

NATURE'S MYSTERIES

Lesson Plan

Studying Structure

Lesson Plan for *Peru's Rainbow Mountain*

Grade 4

Objective

To help students practice finding and summarizing the main idea(s) in each chapter of a book, and to explore how those chapters work together to communicate the book's main point.

Things Needed

- Several copies of the *Peru's Rainbow Mountain* book or ebook
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Divide students into groups of four or five.

Activity

Have students read *Peru's Rainbow Mountain* in their groups. As they read, students should look for the main ideas in each chapter. Students in each group should work together to write a short paragraph (4 or 5 sentences) for each chapter that explains its main ideas.

After giving groups time to write their answers, come back together as a class. Call on a couple groups to share their answers for each chapter, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- Chapter 1 ("Rainbow Mountain"): Rainbow Mountain is located in the Andes Mountains in Peru. It has stripes of colorful rock. These rock layers were formed by a glacier. After the ice melted, the colors became visible. People first saw them in 2015.
- Chapter 2 ("Colorful Rocks"): Rainbow Mountain is made up of layers of sedimentary rock. Each layer is made of different materials. It also formed at a different time. As a result, the layers have different colors.
- Chapter 3 ("A Rising Mountain"): Long ago, the rock layers in Rainbow Mountain were flat. However, Earth's crust is made up of moving plates. When plates crash or slide, they push up layers of rock. This process caused Rainbow Mountain's layers to tilt sideways. Weather also wore down the mountain's surface.



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- Chapter 4 (“The Future of the Mountain”): Rainbow Mountain continues to change. Some of the changes are caused by people. But people are also working to protect the mountain. For example, they stop companies from mining minerals. This helps make sure the mountain will still be around for other people to see.

Explain that, like the layers of rock work together to form Rainbow Mountain, the chapters of a book work together to give readers information. In fiction, each chapter tells part of a story. In nonfiction, the chapters work together to help readers understand an idea. Have students look over their paragraphs about the chapters in the *Peru’s Rainbow Mountain* book. Then discuss the following questions as a class, using the sample answers to provide prompting and support as needed:

- What kind of information does Chapter 1 give? (Answer: It explains what Rainbow Mountain is and tells where, when, and how it formed.)
- How does this chapter fit with the rest of the book? (Answer: It gives readers the basic background information they need to understand the book’s other chapters.)
- What kind of information does Chapter 2 give? (Answer: It explains the kinds of rock layers in Rainbow Mountain and how they formed.)
- How does this chapter fit with the rest of the book? (Answer: It helps readers understand why the rocks have so many colors.)
- What kind of information does Chapter 3 give? (Answer: It explains two processes—tectonic shift and weather—that shaped the rock layers after they formed.)
- How does this chapter fit with the rest of the book? (Answer: It helps readers understand why the rocks have their shape.)
- What kind of information does Chapter 4 give? (Answer: It describes people’s thoughts, plans, and actions related to Rainbow Mountain.)
- How does this chapter fit with the rest of the book? (Answer: It helps readers understand what might happen to Rainbow Mountain in the future.)

Evaluation

Could each group identify the main points of each chapter? Could students summarize the information in each chapter and explain how it fit with the rest of the book?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.2, 4.6).



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