

Lesson Plan

Step by Step

Book: *Building a Road*

Series: How It's Done

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice recalling the details of a text and organizing the steps of a process.

Supplies

- *Building a Road* book
- Step by Step slips (attached)
- Scissors
- Bowl

Before the Activity

Read through *Building a Road*, or assign it to students to read on their own. Make three large columns on the whiteboard, labeling them “Before Construction,” “During Construction,” and “After Construction.” Print a copy of the Step by Step slips and cut the paper so that each sentence is on a different piece. Fold the slips and put them in a bowl.

Activity

Explain that as a class, students will organize the steps in the process for building a road. One at a time, have students pull a slip out of the bowl. The student should read the sentence out loud and state which column the sentence should go in. Write the sentence (or a summary of the sentence) on the whiteboard in that column. If there are already sentences in that column, the student should also specify the exact order of events, explaining if the step goes before, after, or between the other sentences. If students are struggling with putting the steps in the right order, coach them in thinking through the logical relationships between the steps. By the end of class, all of the steps should be in the correct order on the whiteboard.

Evaluation

Could students explain the causal and sequential relationships among the steps in the process of building of road? Use the attached answer key to provide prompting and support.

Answer Key

Before Construction

1. City planners and engineers choose a location for a new road.
2. City planners buy the land on which the new road will be built.
3. A survey team studies the land, measuring the high and low points.
4. A survey team creates a map of the land.
5. Engineers use the map of the land to create a construction plan for the road.
6. A contractor hires workers and buys supplies for building the road.

During Construction

1. A bulldozer tears down trees and bushes to clear the land where the road will be built.
2. A front loader gathers the pieces of trees and bushes.
3. A dump truck takes the pieces of trees and bushes away.
4. A truck dumps soil in areas where it is needed, and a grader levels the soil, making a base for the road.
5. Workers spray the soil with water.
6. Workers press and pack the soil to create a firm surface.
7. Workers add drains to the sides of the road.
8. Workers add layers of gravel to the road.
9. Workers add water to pack down each layer of gravel.
10. Workers add a finishing layer to the top of the road.

After Construction

1. People study and test the road.
2. Workers add line stripes, road signs, and traffic lights.
3. The city opens the finished road to traffic.
4. People drive along the smooth, new road.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.3), and speaking and listening standards, grade 3 (SL 3.1).

Step by Step

City planners and engineers choose a location for a new road.

City planners buy the land on which the new road will be built.

A survey team studies the land, measuring the high and low points.

A survey team creates a map of the land.

Engineers use the map of the land to create a construction plan for the road.

A contractor hires workers and buys supplies for building the road.

A bulldozer tears down trees and bushes to clear the land where the road will be built.

A front loader gathers the pieces of trees and bushes.

A dump truck takes the pieces of trees and bushes away.

A truck dumps soil in areas where it is needed, and a grader levels the soil, making a base for the road.

Workers spray the soil with water.

Workers press and pack the soil to create a firm surface.

Workers add drains to the sides of the road.

Workers add layers of gravel to the road.

Workers add water to pack down each layer of gravel.

Workers add a finishing layer to the top of the road.

People study and test the road.

Workers add line stripes, road signs, and traffic lights.

The city opens the finished road to traffic.

People drive along the smooth, new road.