

# Tips for Success with Informational Text...

From Linda Hoyt

## Once Isn't Enough

One key to becoming a strategic and effective reader of informational text is to understand that reading a selection once is rarely enough. With the content-heavy nature of informational passages, we reread to clarify, to process, to sort through details, and to synthesize our learning. The strategy, *Once Isn't Enough*, is designed to help students internalize the process of previewing, rereading slowly for detail, then reviewing and reflecting to support long term memory.

## The Steps

### 1. *Set the Stage:*

Explain that readers of informational texts remember more if they plan to go over a passage several times, each time adding connections, determining importance and focusing on the big ideas.

### 2. *Demonstrate:*

Read to the students from an article, from a transparency created from the article, or from a big book profiling the following steps as you go:

#### **\*First Time Around: Skim Quickly**

Let your eyes slide over the visuals and headings. Wonder about the key points and predict words you think will be important.

#### **\*Second Time Around: Scan Slowly**

Read slowly. Pay attention. Identify key words and questions. Use sticky notes to mark key points. Talk to a partner to reach agreement on important ideas.

#### **\*Third Time Around: Pull it All Together**

Review the article. Think about what you have learned. Plan a retell for someone who has not read the selection, create an illustration that captures an important idea, write about what you learned, consider questions that might appear if there were to be a test on this passage.

### 3. *Provide Guided Practice:*

Provide students with sticky notes and have them work independently or with partners to follow the three-step process.

### 4. *Share and Reflect:*

Invite them to share their learning. What did they remember from their own reading?

### 5. *Sum It Up:*

Guide the students in talking about *Once Isn't Enough* and how the process helped them remember the content.