



Main Purpose of Text

Today's Standard

2.RI.6 - Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Reading a book about animals and identifying why the author wrote it.; Looking at a news article and determining what the author wants to explain.; Reading a science text and figuring out what the author is describing.

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to find out why an author wrote a text. This is called the main purpose. It helps us understand if the author wants to answer a question, explain something, or describe a topic.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes, kids think the main purpose is just to tell a story, but it can also be to explain or describe something. Another mix-up is confusing the main idea with the main purpose. The main idea is what the text is mostly about, and the main purpose is why the author wrote it.

Quiz Me

- Why did the author write this text?
- What does the author want to explain?
- Can you tell me what the author is describing?
- Is this text trying to answer a question?
- What is the main purpose of this text?

Help Me

The main purpose of a text is why the author wrote it. For example, if you read a book about animals, the author might want to explain how they live. Knowing the main purpose helps us understand the text better.