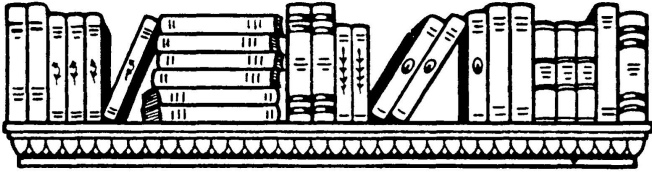




Family Reading Connections

Grade 3 Unit 4: Research Clubs



Overview: During this unit, students will form research clubs that study two different animals. They will then compare and contrast those animals. Next, they will study an overarching concept that applies to both animals (ex. adaptation, survival, etc.). Finally, they will work together to apply their knowledge to a real-world challenge (ex. improving the design of a zoo). Throughout the steps of the project, students will learn and apply nonfiction reading skills. These skills include how to preview and recognize the structure of nonfiction texts.

In this unit, Students will:

- **Organize** and understand what they are learning by noticing and using text structures.
- **Distinguish** how a text links information together.
- **Recognize** relationships within a text (e.g. cause and effect, compare and contrast, problem and solution).
- **Compare** and **contrast** the traits of animals within a topic and across topics.
- **Identify** patterns across topics and **develop** questions about those patterns.

- **Develop** theories about what they are learning and provide evidence to support their theories.
- **Apply** their theories to real-world problems.
- **Analyze** an author's craft.

Ways to help at home:

- Make sure your child completes their nightly reading homework.
- Read the homework sheets that go along with some of the the homework assignments for ideas of what to talk to your child about.
- Talk to your child about his/her reading, have him/her read to you (their favorite part or read with them if your child is struggling).
- Model good reading habits by reading your own book while they are doing their reading homework.

New Jersey Student Learning

Standards (NJSL): Please refer to Morris School District Rubicon Atlas Website to view standards specific to this unit.

**Attached is the "Self Assessment Rubric," which identifies the most important objectives for each unit.*