



# Introduction



Comprehension is the primary goal of any reading task. This *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension* box will help students develop the comprehension skills necessary for a lifetime of learning through the use of nonfiction passages followed by questions that require vital reading and thinking skills.

Each card in the *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension* box covers a grade-level appropriate topic. The cards are arranged in order of readability, ranging from 4.0–4.9. The reading level is based on the Flesch Kincaid Readability Formula. This formula determines readability by calculating the number of words, syllables, and sentences. The reading level is given at the bottom left-hand corner of each card. Occasionally the levels have been adjusted due to proper nouns or numbers which tend to skew the reading level. When this is the case, it is noted with an asterisk.

The activities are time-efficient, allowing students to practice the skills often. Independent and group practice should begin early in the school year.



## Card Index *(cont.)*



- |    |   |    |                                      |
|----|---|----|--------------------------------------|
| 29 | The Orphan Trains                               | 42 | Plastic Bottles Live Again as Lumber |
| 30 | Pool Safety Tips                                | 43 | A Queen's Jubilee                    |
| 31 | Saving Native American<br>Language & Traditions | 44 | Sea Serpent                          |
| 32 | Child Labor in Ecuador                          | 45 | The Transcontinental Railroad        |
| 33 | Edward Jenner, Scientist                        | 46 | Unusual Libraries                    |
| 34 | Frisbees™                                       | 47 | William Wegman, Photographer         |
| 35 | Grandma Moses, Artist                           | 48 | Caves                                |
| 36 | Helen Keller, Adventurer                        | 49 | The Dawn of a New Age in<br>Travel   |
| 37 | Hot Dogs  | 50 | The Dead Sea                         |
| 38 | John Walsh, Animal Rescuer                      | 51 | Dowsing                              |
| 39 | Lewis & Clark's Great Adventure                 | 52 | Helmets Are Cool                     |
| 40 | Life Aboard an Aircraft Carrier                 | 53 | Niagara Falls                        |
| 41 | Movie Stars from Book<br>Characters             | 54 | Ocean Tides                          |
|    |   | 55 | Quarries                             |
|    |   | 56 | Stonehenge                           |



## Card Index *(cont.)*



- |    |                                       |    |                               |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 57 | The White House                       | 70 | The Year Without a Summer     |
| 58 | Clown Fish                            | 71 | Yellowstone National Park     |
| 59 | Elks in North Carolina Once<br>More   | 72 | Yeti: Fact or Fiction?        |
| 60 | The Great San Francisco<br>Earthquake | 73 | Dew, Frost, and Fog           |
| 61 | Hydrofoils and Hovercrafts            | 74 | Fight for the Spirit Bear     |
| 62 | Income Taxes                          | 75 | Fire Walking                  |
| 63 | Is Antarctica on Thin Ice?            | 76 | Guion Bluford, Jr., Astronaut |
| 64 | Japanese American Camps               | 77 | The Iditarod: An Icy Race     |
| 65 | Our Solar System                      | 78 | Labor Laws                    |
| 66 | Stars                                 | 79 | Numbats                       |
| 67 | Top Board Games in America            | 80 | Pangaea                       |
| 68 | A Trip Around the World               | 81 | Pockets                       |
| 69 | Was King Tut Murdered?                | 82 | The Red Planet                |
|    |                                       | 83 | Rosie the Riveter             |
|    |                                       | 84 | Scooters                      |



## Card Index *(cont.)*



- |    |   |     |                                   |
|----|---|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 85 | A Talented Figure Skater                | 99  | Treasure at the Bottom of the Sea |
| 86 | Amelia Earhart, Pilot                   | 100 | U.S. Army Special Operations      |
| 87 | Basketball                              | 101 | Wetlands                          |
| 88 | Castles                                 | 102 | What Is Buried on Oak Island?     |
| 89 | The Constitutional Convention           | 103 | Celebrating the Chinese New Year  |
| 90 | Dangerous Business                      | 104 | Death Valley Rodents              |
| 91 | Energy                                  | 105 | Jupiter                           |
| 92 | Fossils Give Us a Glimpse into the Past | 106 | Matthew Henson, Arctic Explorer   |
| 93 | A Golden Tamarin Is Born                | 107 | New Electronic Devices            |
| 94 | Pocket Pet Pup                          | 108 | The Peace Corps                   |
| 95 | Pottery                                 | 109 | Roller Coaster Mania              |
| 96 | Rationing During World War II           | 110 | Smoking Is Deadly                 |
| 97 | Taming the Chinchilla                   | 111 | Snowboarding                      |
| 98 | Teddy Bears                             | 112 | Subways                           |



## Military Parents

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a parent? Maybe one had to go away on business. Perhaps your parent took a weekend trip without you. Didn't things seem strange without him or her? Some children have a parent in the military. Their parents must be ready to go when they are called.

When 200,000 troops went to the Middle East, many kids said *farewell* to a parent. They kept in touch with their parents with letters and e-mail. But it just wasn't the same as having them there. Some kids met in groups with counselors. They talked about how they felt. A few were worried about their parents' safety.

Most parents' tour of duty lasted at least a year. It was a difficult time for the kids and for their parents half a world away.



## Military Parents



1. In the Middle East, most U.S. military personnel's tour of duty lasted at least
  - a. 6 months.
  - b. 12 months.
  - c. 15 months.
2. With one parent overseas, what problem might some kids have faced?
  - a. The military parent had no way to stay in touch with the child.
  - b. The military parent missed the child's important game, dance recital, or musical.
  - c. The parent at home forgot the child's birthday.
3. What was probably the biggest problem for kids when a parent went overseas?
  - a. The kids were all alone and had to take care of themselves.
  - b. The kids could no longer go to school.
  - c. The kids missed being with the parents.
4. The antonym for *farewell* is
  - a. hello.
  - b. goodbye.
  - c. misfortune.



## Project Moses

The city of Venice, Italy, is built on islands. These islands lie in a shallow body of water called a lagoon. A narrow strip of land lies between this lagoon and the sea. Sometimes the sea water rises. It floods the lagoon. Then the city floods, too. When this happens, homes and businesses get destroyed.

Now there is a plan to save Venice. It's called Project Moses. Project Moses would put *enormous* floodgates at the lagoon's three entrances. These gates would act like dams and block water from entering the area. Many people want these gates built immediately. But others don't want them at all. They believe that shutting out the water might hurt the fish and plants living in the lagoon. The water is rising. The people must decide what to do soon.



# Project Moses



1. How have valuable old paintings been damaged by flooding in Venice?
  - a. Water entered buildings and damaged everything inside of them.
  - b. When water flooded the city, no one escaped.
  - c. When the floodwaters pulled back, the paintings were sucked out to sea.
2. The people who are against Project Moses are most probably
  - a. art dealers.
  - b. scientists.
  - c. construction workers.
3. You can conclude that the lagoon's water is
  - a. salt water.
  - b. fresh water.
  - c. heavily polluted.
4. A synonym for *enormous* is
  - a. new.
  - b. removable.
  - c. gigantic.