Thinking Guide Activities – Expository
Title of the Selection: Nature’s Tiny Dancers
Teaching Band Grades 3 - 5
Genre: Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article

The selection and Expository Thinking Guide are provided. The Expository Thinking Guide identifies the topic, central idea of the selection, and the main idea of each paragraph. In addition, the main ideas are clustered by color code to develop a meaningful summary.

★ Nature’s Tiny Dancers Expository Selection
★ Nature’s Tiny Dancers Expository Thinking Guide
★ Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide and Summary

The Expository Thinking Guide is used to develop other fun and interactive activities. Fisher Reyna Education offers the following activities and test items:

★ Matching Pre-Reading Activity
★ Matching Activity Part 1
★ Matching Activity Part 2
★ Thinking Guide Cloze 1st Letter Activity
★ Thinking Guide Cloze Blank Activity
★ Thinking Guide Write Main Ideas Activity
★ Vocabulary Activity
★ Marked Selection Activity
★ Test Questions and Answer Key
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Color-Coded Summary
Clustering used to produce a meaningful summary

The main ideas are clustered by color-code to develop a meaningful summary. The statements provided in the Thinking Guide and summary paragraph serve as only ONE way to paraphrase the story elements for this selection.

**Hummingbirds are one of the most popular bird watching subjects.** Their physical characteristics make them look like jewels in the air. Their diet is packed with power which they use for flight. These small and delicate birds have aggressive behavior during the summer breeding season. Texas hummingbirds can be found seasonally in various regions. During the winter, some species have a general pattern of migration to the Coastal Plains.
Matching Pre-Reading Activity -

Directions and Activity Variations -
Students may work individually or with a partner. Teacher shows text features: the title, subtitles and photos with captions as a pre-reading activity to the Matching Activity.

Subtitles in bold print:

Physical Characteristics--Jewels of the Air

Diet --Packed with Power

Fluttering Flight

Behavior and Reproduction --Wee Warriors and Petite Parents

General Distribution--Do You Notice a Pattern?
Matching Activity Part 1

Directions and Activity Variations
Students may work individually or with a partner.

1. Cut apart the main ideas and give one main idea to individual student or partners. Teacher reads the selection one paragraph at a time. Students identify when they have the matching main idea.
2. Provide the selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students read the selection and match cut-apart main ideas to paragraphs in the selection.
3. Provide cut-apart selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students match cut-apart paragraphs to the cut-apart main ideas.

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| 11. The Rufous Hummingbird |
Hummingbirds are one of the most popular bird watching subjects which occur only in the Americas, and there are about 340 species of this spectacular little bird. Thousands of decorative hummingbird pieces, such as stained glass ornaments, blankets, wall art, jewelry, music boxes, vases, and figurines, make popular gifts because of their elegance and dazzling colors. Named for the “hum” sound made by their rapid wing beats, hummingbirds belong to the bird family Trochilidae, the group of tiny American birds having brilliant iridescent plumage (feathers), long slender bills, and wings that are specialized for vibrating flight.

Like all birds, hummingbirds are some of the most accomplished of all flying animals. They are endothermic (warm-blooded) and reproduce by laying eggs. Most survive three to five years in the wild, are highly attracted to brightly colored flowers (especially red), and have several adaptations for feeding and flight which make them unique. Like bees and other insects, they also ensure plant survival by spreading pollen from one flower to another when feeding. They are often seen at backyard feeders made of sugar-water and can be heard making a sharp ‘chip’ or ‘tew’ call. In Texas, there are at least 17 different species of hummingbirds and most are found in the western and southern parts of the state, and along the Gulf Coast during the winter months. The most commonly seen species in Texas include the Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, Rufous, Buff-bellied, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.

The family of hummingbirds includes some of the world’s smallest birds, with compact and muscular bodies, relatively small feet, and narrow wings. Texas species range in length from 3-4½ inches, but the tail often makes up as much as half of the body length. Wingspan contributes to a width ranging from 4½ - 5½ inches. While females tend to be drab or buff-colored, the male hummingbirds are usually the more colorful of the two, often displaying an iridescent gorget, or throat patch. This feature can be helpful when identifying and comparing the species. For example, the Ruby-throated and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds have a rosy red gorget, the Black-chinned has a black throat with a violet band, and the Rufous has an orange-red gorget. Unlike these hummers, the male and female Buff-bellied Hummingbirds look very similar.

Hummingbirds feed mainly on insects, small spiders, and nectar (a sweet, energy-rich liquid produced by flowers) and will often eat their weight in food in a single day. Each has a long, slender, and sometimes curved bill and tubular tongue designed for removing the nectar from deep inside tube-shaped flowers. Amazingly, the shape of each species’ bill often matches the shape of the flower from which it is feeding. Though the insects supply much of the protein required for growth and development, the nectar provides the added energy needed to match the hummingbird’s high metabolism (breakdown of food to make energy) for flight. In contrast, hummingbirds can adapt to food shortages and cool nights by temporarily lowering their respiration rate and body temperature to conserve energy, a process known as torpor.
When it comes to speed, agility, and maneuvering, hummingbirds are the champions of flight. They beat their wings in a figure-eight pattern and can fly upward, downward, sideways, backward, and even upside down! This is due mainly to their “elbows” being located so close to their bodies. Additionally, while feeding, a hummingbird will hover at the flower or feeder by beating its wings so rapidly that they are nearly invisible. The drone or humming sound, made by fast wing flapping can sometimes be heard before the bird is seen, as with the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, which makes a metallic trilling noise in flight.

Hummingbirds are often solitary, except during the summer breeding season, and will often defend their territory aggressively against each other or larger birds. For example, the delicate Rufous Hummingbird’s beauty hides a fearless mean streak, as the males will exhibit remarkable nerve and aggression at their territory or near concentrated food sources. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will also vigorously defend a feeder or flowers from moths and butterflies. When time to breed, female hummers are courted by males flying in a u-shaped pattern before them. Though the Rufous Hummingbird does not nest in Texas, most hummingbirds’ nesting habits are similar. The female will build a small cup-like nest made of leaves, lichens, and spider web silk on a horizontal tree branch, rock, or palm frond. She then lays two tiny white eggs and incubates them for 13-16 days.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a common summer resident in eastern Texas to south along the central Coastal Plain and will spend the winter along the coast.

The Buff-bellied Hummingbird is a common resident around the Lower Rio Grande Valley and will travel up the Coastal Plain to Galveston Bay during the winter.

The Black-chinned Hummingbird commonly spends the summer in the Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and northern South Texas areas and will reside along the coast during the winter.

The Broad-tailed Hummingbird is an uncommon summer resident in most of the Trans-Pecos Mountains and rare visitor to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and up the Coastal Plain.

The Rufous Hummingbird is a common migrant in the western third of Texas and rare in the rest of the state. It is a locally uncommon winter visitor on the Coastal Plain and Lower Rio Grande Valley.
**Expository Thinking Guide**  
**Cloze – 1st Letter Activity**

**Title of the Selection**  
Nature’s Tiny Dancers

**Directions**  
As selection is read, complete the words in the blanks with the first letter given.

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**General Distribution -- Do You Notice a Pattern?**

| 7. The R________--t________________ Hummingbird | |
| 8. The B______--b________________ Hummingbird | |
| 9. The B______--c________________ Hummingbird | |
| 10. The B________--t________________ Hummingbird | |
| 11. The R_____________ Hummingbird | |
# Expository Thinking Guide

**Title of the Selection**  
Nature’s Tiny Dancers

**Directions**  
As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

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| 9. The B_______-c___________ Hummingbird  
| 10. The B________-t_____________ Hummingbird  
| 11. The R____________ Hummingbird  

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## Write Main Ideas Activity

**Title of the Selection**  
*Nature’s Tiny Dancers*

**Genre:** Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article

**Directions**

Students take notes that include topic, central idea of the selection, and main idea of each paragraph. Paragraphs with implied main ideas increase the level of difficulty with this activity.

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Nature’s Tiny Dancers
Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

Directions: Display the following vocabulary list. Ask the students to define the words they recognize. Then read Nature’s Tiny Dancers as the students listen for these words. After hearing one of the listed words in context, ask students to give its definition. The words are listed in the order in which they appear in the article.

Note: This vocabulary activity should be used after students have read the article.

1. spectacular
2. elegance
3. plumage
4. endothermic
5. ensure
6. tew
7. narrow
8. nectar
9. slender
10. metabolism
11. torpor
12. drone
Marked Selection Activity

Title of the Selection  Nature’s Tiny Dancers
Genre: Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article

Directions

Students use marking strategies and complete the thinking guide as they read the selection. A marked selection is provided.

Marking codes are used to demonstrate comprehension strategies. Marking codes are necessary for the students to have a system for analyzing or processing what they read. This system of showing your work while working independently on a reading comprehension selection allows teachers to make effective instructional decisions. When the staff works as a team to provide instruction and monitor progress, it is important for everyone to require the same set of marking codes.

Students who consistently score 95% or better may not be required to show their work.

For more information on marking codes and comprehension strategies see our book titled, Solution For Success: Reading
Lois Fisher & Rachel Reyna
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Hummingbirds are one of the most popular bird watching subjects. Their physical characteristics make them look like jewels in the air. Their diet is packed with power which they use for flight. These small and delicate birds have aggressive behavior during the summer breeding season. Texas hummingbirds can be found seasonally in various regions. During the winter, some species have a general pattern of migration to the Coastal Plains.
How To Make a Homemade Hummingbird Feeder

photos by Carolyn Bierschwale

1. First, gather the following materials:
   a. Large water or sports drink bottle (remove label)
   b. Red, square, shallow disposable food container
   c. String or thin rope
   d. Decorations for flowers (markers, stickers, etc)
   e. Cutting utensil for making holes (scissors, hole-puncher, or knife)
   f. Adult to help with cutting
   g. Sugar-water (1 part sugar/4 parts water, non-dyed)

2. Second, remove the lids from the bottle and container. Trace the outline of the bottle's mouth onto the center of the container's lid and cut out the circle. Try to slide the bottle's neck back through the hole (you may need to make the hole slightly bigger) and make sure you're able to screw the bottle cap back on, with the container lid stuck between the two.

3. Third, with the help of an adult, cut a hole in the center of the bottle cap. This hole will need to be big enough to allow the hummingbird food to fill the container without overflowing (the food should only fill to the level of the bottle's lid).

4. Fourth, cut four small holes near the corners of the container lid. These will be from where the hummingbirds will drink.

5. Fifth, decorate the bottle and container with bright colors and flowers.

6. Sixth, fill the upright bottle with the sugar-water, place the container lid over the bottle neck, screw the bottle cap on, and attach the container to its lid.

7. Last, carefully flip the feeder over and watch the sugar-water fill the container. The feeder can be either placed on a flat surface or hanged. To hang, tie a tight loop of string around the bottle (this works nicely if the bottle has grooves). Then, tie another long piece of string to two opposite sides of the loop to make the hanging string.
Test Questions

1. What sentence from the article best shows that hummingbirds are brave for their size?

A. Like all birds, hummingbirds are some of the most accomplished of all the flying animals.
B. When it comes to speed, agility and maneuvering, hummingbirds are the champions of flight.
C. Amazingly, the shape of each species’ bill often matches the shape of the flower from which it is feeding.
D. For example, the delicate Rufous Hummingbird’s beauty hides a fearless mean streak, as the males will exhibit remarkable nerve and aggression at their territory or near concentrated food sources.

2. The author includes headings in bold print to –

A. explain why the article was written
B. describe why the photos were included in the article
C. show which words are most important
D. tell about information in each section

3. The picture in the section “Behavior and Reproduction” is included in the article to –

A. show what humming birds look like
B. provide information about hummingbird flight patterns
C. explain where hummingbirds live
D. show hummingbird nesting habits
4 Which words in paragraph 3 help the reader understand the meaning of compact?

A family of hummingbirds  
B includes some  
C world’s smallest birds  
D Texas species

5 Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

They beat their wings in a figure-eight pattern and can fly upward, downward, sideways, backward and even upside down!

The imagery in these lines appeals most to the reader’s sense of –

A sight  
B smell  
C taste  
D touch

6 What can the reader conclude about the migration patterns of hummingbirds in Texas?

A Some hummingbird species migrate along the Texas coast.  
B Hummingbirds are rare in the state of Texas.  
C The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Rufous Hummingbird migrate in a similar pattern.  
D Hummingbirds migrate outside of Texas.
What is the best summary of the article?

A  Hummingbirds are interesting birds. They are popular among bird watchers due to their colorful feathers. They are expert flyers. In the winter they fly long distances to reach warmer weather.

B  Hummingbirds are popular among birdwatchers. Their diet helps their expert flying. Despite their tiny size, they can be aggressive during breeding seasons. Several species are found in various regions of the state. During winter, some hummingbirds migrate to the coastline.

C  Hummingbirds are special birds. They have small, muscular bodies designed to be champions of flight. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Rufous Hummingbird are two popular species.

D  Hummingbirds are popular bird watching subjects in Texas. They are tiny birds. Their small body makes them champions of flight. The humming sound made by fast wing flapping can sometimes be heard before the bird is seen.

The photos located next to the instructions on the hummingbird feeder activity are included to -

A  convince the reader to make a hummingbird feeder
B  give examples of different types bird feeders
C  give more information about hummingbirds
D  show the materials and steps needed to complete the project
Question and Answer Strategies

1. What sentence from the article best shows that hummingbirds are brave for their size?

A. Like all birds, hummingbirds are some of the most accomplished of all the flying animals.
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C. show which words are most important
D. explain why the article was written

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A convince the reader to make a hummingbird feeder

B give examples of different types bird feeders

C give more information about hummingbirds

D show the materials and steps needed to complete the project

Note: The evidence used to support correct answers may not be the only supporting evidence.
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
English Language Arts and Reading
Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Expository Text

3.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

(A) identify the details or facts that support the main idea;
(B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
(C) identify explicit cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
(D) use text features (e.g., bold print, captions, key words, italics) to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text.

4.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

(A) identify the details or facts that support main idea
(B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
(C) identify cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
(D) use text features to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text

5.11 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

(A) summarize the main ideas and supporting details in a text in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;
(B) determine the facts in text and verify them through established methods;
(C) analyze how the organizational pattern of a text (e.g., cause-and-effect, compare-and-contrast, sequential order, logical order, classification schemes) influences the relationships among the ideas;
(D) use multiple text features and graphics to gain an overview of the contents of text and to locate information; and
(E) synthesize and make logical connections between ideas within a text and across two or three texts representing similar or different genres.