

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC  
A TRUE SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

# Core Curriculum Connection Activities

## GRADE 3 • CLUSTER 1

*Grade 3, Cluster 1. Four activities, one per module, showing how the Teach BIG Short Constructed Response ladder plugs straight into the Bluebonnet core the state already gives your district. Run it either way, from their content or from ours.*

## CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

### THE CORE READING

#### Early Explorers • Colonial America

Bluebonnet Grade 3 Knowledge Units

### THE WRITING

#### Cluster 1 • Module 1 • Cracking the SCR Question Code

Teach BIG™ Grade 3 • Informational Short Constructed Response

### WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

*Your students have read the Bluebonnet units on the early explorers and the first colonies. They know why settlers crossed the ocean, what they hoped to find, and how they built new homes in a new land.*

### THE WRITING WE ADD

*Module 1 teaches students to open a short response by cracking the question first. Using the Three Shapes, they circle the main noun, box the action verb, and mark the clue word, then decide whether the prompt asks What, Why, or How.*

### TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

#### USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

*Write a short response prompt from the Bluebonnet Early Explorers reading, and have students crack it with the Three Shapes before they answer.*

#### USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

*Or use our Cluster 1 passage, *The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth*, with the Shape Detectives cards to practice the very same skill.*

### A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

*Put the prompt *Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?* on the board. Ask students to circle the noun, box the verb, and mark the clue word, then name the question type. In one minute they can see that *Why* signals a reason to explain.*

## CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

### THE CORE READING

## The Human Body

Bluebonnet Grade 3 Knowledge Unit

### THE WRITING

## Cluster 1 • Module 2 • Writing a Thesis (Central Idea)

Teach BIG™ Grade 3 • Informational Short  
Constructed Response

### WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

*Your students have studied the body's systems in Bluebonnet. They can explain how the parts of the body work together to keep us healthy, and they are full of facts ready to be written down.*

### THE WRITING WE ADD

*Module 2 teaches students to turn all of those facts into one clear central idea. They learn to state a thesis that answers the prompt directly, in a single sentence a reader cannot miss.*

### TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

#### USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

*Have students write a central idea sentence straight from the Bluebonnet Human Body reading they just finished.*

#### USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

*Or use a Cluster 1 informational passage with the Module 2 thesis frame to build the same sentence from our content.*

### A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

*Ask each student to say one true fact about the body out loud. Then use the Module 2 thesis frame to turn that spoken fact into a central idea sentence that could open a full response.*

## CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

### THE CORE READING

#### Animal Classification

Bluebonnet Grade 3 Knowledge Unit

### THE WRITING

#### Cluster 1 • Module 3 • Selecting Strong Evidence

Teach BIG™ Grade 3 • Informational Short  
Constructed Response

### WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

*Your students have studied how scientists sort animals into groups in Bluebonnet. They know the shared traits that place an animal in each group, and their reading is full of details they can point to.*

### THE WRITING WE ADD

*Module 3 teaches students to pick the details that actually prove an idea. Using our TRACKS guide, they hunt for the six kinds of evidence, from Key Knowledge to Actions, and keep only the details that support the thesis.*

### TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

#### USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

*Have students mark TRACKS evidence right in the Bluebonnet Animal Classification reading, then choose the two strongest details.*

#### USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

*Or use our Cluster 1 passage with the TRACKS chart to practice choosing evidence from Teach BIG content.*

### A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

*Read one short paragraph together. Ask students to find two details that prove the central idea and label each one with its TRACKS letter. Then ask which detail is stronger, and why.*

## CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

### THE CORE READING

#### Native American Cultures

Bluebonnet Grade 3 Knowledge Unit

### THE WRITING

#### Cluster 1 • Module 4 • Explaining the Evidence

Teach BIG™ Grade 3 • Informational Short  
Constructed Response

### WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

*Your students have learned how Native American cultures lived and adapted to the land in Bluebonnet. They can describe daily life and the reasons behind it.*

### THE WRITING WE ADD

*Module 4 completes the SCR ladder. Students take a thesis and its evidence and add the explaining sentence that tells the reader why the evidence proves the idea, so the whole response holds together.*

### TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

#### USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

*Have students write a full short response from the Bluebonnet Native American Cultures reading, with a thesis, evidence, and explanation.*

#### USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

*Or build the same full response from our Cluster 1 passage, Life Along the Nile River, using the Module 4 ladder.*

### A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

*Give students a thesis and one piece of evidence. Ask them to add one sentence that begins with the words This shows that. In five minutes they will have written the top rung of the SCR ladder.*