

## **To the Teacher**

Reading and understanding informational text—from autobiographical accounts by historical figures to articles ripped from the headlines—is critical to the college and career readiness of today’s students. For teachers, the challenge lies in artfully integrating informational text into the Language Arts curriculum. Connections: Nonfiction for Common Core offers a wealth of relevant nonfiction texts to help you tackle this challenge.

This collection features more than 150 seminal primary-source documents crafted by politicians, world leaders, early explorers, journalists, scientists, historians, photographers, and political cartoonists. Accompanying all documents are grade-level-appropriate suggested connections to selections in your anthology.

## **Reading and Analyzing Informational Text**

Some students, especially middle-school students and less-proficient readers, may find the style, complexity, and language of these texts challenging. To aid comprehension, consider doing the following:

- As a class, do a guided reading of the text. Have students take turns reading aloud. As an alternative, have students read aloud in pairs or small groups. For longer texts, you might assign a section of the document to each group. To monitor comprehension, periodically ask students or student groups to give oral summaries of what they have just read.
- Encourage students to create a vocabulary list of unfamiliar words and their definitions.
- Have students use a graphic organizer to take notes as they read. For example, you might have them set up a two-column chart to track the writer’s main points and supporting details.
- Use the informational text as the focus of a more in-depth lesson on reading, analyzing, and evaluating nonfiction. As part of your instruction, encourage students to consider the questions shown in the chart to help them understand any informational text they read. Students can also use these questions as a springboard to writing about nonfiction.