (below year level)	average (at year level)	challenging (above year level)



Extreme Wildlife Adventure

If you like wildlife, you will enjoy the Galapagos Islands. You can dive in the ocean or stay on land. The islands are far away from the mainland. They are 973 kilometres off the coast.

Volcanoes in the ocean erupted. They formed islands. Each island is a volcano. Some are still active.

The islands are slowly moving eastward. Hot rock on the ocean floor makes land move. The islands drift in the ocean.

There are large islands. Some are tiny. There are more than twenty islands total. People live on just five of the islands.

Amazing animals live there. There are penguins. No other penguins live in the tropics. There are iguanas that swim. They eat seaweed.

The animals do not fear humans. The islands have no large predators. People can walk right by the animals. Blue-footed booby birds dance by your feet. Sea lions swim near by. You can see an **albatross** fly above you. A giant tortoise might walk by.

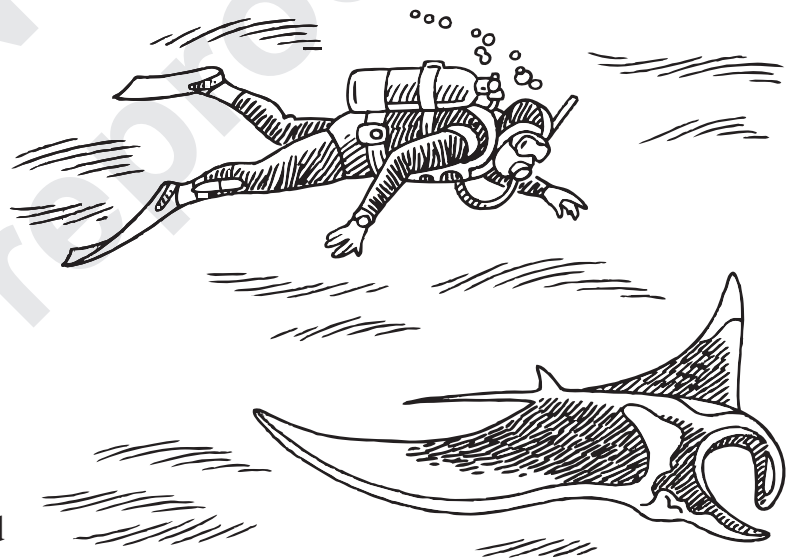
People can go diving. A boat leaves from the main island. The trip takes fifteen hours. It goes to other islands.

There are strong ocean currents. Dive to a ledge eighteen metres down. Grab onto the rock and hang on. Watch the marine life swim by.

A diver can see whale sharks. There are manta rays and dolphins. Sea turtles swim by.

People try to preserve the islands. They do not want them to change. Do not bring animals from other places. They eat the same food as native animals. It is hard for native animals to survive.

Almost all of the land area is a national park. All visitors must go with a guide. It is fun to explore and learn about the wildlife.





Extreme Wildlife Adventure

Directions: Darken the best answer choice.

1. On how many islands do people live?

(A) 973

(C) 5

(B) 20

(D) 15

2. An **albatross** is

(A) a boat that travels on the ocean.

(C) a bird that dances by your feet.

(B) a large seabird with long wings.

(D) a tree with coconuts.

3. When you dive in strong ocean currents, what should you do first?

(A) Dive to a ledge.

(B) Hang onto the rock.

(C) Grab onto the rock.

(D) Watch sea animals.

4. How are penguins in the Galapagos different from other penguins?

(A) They do not look like penguins.

(B) They do not live at the South Pole.

(C) They do not swim.

(D) They do not eat fish.

5. What do you need to have to visit the Galapagos?

(A) a camera

(B) a boat

(C) an animal

(D) a guide

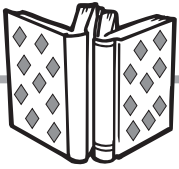
6. Picture a tour on the Galapagos islands. What will you *not* see?

(A) a booby bird with blue feet

(B) a sea lion

(C) a giant tortoise

(D) a tiger



Money

Long ago, people traded to buy things. They traded animals. They got food. Then, they traded food to get other things.

People did things for others. They traded shells. They traded beads. They even traded furs.

People wanted a better way to trade for things. They used coins. The coins were bronze. Coins had value. People spent coins. They bought things.

People called this money. They used gold. Sometimes they had silver. Each coin was worth some gold or silver.

Australia made paper money. People copied it. They made fake money. Australia used English money. We made our own paper notes in 1817.

Australia had pounds until 1966. Then we made dollars. New coins were made out of silver and bronze. We made new paper money.

The government put a **seal** on paper money. The seal is a design.

Australia had paper money until 1996. Then we made new money. It made it harder for people to copy.

Today, people also use credit cards. They use ATM cards. People do not carry as many coins.

