

Act: 8R2		
Grade: 8	Strand: Reading	Concept: Reading informational text
Description of Task:	Students complete a tutorial to learn about informational text. Then they read one of seven informational texts and respond by completing an activity.	
Expectations:	8e24 • read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials (e.g., novels, short stories, poetry, essays, articles) for different purposes; 8e32 – identify the main ideas in information materials, explain how the details support the main ideas, and question and evaluate the ideas in the material; 8e33 – make judgments and draw conclusions about ideas in written materials on the basis of evidence; 8e41 – use a variety of strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words (e.g., use word-analysis techniques; use knowledge of word origins and derivations; consult dictionaries); 8e44 – use punctuation to help them understand written material (e.g., dashes);	
Software Type:	Computer Assisted Instruction	
Computer Skills Prerequisite	Students must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and run the Reading and Writing Achievement program • Follow directions to access the activity specified by the teacher • Follow the directions provided by the program 	
Student Instructions: (for teacher)	1. Discuss some of the reasons we read (entertainment, information, etc.). 2. Ask the students to volunteer some types of materials we read for information and brainstorm a list of some of the features these materials have in common. 3. Remind them to refer to the list as they begin the computer activity.	
Teacher Notes:	The <i>Reading and Writing Achievement</i> program has a tutorial and seven practice readings in the <i>Informational Texts</i> section. As this activity is suitable for both Grade 7 and 8 students, it is suggested that you decide with the Grade 8 teachers which activities will be completed by each grade. The program has a tracking function that permits teachers to set up their classes and enter their students' names. Once set up, the software tracks the sections that a student has completed. Achievement of multiple-choice activities is recorded, and students can access their results. If tracking has been set up, students must select their class and their name on the RWA Login screen. If the tracking is not set up, students must click the Guest button on the RWA Login screen. When students complete multiple-choice or short answer questions, the program provides immediate feedback by clicking on the Mark Answers button. Related offline activities: The <i>Teacher Reference Manual</i> which accompanies the <i>Reading and Writing Achievement</i> software (on the CD) provides five additional informational text activities which can be printed. Answer keys are also provided. These additional activities could also be used for remediation with a small group of students.	
	Activity Template File: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Instruction BLM: Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Assessment:	See the Assessment Checklist for Information Paragraphs provided on p. 25 of the Teacher Reference Manual for the Reading and Writing Achievement program.	