The modern world is inundated by "Facts." Television, the Internet—more information than your grandparents ever imagined—is at your fingertips with the click of a button. But there's a big difference between information and knowledge. As a friend once said, "We have an abundance of information, but information alone is meaningless. It has to be thought about and organized and then internalized, and then maybe you will end up with knowledge."

7 Keys to Comprehension - Susan Zimmerman and Chryse Hutchins

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# Unit of Study: Determining Importance

## Prior Knowledge:
What prior knowledge about comprehension do students need to have before entering this unit of study?
- Making connections/schema
- Monitoring for meaning
- Understand genre
- Asking questions

## Definition
What is Determining Importance?

Informational text encompasses many genres (e.g. memoir, newspapers, articles, and biographies). This unit focuses on reading informational texts. Informational texts primary purpose is to communicate information on a particular topic. Informational text includes both facts and opinions and has text features such as: index, graphs, photographs, captions and can be organized in a variety of ways: sequential, problem/solution, question/answer, compare/contrast, etc.

When reading informational text, readers think about the key concepts in the text. They can identify new learning and think about what information the author is trying to communicate. This is called determining importance.

## Concepts to Teach
What are the important concepts that you will teach within this Unit of Study?

1. What is informational text?
2. Identify and use text features of informational text
3. Understand a variety of text structures of informational text
4. What is determining importance?
5. Use skimming and scanning to determine main topic(s)/key details
6. Identifying new learning
7. Sorting interesting versus important information
8. Asking questions to determine importance
9. Asking questions to clarify a confusion
10. Asking answered and unanswered questions
11. Note Taking: facts, questions, responses
12. Note Taking: writing it in your own words
13. Reading to build background knowledge
14. Note Taking: main topics versus key details
15. Using our own questions to search for information.
16. Inferring to answer questions
17. How do readers use outside resources to find answers to questions not found in an informational article?
18. Determining a fact versus an opinion
19. Identifying author’s message or intent
20. Defending your opinion
21. Inferring to draw conclusions
22. Compare and contrast key details from two or more sources
23. Readers determine importance in combination with other reading strategies