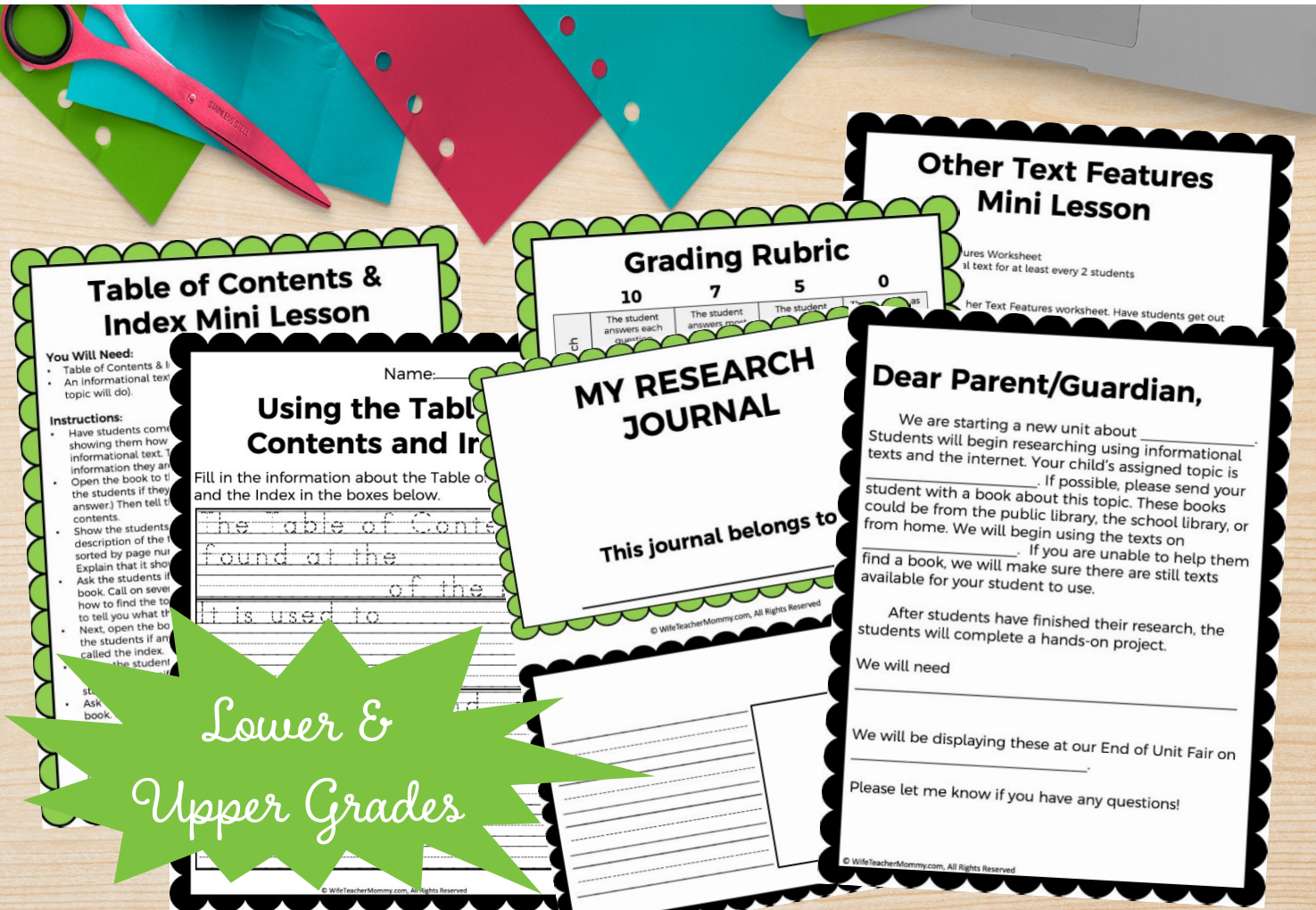


CREATE YOUR OWN Research Unit

PRINT VERSION



Parent Letter and Invitation to Keep Parents Involved and Informed

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are starting a new unit about _____.
Students will begin researching using informational
texts and the internet. Your child's assigned topic is
_____. If possible, please send your
student with a book about this topic. These books
could be from the public library, the school library, or
from home. We will begin using the texts on
_____. If you are unable to help them
find a book, we will make sure there are still texts
available for your student to use.

After students have finished their research, the
students will complete a hands-on project.

We will need

We will be displaying these at our End of Unit Fair on
_____.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

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YOU'RE INVITED!

You are invited to our End of Unit Fair!
Students will be showcasing their
own research projects.
Information is below!

Date:

Location:

Time:

Details:

**We Hope to See
You There!**

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We have included a letter to parents and an End of Unit Fair invitation to help keep your students' parents and guardians involved and informed. You can type the dates and your name right into the letter.

Differentiated Student Worksheets to Teach Each Element of the Research Project

Name: _____

Using the Table of Contents and Index

Fill in the information about the Table of Contents and the Index in the boxes below.

The Table of Contents is found at the _____ of the book.

It is used to _____

The Index is found at the _____ of the book.

It is used to _____

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Name: _____

Examine the Table of Contents

It is important to understand the text features in order to understand the information within the text. Examine the Table of Contents and answer the questions below.

All About Bats

Bat Food	2
Bat Babies	4
Bat Homes	5
Predators	8
Index	12

Name: _____

Using the Table of Contents & Index

The table of contents and index are both tools that you will find in informational text. Write each criteria below where it belongs in the Venn Diagram.

Table of Contents

Index

Name: _____

Using the Table of Contents and Index

Fill in the information about the Table of Contents and the Index in the boxes below.

The Table of Contents is found at the _____ of the book.

The Table of Contents is _____ long.

It is used to _____

The Index is found at the _____ of the book.

The Index is _____ long.

It is used to _____

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Name: _____

Using the Internet for Research

Practice coming up with keywords for the following research questions. Remember: be specific! Think about what it is you'd want to know if you were researching.

1. What is the state of Florida like?

2. What are tornadoes?

3. What are the planets in the solar system like?

4. Where are the world's ecosystems?

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Name: _____

Informational Text Features

Understanding the text features found in informational text is crucial to find the information you'll need about your research topic. Write the definition for each text feature below. You will use this as a reference while you're doing your research.

Table of Contents _____

Index _____

Glossary _____

Titles _____

Headings _____

Photos _____

Captions _____

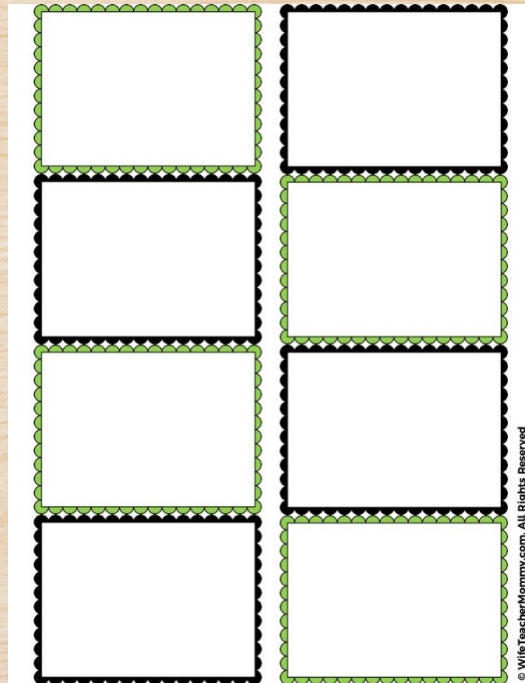
Graphs/Charts _____

Special Print _____

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Differentiated student worksheets are included for each mini lesson. We have created these worksheets to help your students of all ages learn each element of a research project in a simple easy to understand way.

Editable Topic Cards to Randomly Assign a Topic to Each Student to Research



We have created cards for you to use to spotlight each research topic. All you need to do is edit the text boxes. Then you will print, cut, and mix in a basket. Students will randomly choose which topic they will research.

Multiple ½ Page and Full Sheet Student Research Journal Pages to Reach all Levels of Learners

MY RESEARCH JOURNAL

This journal belongs to: _____

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MY RESEARCH JOURNAL

This journal belongs to: _____

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The student research journal pages are completely editable using Adobe Reader. We have made it easy to add your own questions and prompts to each page, centered around your chosen research unit theme.

Final Project With Grading Rubric for Easy Assessment of Student Understanding

Project & Report

You Will Need:

- One shoe box for every 2 students
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Any other craft items desired to create project

Diorama/Model Directions:

- Students will create a diorama/model of their topic inside of a shoebox. They will create their diorama and include their researched topic.
- They will use colored paper, markers, or whatever other materials are available to create their diorama.

Mode/Diorama Report:

- Students will use the information to write a short report about their research topic. They will write two paragraphs: one about their diorama/model and one about their research topic.
- The diorama paragraph will answer the diorama questions from their journals. They should include one sentence for each topic.
- The research topic paragraph will answer the questions from their journals. They should include one sentence for each topic.
- Students will write their rough draft on regular lined paper. Students will peer edit their papers (or you may edit them). Then they will write their final draft on the My Report & Diorama Report page from this document.

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Presentation & Fair

You Will Need:

- Completed reports and project

Presentation:

- Students will present their project to the class. The partners will tell the class some facts about their topic. This is an informal presentation, so students do not need to read their report word for word, but they may use it as a guide. Both students should be involved in the presentation!

Fair:

- The fair is a great way for students to share their hard work with other classes in their grade, as well as their parents.
- At least a few days before the fair, send home the invitation to parents inviting them to attend. Have students display their project on their desk and stand behind them to answer any questions about their topic and project. Depending on the layout of the desks, you may move them around a bit to make it more accessible for those attending the fair to walk around.
- First, invite a few other classes to attend the fair. The other classes can walk around and see the decorations and ask questions. This will be before the parents arrive as a practice run.
- After the classes are finished, the student's parents will arrive at the time on the invitation. The parents will be able to walk around and see their child's hard work as well as the rest of the class. This is a great way to get parents involved in their student's class!

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Grading Rubric

	10	7	5	0
Research	The student answers each question thoroughly in their journal.	The student answers most questions in their journal. They may be missing some information.	The student answers some questions in their journal, but they are missing some. Not enough information.	The student has very little to none of their questions completed.
Report	The student has included information from each page of their journal. They include all required information.	The student has included information from most pages of their journal. They include most required information.	The student has included some information from their journal, but left out a lot. There may not be enough writing.	The student has included minimal information about their research topic or did not complete the report.
Diorama	Diorama is complete, creative, and resembles the assigned topic.	Diorama is complete and resembles the topic.	Diorama may not resemble the assigned topic.	Diorama is incomplete or not done.
Participation & teamwork	The student participated throughout the unit and had no problems with teamwork.	The student mostly participated throughout the unit with minimal teamwork problems.	The student had some problems with participation and/or teamwork.	The student had major problems with participation and teamwork.

Total Points: ____ / 50 points

Notes

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Students will complete their final project by writing a report about their assigned topic and then create a hands-on model/diorama. We have included an easy-to-follow grading rubric to make assessments quick and easy.