



Informative Response

Dear Parents,

In the coming weeks, students will learn how to write informative responses. These are pieces where fourth graders summarize and analyze a text, starting with an engaging introduction. They use text evidence through specific examples, facts, and details from the text, along with precise language. Transition words help connect ideas and responses end with a summary. Mastering this skill is crucial as it's often tested by states and shows a student's reading comprehension and critical thinking abilities.

Ideas for Home Support

As your child practices writing these informative papers at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- Choose a familiar nonfiction text and ask your child to retell it. Encourage them to include important details and organize their retelling in a logical sequence. This helps them practice structuring their writing coherently, which is essential for informative responses.
- Choose an informative text and create a list of specific details or facts for your child to find while reading. Provide them with a highlighter or sticky notes to mark the evidence in the text.
- Have your child create a storyboard or comic strip summarizing the main points of an informative text they've read. Encourage them to include key details and illustrations to support their response.
- Play a "Fact or Fiction" game where you read statements related to the informative text, and your child has to determine whether each statement is a fact or fiction based on the information they've learned.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Informative Response Rubric 4th Grade

Genre Chart Informative: Response	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
Has an engaging introductory paragraph	Has a creative and well-organized introductory paragraph	Has an organized introductory paragraph	Has a weak introductory paragraph that is missing key parts	Has no introductory paragraph or one that is not clear
Uses relevant text evidence	Uses meaningful text evidence to support the response	Uses text evidence to support the response	Uses little text evidence with weak support of the response	Does not use text evidence
Develops details of the main idea with facts, reasons, and connections	Develops the main idea with meaningful details and makes an insightful connection	Develops the main idea with details and a connection	Uses very few details or makes no connection	Does not use details or connection
Uses transition words and phrases	Uses unique transitions or interesting words and phrases to link ideas	Uses transition words and phrases to link ideas	Transition words and phrases do not work or there are too few	Does not use transition words
Has a concluding paragraph that uses a restatement	Ending paragraph is creative and makes a restatement of the essential question	Ending paragraph makes a restatement of the essential question	Has an ending paragraph, but does not make a restatement of the essential question	Has no ending paragraph or no reference to the essential question
Correct conventions support the meaning	No errors or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors but they do not interfere with meaning	Frequent errors that distract the reader	So many errors that it is hard to read

Shake, Rattle, and Roll!

P1 - Main Idea

You are at the park playing with friends when suddenly everything is shaking! What is happening? It's an earthquake! Earthquakes are powerful natural events that can cause significant damage to the Earth's surface.

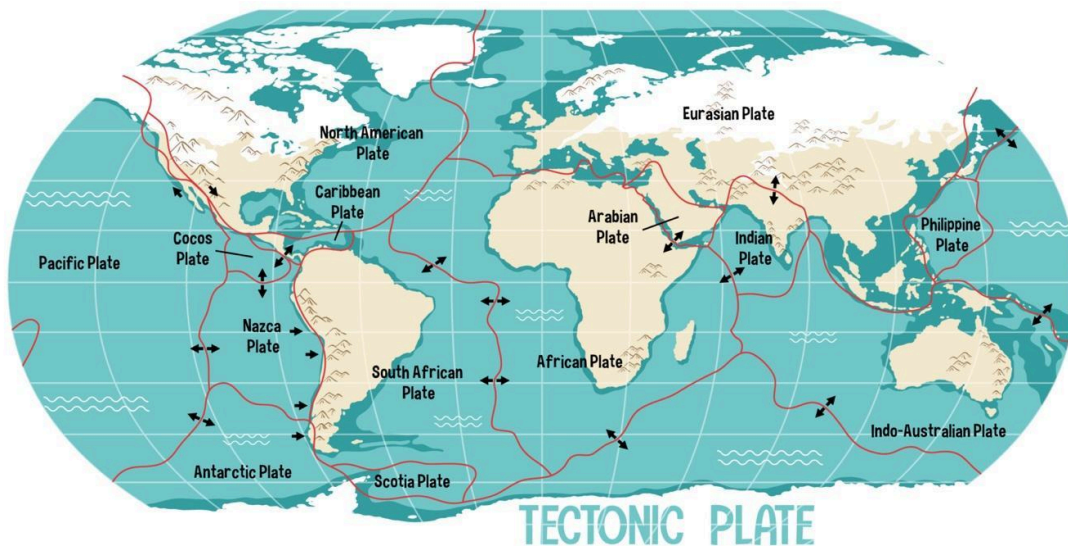
CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

P2

Scientists call the surface of the earth the crust. The crust is not one solid piece, but actually more like a large puzzle. There are about 20 pieces that make up the earth's crust. Each of these pieces are called **tectonic plates**. Earthquakes happen because of the movement of tectonic plates. These plates are constantly shifting and moving due to the heat from the Earth's core. When these plates hit, slide past each other, or shift it can result in an earthquake.

P3

With the tectonic plates constantly moving and bumping into each other, earthquakes are happening all the time. In fact, the National Earthquake Information Center says there are around 20,000 earthquakes each year. This means there are about 55 each day. Thankfully, most often these earthquakes are small, so small we don't even feel them. However, when big earthquakes do happen, they can have a big impact on the earth's surface.



STUDYING EARTHQUAKES

P4

Seismologists, scientists who study earthquakes and the movements of the Earth's crust, examine seismic waves and other data. Their goal is to learn more about how earthquakes occur, their effects, and how to predict when and where they will happen next. They describe the **magnitude**, or strength, of an earthquake using the Richter Scale. The Richter Scale rates earthquakes from 0.1 - 10.0. Earthquakes that rate lower than 3.0 are not something we can usually feel. While earthquakes rated 5.0 and above are said to be more likely to cause damage.

MAJOR EARTHQUAKES IN HISTORY

Throughout history, there have been several major earthquakes that have had significant impacts. Here are three examples:

P5

The Nepal Earthquake (2015) - A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, near Mount Everest and caused widespread damage. Thousands of people lost their lives, and many historical landmarks were destroyed, including more than 30 historically important buildings in and around the country of Nepal. Many of these buildings were 1000 - 2000 years old.

P6

The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) - This powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Japan in the Pacific Ocean. It is the fourth most powerful earthquake ever measured. One of the effects that made this earthquake so destructive was that it triggered a massive tsunami. It resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and caused widespread damage all over the world.

P7

The San Francisco Earthquake (1906) - One of the most destructive earthquakes in U.S. history, the San Francisco earthquake caused extensive damage in the city of San Francisco and nearby areas. The earthquake caused many fires to break out from broken gas lines. It is estimated that 90% of the damage from this earthquake was actually a result of the fires. Overall, 80% of the city of San Francisco was destroyed in this earthquake and the fires that followed.

Essential Question

What are the causes and possible effects of earthquakes?

Shake, Rattle, and Roll! - Model Notes

P1 - Main Idea

earthquakes
natural events
significant damage

You are at the park playing with friends when suddenly everything is shaking! What is happening? It's an earthquake! Earthquakes are powerful natural events that can cause significant damage to the Earth's surface.

CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

P2 Causes

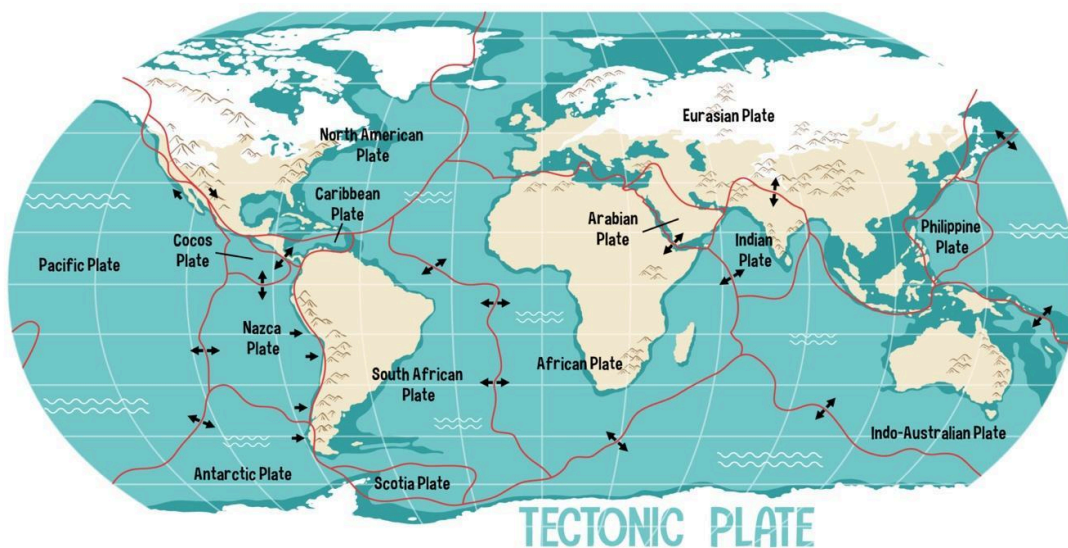
crust is a puzzle
tectonic plates
move due to heat
plates hit, slide and shift

Scientists call the surface of the earth the crust. The crust is not one solid piece, but actually more like a large puzzle. There are about 20 pieces that make up the earth's crust. Each of these pieces are called **tectonic plates**. Earthquakes happen because of the movement of tectonic plates. These plates are constantly shifting and moving due to the heat from the Earth's core. When these plates hit, slide past each other, or shift it can result in an earthquake.

P3 Facts

plates move all the time
55 EQ each day

With the tectonic plates constantly moving and bumping into each other, earthquakes are happening all the time. In fact, the National Earthquake Information Center says there are around 20,000 earthquakes each year. This means there are about 55 each day. Thankfully, most often these earthquakes are small, so small we don't even feel them. However, when big earthquakes do happen, they can have a big impact on the earth's surface.



STUDYING EARTHQUAKES

P4 Facts/Definitions

Seismologists
How occur, effects, predict

Magnitude = strength
Richter Scale = measure .1-10.0
Lower than 3 don't feel
More than 5 damage

Seismologists, scientists who study earthquakes and the movements of the Earth's crust, examine seismic waves and other data. Their goal is to learn more about how earthquakes occur, their effects, and how to predict when and where they will happen next. They describe the **magnitude**, or strength, of an earthquake using the Richter Scale. The Richter Scale rates earthquakes from 0.1 - 10.0. Earthquakes that rate lower than 3.0 are not something we can usually feel. Earthquakes rated 5.0 and above are more likely to cause damage.

MAJOR EARTHQUAKES IN HISTORY

Throughout history, there have been several major earthquakes that have had significant impacts. Here are three examples:

P5 Effect

Nepal
7.8, 1,000's die, landmarks and buildings destroyed

The Nepal Earthquake (2015) - A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, near Mount Everest and caused widespread damage. Thousands of people lost their lives, and many historical landmarks were destroyed, including more than 30 historically important buildings in and around the country of Nepal. Many of these buildings were 1000 - 2000 years old.

P6 Effect

Japan 9.0!
massive tsunami
widespread damage all over the world

The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) - This powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Japan in the Pacific Ocean. It is the fourth most powerful earthquake ever measured at 9.0. One of the effects that made this earthquake so destructive was that it triggered a massive tsunami. It resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and caused widespread damage all over the world.

P7 Effect

San Francisco
FIRES! Broken gas lines
Damage 90% from fire
80% of the city destroyed

The San Francisco Earthquake (1906) - One of the most destructive earthquakes in U.S. history, the San Francisco earthquake caused extensive damage in the city of San Francisco and nearby areas. The earthquake caused many fires to break out from broken gas lines. It is estimated that 90% of the damage from this earthquake was actually a result of the fires. Overall, 80% of the city of San

Francisco was destroyed in this earthquake and the fires that followed.

Essential Question

What are the causes and possible effects of earthquakes?

Restatement: How do earthquakes happen and what are their impacts?

Informative Response Engaging Beginning Models

Did you know that 55 earthquakes happen everyday? I read that in the article "Shake, Rattle and Roll". It helped me to understand some of the causes and effects of earthquakes.

Our earth is moving and shifting constantly but most of the time we cannot feel it. In the article "Shake, Rattle and Roll" I learned all about the causes and effects of earthquakes.

How many earthquakes do you think happen all over the earth every year? In the article "Shake, Rattle and Roll", it said that there are 20,000 that happen each year! I also learned many of the causes and effects of earthquakes.

Annotations

Engaging question about the topic is red and bolded

Statement about the essential question is green

Title of the article is green and underlined

Informative Response Model

Shake, Rattle and Roll!

Our earth is moving and shifting constantly but most of the time we cannot feel it. In the article "Shake, Rattle and Roll" I learned all about the causes and effects of earthquakes.

The cause of earthquakes is very interesting. To begin with, did you know that the earth is made up of 20 very large pieces? It is called the earth's crust. The pieces are called tectonic plates. When the plates slide or shift it causes an earthquake. I learned that the crust moves all the time because of the heat from the earth's core. Basically, the earth is full of plates that move due to heat and that is what causes an earthquake.

When the earth moves and shifts it has many effects that we should all respect. On some occasions the effect is very little. We do not feel anything. At other times the effects are devastating. In Nepal a 7.8 magnitude earthquake destroyed many landmarks including important buildings. In Japan a massive earthquake caused a huge tsunami where thousands of people died. Finally, an earthquake in 1906 destroyed 80% of San Francisco, mostly due to fires from broken gas lines. Earthquakes cause buildings to fall, tsunamis, fires and much more. The effects can be very devastating.

In conclusion, earthquakes are going to happen just because of the heat and movement in the earth's crust and the effects can be in a range from to absolute nothing to massive devastation. We should all have an interest in earthquakes because they could affect all of us.

Annotated Informative Response

Shake, Rattle and Roll!

Our earth is moving and shifting constantly but most of the time we cannot feel it. In the article "**Shake, Rattle and Roll**" I learned all about the causes and effects of earthquakes.

The cause of earthquakes is very interesting. **To begin with**, did you know that **our** earth is made up of **20 very large pieces**? It is **called the earth's crust**. The pieces are called **tectonic plates**. When **the plates slide or shift it causes an earthquake**. I learned that the **crust moves all the time because of the heat from the earth's core**. Basically, the earth is full of plates that move due to heat and that is what causes an earthquake.

When the earth moves and shifts it has many effects that we ***should** all respect. **On some occasions** the effect is very little. We do not feel anything. **At other times** the effects are devastating. In **Nepal a 7.8** magnitude earthquake **destroyed many landmarks including important buildings**. In **Japan** a massive earthquake caused a **huge tsunami where thousands of people died**. **Finally**, an earthquake in **1906 destroyed 80% of San Francisco**, mostly due to **fires from broken gas lines**. Earthquakes cause buildings to fall, tsunamis, fires and much more. The effects ***can** be very devastating.

In conclusion, earthquakes are going to happen just because of the heat and movement in the earth's crust and the effects can be in a range from to absolute

nothing to massive devastation. We ***should** all have an interest in earthquakes because they could affect all of us.

Annotations

Engaging topic strategy is in red

Text evidence, facts and reasons are in bolded green

Addressing the essential question is in green

Transitions are in bolded orange

Concluding restatement is in red

Name of the article is in bolded black

***Edits related to the Writing Warm-Up are in black with an asterisk**

Looping History

Clunk, Clunk, Clunk, Clunk. The clicking of the chain goes faster and faster. For a moment everything seems to stand still in a stretch of silence. The whooshing of the wind is interrupted by a scream as you begin to hurtle toward the ground. Roller coasters have been around for hundreds of years, but modern coasters with **inversions** (upside-down loops) and **corkscrews** (spiraling twists) date back to the late 1800s. A lot has changed since those first roller coasters.

The First Loops

The first inversion coaster dates back to 1846 in France. Roller coaster riders today might not recognize it as a roller coaster. It was a daredevil show. The first public looping coaster, named Flip Flap, opened on July 4, 1895 in Coney Island, New York. Two riders at a time rode in a small wooden track through the 25-foot circular loop. Unfortunately, many Flip Flap riders suffered neck and back injuries and with only two riders at a time, the line was long and slow. For 8 years the owners tried different things to make Flip Flap better, including adding headrests. But, after being unable to fix these problems, Flip Flap was closed and interest in inversion roller coasters died off.



Improving Loops

The first successful inversion coaster was opened in 1975 at Magic Mountain in Valencia, California. This looping coaster, the Revolution, had several important upgrades from Flip Flap. First, the coaster tracks were now made out of steel, instead of wood. This meant that the track could hold more weight, so more than 2 people could ride at once. This made lines faster and wait times shorter. However, the problem of rider safety was an even bigger concern. Two German engineers suggested another change to prevent neck and back

injuries in riders. Most importantly, the Revolution changed the shape of the loop. While Flip Flap was a true circular loop, the Revolution's loop was more of an upside-down tear-drop. This new shape meant that the loop could be completed at slower speeds, which prevented neck and back injuries in its riders.

A lot of changes and improvements have been made in the 150 years of roller coasters. The mix of excitement and fear make riding a roller coaster a fun and exhilarating experience. What will the future of roller coasters be?

Essential Questions

From the information in the article, analyze how roller coasters have become safer in the last 150 years.

Informative Response

Engaging Beginning Models

Would you still ride a roller coaster if there was a possibility of injury? I read the article "Looping History" and realized that there were people riding looping roller coasters in the 1800's and getting injured was a common occurrence. Thankfully engineers learned from those first attempts and modern roller coasters are much safer.

Roller coasters from the late 1800's were doing inversions and corkscrews. In the article "Looping History" it explained that roller coasters were doing those twists and upside down moves but people often got injured. Roller coasters have come a long way with safety since then and now you can more safely scare yourself.

In 1846, France debuted the first inversion roller coaster, offering riders an exhilarating upside-down adventure. I learned that those riders were not very safe. According to the article "Looping History" people often were injured. We learned from those first attempts and roller coasters are much safer today.

Annotations

Engaging strategy about the topic is in red bolded

Statement about the essential question and article title is in green

Informative Response Model

Looping History

In 1846, France debuted the first inversion roller coaster, offering riders an exhilarating upside-down adventure. I learned that those riders were not very safe. According to the article "Looping History" people often were injured. We learned from those first attempts and as a result, roller coasters are much safer today.

The first public roller coaster was in Coney Island, New York. It was called the Flip Flap and two riders at a time rode an wooden roller coaster on a 25-foot circular loop. Many of those riders suffered neck and back injuries. They tried many things, including headrests, but it eventually closed due to injury. It wasn't until 1975 that another looping roller coaster was successful at Magic Mountain in California. They changed many things to make it safer. First of all, it was made of metal, so it was stronger and could hold more than two riders. They also discovered that changing the circular loop to an upside down teardrop shape allowed the coaster to go slower and prevent neck and back injuries. To this day, people enjoy safer, metal roller coasters without injury.

Occasionally you will see on the news that a roller coaster got stuck or broken and someone was injured, but it is not common. Thanks to innovations made in the last 150 years, modern day roller coasters are much safer. Riders will get a thrilling ride and know that safety is the priority.

Annotated Informative Response Model

Looping History

In 1846, France debuted the first inversion roller coaster, offering riders an exhilarating upside-down adventure. I learned that those riders were not very safe. According to the article "**Looping History**" people often were injured. We learned from those first attempts and as a result roller coasters are much safer today.

The first public roller coaster was in **Coney Island, New York**. It was called the **Flip Flap** and two riders at a time rode an **wooden roller coaster on a 25-foot circular loop**. Many of those **riders suffered neck and back injuries**. They tried many things, including headrests, but it eventually **closed due to injury**. **It wasn't until** 1975 that another looping roller coaster was successful at **Magic Mountain in California**. They changed many things to make it safer. **First of all**, it was **made of metal**, so it was **stronger and *could hold more than two riders**. **They also** discovered that **changing the circular loop to an upside down teardrop shape allowed the coaster to go slower and prevent neck and back injuries**. **To this day**, people enjoy safer, metal roller coasters without injury.

Occasionally you *will see on the news that a roller coaster got stuck or broken and someone was injured, but it is not common. Thanks to innovations made in the last 150 years, the modern day roller coasters are much safer. Riders ***will** get a thrilling ride and know that safety is the priority.

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Addressing the essential question is in green

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Connections are underlined in bolded green

Concluding restatement is in red

Name of the article is in bolded black

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Unraveling the Mysteries of Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs roamed the Earth millions of years ago, but they still capture our imaginations today. These giant reptiles came in all shapes and sizes, from the towering Tyrannosaurus Rex to the speedy Velociraptor. But how much do we really know about these ancient creatures?



Scientists have been studying dinosaurs for centuries, and they've made some incredible discoveries along the way. By digging up fossils, which are the preserved remains of ancient animals, scientists have been able to learn a lot about what dinosaurs looked like, how they moved, and what they ate. Did you know that some dinosaurs had feathers, just like birds? Feathers were not just for flying; they also provided insulation and may have been used for display. Or that some dinosaurs were herbivores, meaning they only ate plants? Creatures like the Triceratops and Brachiosaurus were gentle giants that roamed the ancient forests, munching on leaves and shrubs.

One of the biggest mysteries surrounding dinosaurs is what caused them to go extinct. There are many theories, but one of the most widely accepted is that a giant asteroid crashed into the Earth about 65 million years ago. This event caused a massive dust cloud that blocked out the sun, leading to a dramatic drop in temperature and a loss of food sources for many dinosaurs. Some scientists also believe that volcanic eruptions or climate change played a role in the extinction of the dinosaurs.

But not all dinosaurs went extinct! Birds are actually considered living dinosaurs because they share a common ancestor with the ancient reptiles. So the next time you see a bird flying overhead, remember that you're looking at a distant relative of the mighty T-Rex! Birds have evolved over millions of years from small, feathered dinosaurs, and they are the only group of dinosaurs that survived the mass extinction event that wiped out their larger relatives.

Essential Question

What evidence do scientists use to understand what dinosaurs looked like and how they lived?