

You are going to be authors and illustrators!

You will be working with at least 2 other people to research, plan, write, and illustrate a book!

Nonfiction authors write about real life facts and information. Before they can write a nonfiction story, they must research information about a topic. After they research the topic, they will need to sort their facts before writing the book. You will be doing this with your group. Complete the tasks in order to write a nonfiction book!

Look through the books and magazines in your classroom library and in the LMC. Try to find topics that may be of interest to you or your group. Find books that you could use as resources to help you with your book!

Requirements:

- Must be *at least* 3 members in your group
- Book must be nonfiction
- Cover art (illustration for the front of the book)
- Illustrations for each topic
- 21-29 pages in length
- Dedication page
- Table of Contents
- At least 6 topics (Headings and Subheadings are needed)
- At least two of the following: glossary, bold print, diagram, or caption
- Draft of book

Before researching:

- Learning Contract – complete the learning contract
- Task 1: Working in a Group
- Task 2: Picking a topic

As you research:

- Task 3: Sources
- Task 4: Research

After researching:

- Task 5: Sorting
- Task 6: Text Features
- Task 7: Putting it All Together
- Task 8: Illustrations
- Task 9: Table of Contents
- Task 10: Dedication Page

BEFORE RESEARCHING

Learning Contract

Task 1: Working in a Group

Task 2: Picking a Topic

Learning Contract

Write your initials on the line. You will need to agree to all of the following in order to work on your project.

_____ I will work hard every day.

_____ I will try my best.

_____ Every day, I will fill out a log of what I worked on.

_____ I will leave my project to work on full class activities or lessons when the teacher tells me – without arguing.

_____ I will not bother anyone, including the teacher.

_____ If I get stuck, I will look at my planning list for ideas of what to do.

_____ I will do everything I can to help myself and others learn.

_____ I will stay on task and manage my time.

_____ I understand that I may keep working on my project if I follow all of the rules.

Student's Signature _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date: _____

Task 1: Working in a Group

Working in a group can be hard. Sometimes you want to do things your way, but you will need to work together to complete all of the tasks.

Often, by working in a group, you learn new things and create an even better book because you are joining all of your ideas together!

Before you start writing your book, you will need to agree on how your group will work together. Complete the tables below. Some examples have been done for you.

Working Together

SOUNDS Like What does it sounds like when someone <i>hears</i> you working together nicely?	LOOKS Like What does it look like when someone sees you all working together nicely?
Everyone takes turns talking.	Everyone may be working on different parts at the same time.

You will also need to work together when problems come up. Before you begin, it's good to have a few ways of problem solving in place. Work together to fill out the chart below.

Potential Problems:

Potential Solutions:

I don't know how to read a word. _____	
I am stuck. I don't know what to do next. _____	

Fill out the rest of this box with potential problems and solutions.

If you have not done so, look at the magazines and books in your classroom library. When you go to the LMC, look through some nonfiction books to help you come up with a topic. In your next task, you will need to decide on ONE topic to write about as a group.

Task 2: Picking a Topic

You will be writing a non-fiction story. Remember, non-fiction means that you will be writing about real facts and information.

As a group, you will need to pick ONE topic to write about.

Think about the nonfiction books or magazines that you found in your classroom library or at the LMC. You may also want to think about some of the topics (like rocks) that you studied in class.

Begin by brainstorming a list of 4 real-life things that you are interested in learning more about!

BrainStorm:

Put a star next to your top TWO choices.

Talk together as a group to decide on ONE topic. It's a good idea to pick a topic that has a book or magazine available to you to start with. Pick a topic that you are all interested in, too!

The Topic for Our Nonfiction Book is

=====



While you **RESEARCH**

Task 3: Sources

Task 4: Research

Task 3: Sources

At the end of nonfiction books, authors usually have a list of sources. This list tells the reader where the author found the information. Authors can get information from books, magazines, online, interviews, and in many other places!

There are three main reasons why an author includes a list of sources:

- The ideas are not your own, so you need to give credit to the people who wrote about the topic.
- The list of sources shows that the author used information from experts.
- Gives readers the chance to read more about the topic by going to the source on the resource page.

For your book, you will need to find different sources to support your thinking. You will need to have *at least 3 sources* (1 must be a book/magazine & 2 must be from the Internet). You can include more if you want.

Book Source

Source 1

Book Title: _____

Book Author: _____

Publishing Date: _____

Website Source

Source 2

Name of website: _____

Name of article or video: _____

Date you went to the website: _____

Website Source

Source 3

Name of website: _____

Name of article or video: _____

Date you went to the website: _____

Do you have MORE sources? Write them below.

Book Source

Source

Book Title:

Book Author:

Publishing Date:

Book Source

Source

Book Title:

Book Author:

Publishing Date:

Book Source

Source

Book Title:

Book Author:

Publishing Date:

Website Source

Source

Name of website:

Name of article or video:

Date you went to the website:

Website Source

Source

Name of website:

Name of article or video:

Date you went to the website:

Website Source

Source

Name of website:

Name of article or video:

Date you went to the website:

Task 4: Research

Good nonfiction authors research their topics. You will be doing the same!

As you research, you will use post-its to keep track of important information. As nonfiction authors, your goal is to teach someone about your topic. You will need to find enough information to give your reader a clear picture of your topic. Pretend that your readers don't know anything about your topic.

Remember, you must put things in your own words!

As you find good sources, you are going to write them down on your research page. Include as much information as you can!

For each new fact that you find, you will write it on a post-it *in your own words*. You should also include the number from the source.

An example has been done for you.

(I started by filling out the resources page.)

Website Source

Source 2

Name of website: Brain Pop Jr.

Name of article or video: Butterflies

Date you went to the website: November 23, 2014

Source 2

Caterpillars turn into butterflies through a process called metamorphosis.

Put your post-its in a file folder to keep them all in one place. Make sure your name is on the file folder.

After you RESEARCH

Task 5: Sorting

Task 6: Text Features

Task 7: Putting the Story Together

Task 8: Illustrations

Task 9: Dedication Page

Task 5: Sorting

As a group, you picked a topic to research. You should be done researching now. Make sure you have *at least 3 sources* before moving onto this step.

You will need to create *at least 6* different subtopics. A subtopic is a smaller category or grouping. For example, if your big topic was butterflies then subtopics may include: Parts of a Butterfly, Food, and Life Cycle.

How do you do this?

1. **Begin by writing down your big topic below.**
2. **Start sorting your post-its into different groups or categories that go together. Create names for your different groups. (For example, if I had facts about butterflies' bodies, legs, and wings, then a subtopic may be "Parts of a Butterfly Body.")**

Use the next page to help you sort. Put all of the post-its that fit together in one box. Keep doing this until you fill all of the boxes. Decide on a name, like "Parts of a Butterfly Body", to call each group. Write the name in each box. Everyone should do this in the group.

Sometimes, you will have information that doesn't fit. That's okay! Hold onto the post-it. You may want to give the reader extra information in a caption.

Big Topic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Do you have more than 6 subtopics? Put them here! If not, leave this page blank.

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Subtopic:

Task 6: Nonfiction Text Features

Your story should include *at least 10 pages of writing*.

You must include *at least 4 of the text features* found on the next page in your story. Every group will need to do a Table of Contents page.

Our group will use:

(Circles at least 4 of the text features below that your group will use.)

Table of Contents

Captions

Headings

Subheadings

Glossary

Bold Print

Index

Diagram

Use your subtopics and list of text features to plan out your book. You need 10-12 pages of writing. Each page of writing should have a picture.

Nonfiction Text Features

Table of Contents

A list of the parts of a book and the pages where they are located.

Table of Contents	
Metamorphosis	2
Caterpillars	4
Butterflies	7

Caption

A short explanation of a picture



Millions of monarch butterflies travel to Mexico for the winter.

Heading

The title of a page or article

Butterflies

Butterflies are insects. They have 2 pairs of wings. They have 6 legs. They fly to go from one place to another.

Subheading

Words under a heading that tell about one part of the topic

Butterflies Metamorphosis

Butterflies go through metamorphosis. The stages of their life cycle include egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

Glossary

A list of important terms (in alphabetical order) and their meanings found at the back of a book

Glossary

Butterfly-an insect with 2 pairs of wings

Caterpillars-larva of a butterfly

Bold Print

Words that are darker or a different color to stress their importance

Butterflies go through **metamorphosis** as they change from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Index

A list in alphabetical order of important terms and the pages where they are located

Index	
Butterflies	9, 14
Caterpillars	4, 9, 11
Larva	6, 12

Diagram

A picture with labels

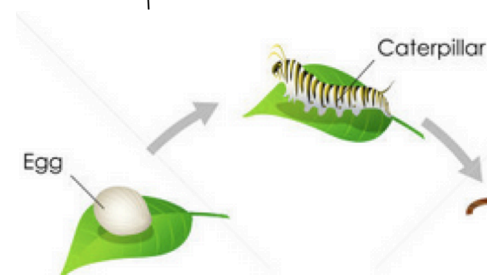


Table of Contents

_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____
_____	page _____

Each new topic or heading should be listed. Write the page number where it starts.

Task 7: Putting the Story Together

You need to take the Key parts of your research and put it into a story. Remember, you need to include at least 4 nonfiction text features.

Your story should be between 10-13 pages long.

Good authors go back over their work to make sure they spelled everything correctly and that the order of the story makes sense.

You will create a rough draft. You will use this when you type out your final draft.

Task 8: Illustrations

Now that you have your information in place, it's time to illustrate the story!

Illustrators usually pick one way of illustrating the book. For example, all of the pages will be done by painting pictures or all of the pages will be done by drawing pictures.

Illustrators do everything the same in a book to maintain a constant look. As a group, you will need to decide on one of the following formats for your artwork:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Computers graphics
- Cut paper

Everyone must do the same artwork. You should have between 10-13 pages of artwork.

Each illustration should be on a separate page. It should match what you wrote about.

Task 9: Dedication Page

Writing and illustrating is hard work! Many authors write a dedication page after they have finished putting together their books. A dedication page is a place where authors thank all of the people who have helped them write or illustrate the book.

As a group, fill out the dedication page below.

Dedication Page

(Title of Book)

This book is dedicated to _____

_____.

(List all of the people that your group would like to thank for helping you write/illustrate this book.)

Thank you for _____

_____.

(Describe how the people above helped you!)

Copyright _____
(Year the book was written)

Illustrated and Written by: _____

_____.

(Authors/Illustrators)

(School)

(City, State)