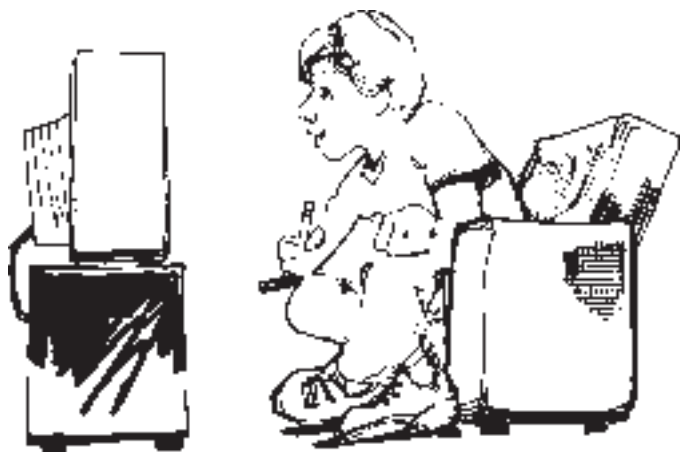




MAKING HEADLINES



SUBJECT: Science, Social Studies, Government, English/Language Arts, Health, Physical Education, Consumerism

GRADES: 6-8

DURATION: One class period of 40-60 minutes

GROUP SIZE: One class of 25-35 students

SETTING: Indoors

KEY VOCABULARY: Headline, fact, opinion, editorial, speleothem

ANTICIPATORY SET: Headlines are written to catch the reader's attention and to develop an interest in the article it is describing. Today we are going to review several articles and their headlines to determine what is fact and what is opinion!

OBJECTIVES: The students will be able to: 1) review several newspaper articles and determine whether information is based on fact or opinion; 2) write a statement in defense of or against a view using information given in the articles; 3) develop an editorial based on the articles read in this lesson.

MATERIALS: Copies of three newspaper articles and one editorial for each group, Fact or Opinion Activity Sheet, For or Against Cards, pen or pencil.

BACKGROUND: Newspapers are excellent teaching tools. They often provide information on real life situations leading to interesting discussions in the classroom. For this lesson we have selected four articles from spring and early summer of 1996 that relate to the break-in and damage of speleothems in Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave. (Speleothem is the collective term for all cave formations-stalactites, stalagmites, gypsum, etc.) Crystal Cave is one of many caves in Mammoth Cave National Park that is no longer used for commercial cave tours. It is located several miles from any of the main roads. In 1996, three vandals broke into the cave on several occasions removing hundreds of pounds of speleothems, rocks, and a few artifacts. This was a serious federal offense. The men were arrested and tried in federal court where they pled guilty. This break-in encouraged local authorities to up-hold a 1988 Kentucky law stating it was illegal to sell cave formations. This case focused on many local rock shops and influenced the way they continue to conduct business.

Readers expect newspaper reporters to give the facts needed to understand the events taking place around them. Facts answer the questions: who, what, when, where, why and how. Opinions are based on and involve our emotions. Opinions can include words such as good or bad, may include complaints or praise, or may focus on the way we feel about a situation, person, event or word. Opinions may be based on a fact, but opinions add more than the information concerning who, what, when, where, why, or how the situation unfolded. Facts are expected in newspaper articles and opinions are often expressed in editorials and/or commentary columns. Is this always true?

With the articles included in this lesson, it is hoped that students will be able to distinguish between what is a factual statement and what is opinion. Because these articles are dealing with natural resources that are irreplaceable and difficult to price in dollar amounts, they tend to include information from both realms.

MAKING HEADLINES

PROCEDURE:

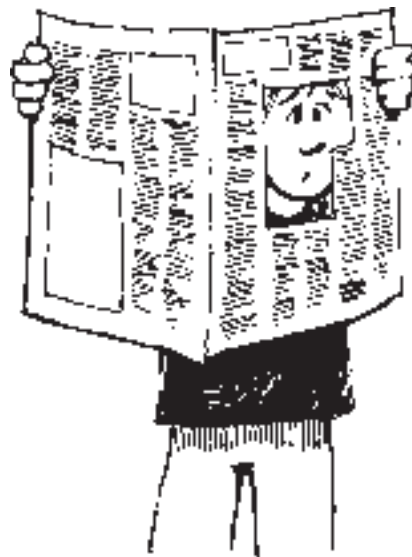
1. The students are divided into groups of three. The teacher gives each student a copy of the Fact or Opinion Activity Sheet and gives each group one set of the three newspaper articles. The teacher instructs each student within the group to read one of the articles and complete the first part of their activity sheet.
2. Students summarize and discuss each article within their group.
3. The teacher cuts the "For" and "Against" cards apart (cards are included in the lesson) and places them in a small container, making certain there is at least one card for each student.
4. The teacher has each student select a card from the container. If the student draws a "For" card he/she will write a statement supporting the sale of cave formations in local rock shops. If they draw an "Against" card they will write a statement in support of banning the sale of cave formations in local rock shops. Students should use information from the articles to support their assigned viewpoint.
5. Class members can share their statements if they choose to do so. The teacher asks the students to find a classmate with the opposite opinion. These two students then compare their statements. Is the statement they wrote a fact or an opinion? Is their statement based on facts or opinions?
6. The teacher may ask the students to think, but not voice, a response to the following questions: Do you agree with the card you drew? Did that make it harder or easier for you to compose your statement? If you were a lawyer and it was your assignment to take this to court, could you defend your position or would you turn down the case?
7. The teacher passes out copies of the editorial. The students read the entry. Does this article have any common themes with the earlier articles? What are they? The class lists the common themes on the board. The teacher asks the students to finish their activity sheet by writing an editorial using the title, "Placing a Price on Our Nation's Natural Resources." Do they agree that someone can place a value on air, water, rocks, plants and animals? Why or why not?
8. The students are invited to share their editorials.

CLOSURE: What often makes news is an event that provokes the feeling of being either for or against a situation. Because we have the ability to feel and think, opinions often mix with fact in many news events. This causes us to become involved in the issue. As a good reporter our goal is to be as objective as possible concerning the information we are reporting. Editorials are a different story. The writer of an editorial will purposely draw in people's emotions to sway their opinion.

EVALUATION: The teacher is able to evaluate the students by reviewing activity sheets, class discussion, and student editorials.

EXTENSIONS:

1. As a follow-up activity the students could write an editorial on a topic affecting their school at the current time. This topic might also be a resource-related issue.
2. Have the students watch a half-hour news program and record the number of facts and opinions stated in a ten minute period. For the remainder of the broadcast the students could note how many of the stories were presented to get people emotionally or intellectually involved.
3. The students could research how another environmental issue is reported in a newspaper or magazine. They could answer the same questions about these articles as they did for the cave articles.



MAKING HEADLINES

FACT OR OPINION ACTIVITY SHEET

1. Statement:

- a. Using the information found in your article, write a statement expressing your point of view. (Use a separate piece of paper or the back of this page if necessary.)

- b. Identify the statements from your article and label them as either "fact" or "opinion".

2. Write an editorial:

Write an editorial using the title, Placing a Price on Our Nation's Natural Resources. (Use a separate piece of paper or the back of this page if necessary.)

MAKING HEADLINES

"FOR" OR "AGAINST" CARDS

FOR

AGAINST

FOR

AGAINST

FOR

AGAINST

FOR

AGAINST

FOR

AGAINST

MAKING HEADLINES

ARTICLES

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1997

EDITORIALS

Getting serious

TWO FEDERAL decisions last week can be counted as breakthroughs in the effort to preserve our natural heritage.

One, announced by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, will ban most cars from Yosemite, Zion, and Grand Canyon national parks, where visitors will be brought to the natural wonders by bus and/or light rail.

The other, made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, will force the removal of a private, 160-year-old hydroelectric dam, so that striped bass; sturgeon, Atlantic salmon and herring can spawn in a 17-mile stretch of Maine's Kennebec River.

The Clinton Administration is on the right track. The compromise of America's most cherished places by processions of fume-belching autos, pick-ups and RVs can't be tolerated forever. And the private appropriation of public streams shouldn't be treated as a permanent right.

The public's attitude in such matters is easy to predict. Few will complain about the elimination of car exhaust from our most sensitive parklands. And while Edwards Manufacturing Co. will challenge the dam decision in court, New England's environmentalists are elated. They've wanted the thing torn down for years.

Both decisions have broader implications.

In the next 15 years, the energy commission will be able to reconsider the licensing of 550 dams across the country. Naturally, the private interests will

bray, as they always do, about the government's "taking" of assets. And, given our tradition of placing property rights before community concerns, it's likely that some of them will be entitled to relief. In the meantime, though, it's good to see the public win one for a change, up there in Maine.

The prospect is even better for progress against overcrowding, vandalism, polluted air and dirty water in the 367 units of our national park system.

Higher entry fees and new user charges, which we have cautiously endorsed, are not enough, as the Clinton Administration is tacitly acknowledging. Nothing short of an outright auto

ban will prevent the most popular parks from suffocating.

It's not a question of plants and rocks being more important than people. It's a matter of preserving the experience that draws people to the parks in the first place.

Each site is unique. More than 15 million come to Golden Gate National Recreation Area each year, to see the spectacular Pacific headlands that are within sight of downtown San Francisco. The challenge there is somewhat different from the one that park officials confront at Big Cypress swamp in Florida, which only a couple of hundred thousand visitors manage to find every year.

There is no one solution. But all of these public assets must be managed pro-actively, and wisely.

For Kentuckians and Hoosiers, the issue is not just the fate of places like Mammoth Cave and the Indiana Dunes. All of the nation's parks belong to all of us.

"It's not a question of plants and rocks being more important than people. It's a matter of preserving the experience that draws people . . . in the first place."

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MAKING HEADLINES

ARTICLES

THE COURIER-JOURNAL
FRIDAY,
MARCH 1, 1996

3 plead guilty to destroying Crystal Cave in theft spree

By CYNTHIA EAGLES
Staff Writer

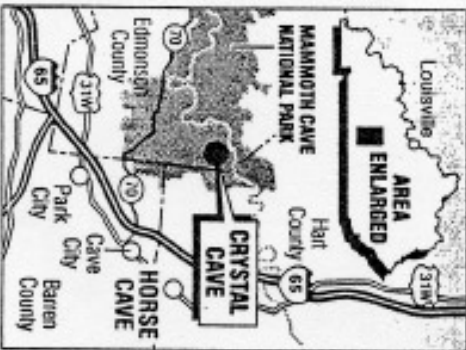
MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, Ky. — The damage to the cave that was once the resting place of Floyd Collins is extensive: Entire sheets of gypsum torn away, powdery piles of crushed gypsum crystals on the cave floor, and delicate, lacy helictites snapped clean from their roots and missing.

And on an outer wall, in bold white paint, two names sprayed in a corner: "Leon R." and "Tony H."

Yesterday, Wendell Leon Reynolds, 18, of Murrefordsville, Anthony Wayne Hawkins, 33, of Radcliff, and Anthony Dale Stinson, 23, also of Murrefordsville, pleaded guilty to federal charges that they destroyed Crystal Cave at Mammoth Cave National Park when they stole cave formations from it last spring.

Reynolds and Hawkins now face maximum sentences of 35 years in federal prison, plus fines of \$750,000 each. In addition, Stinson admitted that he stole two clay masks of Collins and his brother, Homer. He could be sentenced to a total of 45 years in prison, plus a \$1 million fine.

Sentencing was set for May 22. The three admitted to U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell that from April to June they made repeated trips "in the dead of night," as the indictment charge, tunneled under an entrance gate and hauled out 800 pounds of "cave rocks" in duffel bags. Baseball bats were their tools



STAFF MAP BY STEVE DUFREN

of choice.

"Some of them we broke, and some of them were loose," Reynolds told the judge yesterday.

"We put the rocks inside duffel bags and carried them out," Stinson said in court.

In stealing the formations, the vandals dragged the heavy rocks up and down steep cave paths, then got out by squeezing through a muddy hole no more than a foot wide and about two feet deep to get out. Then they lugged the heavy bags another mile to their vehicles.

Crystal Cave "is trashed for eternity," said Randy Ream, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case.

The National Park Service estimated they damaged roughly a mile in one passage, and ruined a quarter-mile of another. A tour for reporters yesterday revealed that the vandals pulled away entire sheets of gypsum along some passages, and took whole sections of the lacy formations known as helictites.

Related to stalactites and stalagmites, the familiar cave "icicles," helictites grow in curlicues that defy gravity and logic. Damage to the cave was put at \$270,000 by the government.

Ream said the trio peddled their cache to rock and souvenir dealers that line the entrance roads to the park. For all their efforts, they got \$1,000 or less, Ream said.

Federal investigators confiscated the booty but did not arrest the shop owners. Ream said he couldn't prove that the shop owners knew the formations came from the park.

The vandalism enraged the executive director of the American Cave Conservation Association, David Foster, who criticized the National Park Service for being slow to install a better gate at the cave, and the Mammoth Cave area rock shops, for ignoring a 1988 state law that bars the sale of "speleotherms," as cave formations are formally known.

However, Foster acknowledged that it's only a misdemeanor to sell the rocks, and has been a low priority to law enforcement.

Three admit cave damage

Continued from Page B 1

His criticism of the park service's protection of Crystal Cave was echoed by Carol Collins, whose husband is a great-nephew to Floyd.

Vickie Carson, a National Park Service spokeswoman, responded that the park service has a new cave gate-building program under way. She also said the park service runs patrols and surveillance to watch cave entrances, and also relies on tips from neighbors.

In 1925, while trying to find a new entrance to Crystal Cave that would be closer to the main highway — and thus lure more tourists — Floyd Collins became trapped and died in what is now known as Sand Cave. Crystal Cave became known as Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave. It closed in 1961 when the national park service bought it.

See **THREE**
Page 3, col. 4, this section

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sion.

MAKING HEADLINES

ARTICLES

Stemming thefts of Kentucky cave treasures



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HAYMAN

Rick Olson, a Mammoth Cave National Park ranger, examined cave formations that were thought to have been damaged by thieves in Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave.

Rock formations became easy souvenirs despite law

By ANDREW MELNYKOVYCH
Staff Writer

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, Ky. — Stealing helictites, bizarre rock formations that look like petrified pasta, from Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave is no simple task.

It requires walking a mile down a gravel road in Mammoth Cave National Park, descending a flight of steep and slippery stone stairs, hussling under a steel gate and then venturing nearly a mile into the cave itself, going up and down underground hall and dale.

Then there's the business of using hammers, hatchets and bare hands to break the formations into manageable pieces. And finally, the return trip — this time hauling out the heavy loads.

Why would anyone go to all that trouble?

For money. The thieves have been vandalizing Kentucky's subterranean heritage and selling the stolen pieces in rock shops on the road from Cave City to the national park.

That is where three men who received federal prison terms last month for ransacking Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave found ready buyers for the helictites and other formations they stole — formations that took mil-



This confiscated cave rock was for sale in a souvenir shop.

lions of years to create and only seconds to destroy.

"If there weren't a market, there wouldn't be any traffic in it," said Mammoth Cave National Park Superintendent Ron Switzer.

Selling cave formations has been il-

legal in Kentucky since 1968. But the open trade in cave formations went unchecked until the past two weeks, when the Kentucky State Police opened an investigation. One rock-shop owner has been charged with violating state law.

"This all could have been avoided completely if the law had been upheld from the very beginning," Carol Collins said. She is married to a nephew of famed cave explorer Floyd Collins, who developed the cave that bears his name.

The destruction in Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave has focused attention on a long-standing problem in Kentucky's cave country. Visitors have been removing formations from caves and leaving graffiti behind for nearly two centuries. Only in the past 40 or 50 years has that conduct been considered vandalism.

Nevertheless, the destruction of caves continues. Those that are neither protected within Mammoth Cave National Park nor operated as privately run tourist attractions bear the brunt of the abuse, said Dave Foster, executive director of the American Cave Conservation Association.

See THIEVES
Page 3, col. 3, this section

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MAKING HEADLINES

ARTICLES

Thieves stole cave treasures

Continued from Page B 1

Many have been looted for their formations, but "a lot of the vandalism is just that," Foster said. "There's a lack of awareness that these are irreplaceable resources."

Foster's group, which operates a cave museum in Horse Cave and offers tours of Hidden River Cave, and the national park are trying to get out the message that caves are fragile places deserving protection.

That will require changing the attitude of many local residents who believe caves are an economic resource, rather than a natural one, Switzer said.

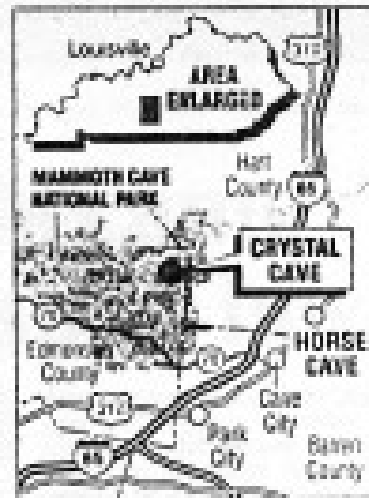
Caves within Mammoth Cave have been vandalized before. There were several highly publicized cases in the 1930s when workers at a since-closed Job Corps camp in the park entered Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave through another entrance.

But the situation is far worse in the many unprotected caves on private land, Switzer said. "I don't have any hope of protecting all the cave resources in this region," he said. "We're going to do what we can within the boundaries of the park to protect a representative sample."

But park officials have come under fire for not doing enough. Foster and Collins said security has been a problem at Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave since 1961, when the National Park Service bought it from the family that purchased it from the Collins family in the 1920s.

"It's hard to get any cave completely secure," Collins said. "But I think they could have done better."

Park rangers routinely patrol only the main roads and rarely venture beyond the locked gate where the gravel road to Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave begins. The vandals were able to make at least six trips to the cave before their work was discovered.



STAFF MAP BY VES KENDALL

During one of those visits, a park ranger saw their car parked at the gate. He noted the license number but did not investigate further.

Finding a parked car was not unusual, Switzer said, defending the rangers. The ranger was alone on duty that night and had nobody to call for backup in the event of trouble.

Switzer said that points out the impact of budget cutbacks on the national parks. To Foster, the message is the park isn't putting people into the jobs where they are most needed.

But park officials and cave conservationists hope some good comes of the destruction of Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave, including stricter laws against the sale of cave formations, better enforcement of existing laws and a heightened awareness of the need to protect Kentucky's caves.

"We can't put the damaged formations back together again," Foster said. "But we can take this as a wake-up call and make sure it doesn't happen again."

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MAKING HEADLINES

ARTICLES

Cave-rock crackdown ends inaction

By ANDREW MELNYKOVYCH
Staff Writer

CAVE CITY, Ky. — Early last month, anybody could walk into Big Mike's or Debbie's — two rock shops near Mammoth Cave National Park — and choose from a selection of cave formations, sold openly in violation of state law.

Last week, after a visit by the Kentucky State Police, there was not a stalactite, stalagmite or helictite to be found in either shop.

But cave conservationists aren't praising the crackdown. They're asking, "What took so long?"

Laruen County Attorney Ben Rogers, whose job includes prosecuting violators of the state law, says the answer is simple: Nobody ever complained about the illegal sales. "If it was such an obvious problem, it makes me wonder why nobody had ever filed a complaint."

David Foster, executive director of the American Cave Conservation Association, headquartered in Horse Cave, said, "Most people think if it's illegal, the police and prosecutors ought to be taking care of it."

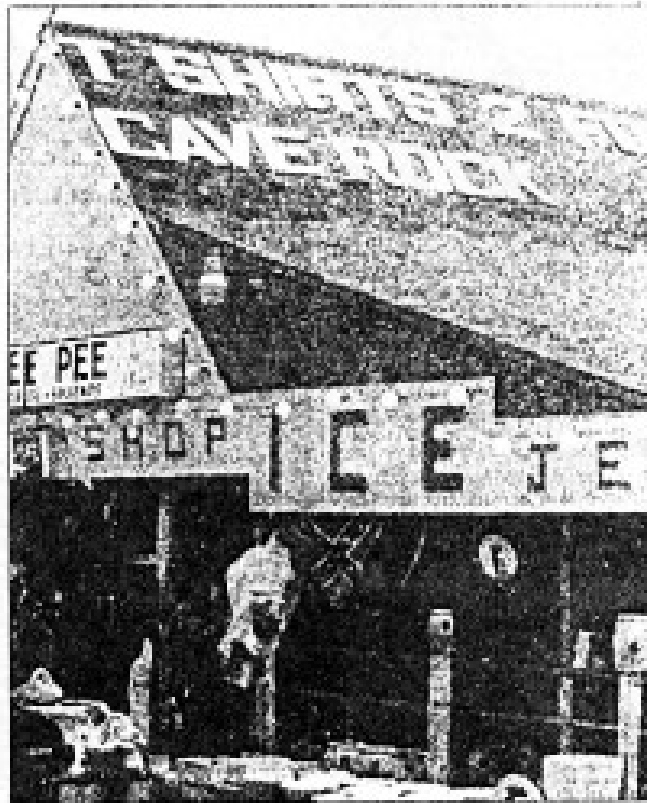
National park officials and cave conservationists say the open trade in cave rocks — and failure to enforce the 1988 state law making it a misdemeanor — were driving forces behind last year's looting of Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave. Formations taken from the cave were sold to both Big Mike's and Debbie's and later were confiscated as evidence in the federal case against the three looters.

The rock shops were not charged in the case because federal prosecutors did not believe they could prove the owners knowingly bought formations taken from the national park.

On May 12, a reporter was able to buy specimens at both shops, and sales clerks unhesitatingly identified the items as cave formations. They later were confirmed as such by a federal geologist.

One seller of cave formations pleaded ignorance of the law.

"I just found out . . . when the state police came out and investigated me."



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAYMAN

This souvenir shop in Cave City advertises "cave rock" for sale but had none last week after a Kentucky State Police crackdown.

"Big Mike" Fontana said Wednesday. "We're not criminals trying to do something illegal."

Fontana has taken down signs advertising "cave rocks" and said, "We're not going to sell them no more." He said the rocks bought by a reporter came from Mexico 15 years ago.

Fontana denied buying rocks from local caves, and he said none of the rocks taken from Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave was recovered from his shop.

Sworn testimony in the case indicates that the looters sold two batches of formations to Fontana's shop. And Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Ream said two boxes of rocks from the cave were recovered from Big Mike's.

Debbie Passmore, who owns Debbie's with her husband, David, would not talk about it last week. David Passmore was charged after a state police detective found 143 cave specimens in the shop May 23.

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MAKING HEADLINES

CORE CONTENT

- PL-M-1.1.3** Communication, cooperation, rules, and respect are important to the effective functioning of groups.
- PL-M-2.3.2** Rules of behavior and fair play (e.g., accepting authoritative decisions, assessing one's own performance level, accepting skills and abilities of others through verbal and nonverbal actions for spectators and/or participants) during games are necessary.
- PL-M-3.3.2** Improving environmental conditions (e.g., air and water quality) and preserving natural resources impact personal and community health.
- RD-H-x.0.7** Formulate opinions in response to a reading passage.
- RD-H-x.0.6** Paraphrase important parts of a passage.
- RD-H-x.0.1** Locate, evaluate, and apply information for a realistic purpose.
- RD-H-4.0.8** Identify essential information needed to accomplish a task.
- RD-H-2.0.13** Analyze the content as it applies to students' lives and/or real world issues.
- RD-M-x.0.10** Connect information from a passage to students' lives and/or real world issues.
- RD-M-x.0.9** Reflect on and evaluate what is read.
- RD-M-x.0.8** Make predictions, draw conclusions, and make generalizations about what is read.
- RD-M-x.0.7** Skim to get the general meaning of a passage.
- RD-M-x.0.6** Scan to find key information.
- RD-M-x.0.1** Identify an author's purpose in literary, informational, persuasive, and practical/workplace materials.
- RD-M-4.0.11** Locate and apply information for a specific purpose (e.g., following directions, completing a task).
- RD-M-3.0.17** Identify bias and/or misinformation.
- RD-M-3.0.15** Identify the argument and supporting evidence.
- RD-M-3.0.14** Distinguish between fact and opinion.
- RD-M-3.0.13** Apply knowledge of organizational patterns (e.g., cause and effect, comparison, contrast, sequence) to understand a passage.
- RD-M-3.0.12** Identify an author's opinion about a subject.
- RD-M-2.0.13** Identify supporting details and explain their importance in a passage.
- RD-M-2.0.12** Apply knowledge of organizational patterns (e.g., cause and effect, comparison, contrast, sequence) to understand a passage.
- SS-M-4.4.3** The natural resources of a place or region impact its political, social, and economic development.
- WR-M-1.4** Transactive writing is informative/persuasive writing that presents ideas and information for authentic audiences to accomplish realistic purposes like those students will encounter in their lives. In transactive writing, students will write in a variety of forms.