

Lesson Plan

Wedge Summaries

Book: *Wedges All Around*

Series: Using Simple Machines

Level: Pioneer

Objective

To help students practice summarizing the main ideas of a short chapter.

Supplies

- *Wedges All Around* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Wedges All Around* out loud as a class.

Activity

Divide the class into four groups. Each group will be in charge of summarizing one chapter from *Wedges All Around*. Assign each group a chapter. Then write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- What is the main idea of this chapter?
- What facts or examples does the author use to support this idea?
- What does this chapter tell us about wedges?

Students should work together to answer these three questions in their groups. They should choose someone to be the scribe and write down the group's answers. Then, students should use these answers to write a short paragraph (four to six sentences) that summarizes the chapter. The paragraph should start with the topic sentence "Chapter ___ describes ____." After that, students should write a few sentences describing the most important facts from the chapter.

Give students several minutes to discuss and write their answers. Then come back together as a class, and ask each group to read its summary out loud.

Evaluation

Were students able to accurately summarize the main ideas of each chapter? Use the following sample summaries as a guide:

Chapter 1 (“Swing and Chop”):

Chapter 1 describes how a man chops wood to make a fire. He uses his axe. His axe has a wedge. Wedges are simple machines that help break things apart.

Chapter 2 (“What Are Wedges?”):

Chapter 2 describes how wedges work. A wedge has a triangle shape. It is made from two inclined planes. The inclined planes come together to form a sharp edge. People use force to push the sharp edge into things.

Chapter 3 (“Wedges Everywhere”):

Chapter 3 describes where wedges are found. They can break things apart and hold things in place. Wedges can be found around the house. Knives break things apart. Doorstops hold doors open. Wedges can also be used to make art.

Chapter 4 (“Fun with Wedges”):

Chapter 4 describes how wedges can be used for fun. They can be used to cook. Cheese graters and pizza cutters are wedges. Wedges also help people travel. Airplane wings cut through the air. The bow of a boat cuts through water.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.2).