

Lesson Plan

Jet Generations

Book: *Fighter Jets*

Series: Let's Fly

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice summarizing a text by creating a timeline.

Supplies

- *Fighter Jets* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Fighter Jets* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Inventors don't stop working when they create a new kind of vehicle. Instead, they continue working to make the vehicle better. As inventors continue working on a vehicle, they often come up with ways to improve it. The different versions of the vehicle are known as generations. For example, the *Fighter Jets* book describes five different generations of fighter jets. Students should use the information in Chapter 2 ("Jet Generations") and Chapter 4 ("Fighter Jets Today") to create a timeline about these five generations. For each generation, students should include three pieces of information:

- The generation's number
- The decade when that generation of jets was created
- A one-sentence summary describing an important feature or innovation of that generation

Encourage students to be creative with their timeline designs. They should make sure to keep the jet generations in order and to choose a format that keeps the information about each generation separate. Other than that, students can use whatever shape or format they like.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for listing each generation's date and 1 point for summarizing each generation's key features, for a total of 10 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.2, 4.3).

Answer Key

First Generation

1940s

The first fighter jets were created soon after jet engines were invented (p. 9).

Second Generation

1950s

These jets now had radar, and afterburners allowed them to fly faster than the speed of sound (pp. 11–12).

Third Generation

1960s

New building methods allowed these jets to change direction (pp. 12–13).

Fourth Generation

1970s

These jets had stronger engines and better flight controls, including computers (p. 13).

Fifth Generation

Today

Computer screens help pilots fly, and new techniques help jets avoid radar (p. 21).