

Obtaining Information From Scientific Text Key

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for the gist - skim the title, headings, images 	<p>What is the central idea or claim?</p> <p>+ The way goldfish scales look is passed from parents to offspring in predictable patterns.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark up the text 	<p>Select methods for marking the text. For example...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep track of questions you have in the margins. Circle key words. Put question marks by words you want to learn more about. Underline main ideas. <p>+ Student selected a method and used it to mark up the text.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the text is about research, ask yourself questions about the text 	<p>What question was the author asking?</p> <p>+ A version of a question about passing traits from parent to offspring, for example: Can we see predictable patterns in the way goldfish parents pass the trait of reflective scales to their offspring?</p> <p>What evidence did he collect?</p> <p>+ Dr. Chen mated goldfish and collected the numbers (or proportion) of brown, transparent, and speckled goldfish produced from each mating.</p>

EVALUATING SCIENTIFIC TEXTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the goal of the text 	<p>What is the goal of the text - to share information, to convince someone of something, to distract people from a larger issue, something else?</p> <p>+ The goal of the text is to share information about a set of experiments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If it is a research study, identify how the study was done 	<p>What methods did the authors use? Are they appropriate for the purpose of the research?</p> <p>+ The scientist mated goldfish and kept track of which fish he mated and what the resulting offspring looked like.</p> <p>+ These methods are appropriate for the purpose of the research because the only way to know what the offspring will look like if you don't know if or how the trait is inherited is to breed them.</p>