



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 6: Module 4: Unit 1: Lesson 8

Mid-Unit Assessment: Tracing an Argument in an Article and a Video



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| Long-Term Targets Addressed (Based on NYSP12 ELA CCLS) | |
|---|--|
| I can identify the argument and specific claims in a text. (RI.6.8) I can evaluate the argument and specific claims for sufficient evidence. (SL.6.3) | |
| Supporting Learning Targets | Ongoing Assessment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can identify the argument and specific claims in a video about DDT.• I can evaluate the evidence used to support the argument and claims in a video about DDT.• I can identify the argument and specific claims in “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution.”• I can evaluate the evidence used to support the argument and claims in “Rachel Carson: sounding the Alarm on Pollution.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: Video about DDT• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” |



| Agenda | Teaching Notes |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Unpacking Learning Targets and Assessment Prompt (5 minutes)2. Work Time<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: Video about DDT (17 minutes)B. Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” (20 minutes)3. Closing and Assessment<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Vocabulary: Adding Words to the Scientific Word Wall (3 minutes)4. Homework<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Read Chapter 8, “Hunger Is Frightful’s Teacher.” Complete Learning from Frightful’s Perspective: Chapter 8. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mid-Unit 1 Assessment spans multiple standards and uses both a text and a video. If necessary, or beneficial, consider spreading this assessment across two lessons.• The questions and graphic organizers in this assessment closely parallel the types of questions and graphic organizers that students worked on in earlier lessons.• If students receive accommodations for assessment, communicate with the cooperating services providers regarding the practices of instruction in use during this study as well as the goals of the assessment. Consider students who need testing accommodations: extra time, separate location, scribe, etc.• If students finish their Mid-Unit 1 Assessment early, ask them to catch up on their reading in <i>Frightful’s Mountain</i> or work on their vocabulary.• In advance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Prepare a computer and projector, or multiple computers, for the video component of this assessment.– Post: Learning targets. |



| Lesson Vocabulary | Materials |
|---|--|
| argument, claims, evidence; bio-magnification, bio-accumulation (video); pollution, conservation, synthetic, aerial (article) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document camera• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: Video about DDT (one per student)• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment Glossary sheet (one per student)• Video about DDT: http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=730d78b4-1• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” (one per student)• “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” (assessment text; one per student)• Sticky notes (a few per student)• Scientific Word Wall (begun in Lesson 4)• <i>Frightful’s Mountain</i> (book; one per student)• Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument (answers, for teacher reference)• Learning from Frightful’s Perspective: Chapter 8 (one per student) |



| Opening | Meeting Students' Needs |
|---|---|
| <p>A. Unpacking Learning Targets and Assessment Prompt (5 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post the learning targets.• Invite student volunteers to read aloud each target, one at a time, as the other students read along. After each target is read, ask the students:<ul style="list-style-type: none">* “What are the important words in this target?”• Look for responses that identify the words: <i>argument</i>, <i>claims</i>, and <i>evidence</i>. Use a highlighter to emphasize those important words as the students identify them.• Write the number 1 by the word <i>argument</i>, 2 by the word <i>claims</i>, and 3 by the word <i>evidence</i>.• Tell students that you will share a definition for each of those words. When they hear and see the definition, they should raise one finger if the definition is for an argument, two fingers for claims, and three fingers for evidence.• Use the document camera to show the definitions as you read them aloud.• Explain that _____ is information that helps show that something is true or helps prove something. (<i>evidence</i>)• Explain that a _____ states that something is true or is a fact. (<i>claim</i>)• Explain an _____ is a statement or series of statements for or against something. (<i>argument</i>)• As students see and hear the definitions, ask them to raise one, two, or three fingers to match the definition with the important words from the targets they’ll use in their assessment today• Remind students that they have been working for several lessons on identify arguments and claims, and evaluating the evidence that supports them. Today is a chance for them to use those skills as they watch and listen to a new video and to read a new article. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider partnering ELLs who speak the same home language when discussion of complex content is required. |



| Work Time | Meeting Students' Needs |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: Video about DDT (17 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute the Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: Video about DDT as well as the Mid-Unit 1 Assessment Glossary. Tell students that the video they are about to watch and the article they are about to read contain some new vocabulary they may find difficult, and this glossary should be used as a tool to help them understand these materials • Tell students that the assessment is similar to the work they have been doing using the Tracing an Argument graphic organizer. Today, they will identify arguments in both a video and an article. They will also identify claims and evidence that supports the claims in both. • Explain that the video about DDT (http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=730d78b4-1, Used with permission from Government of Canada) lasts about 4 minutes. • Tell students they will watch the video twice: once to get the gist and to identify the argument. Explain that they will have a couple of minutes after watching the video to write down the speaker's argument if they are ready to do that. • They will watch the video a second time more closely for specific claims and evaluate the evidence used to support the argument and claims. Explain that they will have about 5 minutes to write one of the speaker's claims, evidence that supports the claim, and explain if the evidence is sufficient. • Tell the students that there are also two multiple-choice questions that they will answer. Invite students to read the questions before watching the video the second time. • Circulate and support students as they work on their assessments. • Collect this portion of the assessment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students who struggle with reading grade-level text, consider chunking the text or identifying a section of the “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” article that states a claim and has supporting evidence. The Lexile measure of this article is 840. The “Deadly Chemicals” section and the “Thousands of Dead Fish” section contain claims and evidence. • To support ELL students, consider providing definitions of challenging vocabulary in the students' home language. Translate; bilingual transition digital and textual dictionaries can assist with one-word translation. • Some students may benefit from extra time to complete the mid-unit assessment. • Some students may benefit from pausing the video to write responses on the mid-unit assessment. • Some students may benefit from listening to the video more than twice. |



| Work Time | Meeting Students' Needs |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>B. Mid-Unit Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” (20 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute the assessment text “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” and the Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution.”• Tell students they will read the article for the gist and identify the argument.• Explain that they do not need to read the entire article. Tell students they may stop reading when they get to the heading “A Writer at Age 10.”• Tell students they will also identify a claim and evidence that supports the claims.• Explain that rereading helps identify claims and find evidence.• Give students the list of scientific words that are used in the article and their definitions. They may use this to help with understanding.• Circulate and support students as they work on their assessments.• Invite those who finish the assessment to write the scientific words on sticky notes to add to the Scientific Word Wall during closing time. They should identify which category the words would best fit with.• Students may also read <i>Frightful’s Mountain</i> if they are finished. | |



| Closing and Assessment | Meeting Students' Needs |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Vocabulary: Adding Words to the Scientific Word Wall (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite students to share under which categories on the Scientific Word Wall the new vocabulary words used in the assessment would fit.• Call on students who finished their assessment and had time to add the words to sticky notes. Invite those students to place those words in the category under which they fit.• Commend students for their hard work on the mid-unit assessment. Explain that independently using the skills of identifying arguments, claims, and supporting evidence is an important step in the work they will be starting.• Distribute and review Learning from Frightful's Perspective: Chapter 8. | |
| Homework | Meeting Students' Needs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Chapter 8, "Hunger Is Frightful's Teacher." Complete Learning from Frightful's Perspective: Chapter 8. <p><i>Note: In Lesson 9, students will need their Learning from Frightful's Perspective: Chapters 1–8 Focus Question Responses (specifically for Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 7). Help students locate these materials in advance, or assign this organization of their materials to be part of their homework task.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider giving some students filled-in Tracing an Argument graphic organizers from "Double Whammy" and "Public Fear" to review for the mid-unit assessment. |



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Grade 6: Module 4: Unit 1: Lesson 8

Supporting Materials



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Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

Video about DDT

Name:

Date:

I can identify the speaker's argument and specific claims in a video about DDT. (RI.6.8)

I can determine whether the speaker's argument and claims are supported by evidence. (SL.6.3)

Name of the Video: "DDT—Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane"

DIRECTIONS:

Watch the following video. Listen for the argument of the video. After you have watched it once, write down what you have identified as the argument of the video.

When you watch it the second time, write down a specific claim or claims in the video. Then complete the rest of the graphic organizer.

Speaker's Argument:

Speaker's Claim:

Evidence to Support Claim:

Is the claim supported by sufficient evidence?

Yes

No



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

Video about DDT

After evaluating the evidence that supports each claim, is the overall argument supported by sufficient evidence? Explain why or why not.

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer for each question below.

The evidence used by the speaker in this video helps support the position that birds at the top of the food chain have been harmed the most by DDT. The speaker does this by:

1. Sharing a story about DDT and how it affected animals, particularly birds
2. Stating claims about birds and their environment and using evidence to support the claims
3. Explaining the build-up of DDT in the environment

The speaker states that bio-magnification, also called bio-accumulation, caused DDT to build up in the food chain. How does the video help the viewer understand this process?

1. Gives facts and statistics
2. Shows drawings of smaller fish to larger fish and birds
3. Tells a true story



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment:
Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Video about DDT

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| bio-magnification | <i>n.</i> making something greater (as a pesticide) in a living organism |
| bio-accumulation | <i>n.</i> the gradual increasing of a substance (as a pesticide) in a living organism |

“Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution” article

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| pollution | <i>n.</i> the action or process of making land, water, air, etc. dirty and not safe or suitable to use |
| conservation | <i>n.</i> the protection of animals, plants, and natural resources |
| synthetic | <i>adj.</i> made by combining different substances; not natural |
| aerial | <i>adj.</i> performed in the air or by using an airplane |



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

“Rachel Carson: Sound the Alarm on Pollution”

Name:

Date:

I can identify the author’s argument and specific claims in a text. (RI.6.8)

I can determine whether the author’s argument and claims are supported by evidence. (RI.6.8)

Name of the Article: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution”

DIRECTIONS:

Read the article.

After you have read it, write down what you have identified as the argument in the text. Write down a specific claim from the article. Then write what evidence was given to support the claim. Decide if the evidence did a good job supporting the claim.

Author’s Argument:

Author’s Claim:

Evidence to Support Claim:

Is the claim supported by sufficient evidence?

Yes

No



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument
“Rachel Carson: Sound the Alarm on Pollution”

After evaluating the evidence that supports each claim, is the overall argument supported by sufficient evidence? Explain why or why not.



Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution

GREEN GIANTS (HEROES OF THE ENVIRONMENT) RACHEL CARSON: SOUNDING THE ALARM ON POLLUTION

Rachel Carson was a small, soft-spoken scientist.

She also was one of the towering Green Giants of the 20th century.

Her Book Changed Our World

Her 1962 book, "Silent Spring," was probably the most influential work on conservation ever written. It made Americans think hard about pollution of the environment. It led to strict controls on synthetic pesticides.

Rachel Carson was a marine biologist. She already had published three excellent books about the sea and its creatures. All were best sellers. They combined sound science with good writing.

Deadly Chemicals

The purpose of "Silent Spring" was to raise public alarm about chemical pesticides, especially one called DDT, which was introduced in 1939.

In the 1940's, the chemical industry developed many related pesticides. The pesticides saved farmers and gardeners time and money because they made it easier to control insects and weeds. By the mid-1950's, half a billion pounds of pesticides were being spread over fields and gardens each year.

The trouble was that some chemicals hurt not only insects and weeds but also birds, mammals and fish. Some scientists said the chemicals hurt people too. Others had written about the danger before Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring," but few people paid attention.

Thousands of Dead Fish

By 1960, though, the evidence was clear. Fish had died by the tens of thousands when orchards near lakes were sprayed with pesticides. Thousands of birds had been doomed by aerial spraying of woodlands.

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" fairly shouted: "Whoa! Look what we're doing!" She did not oppose the use of all pesticides. But she wrote, "We have allowed these chemicals to

Eighth in a Series

Carson at a Glance

BORN:
May 27, 1907, at
Springdale, Pa.;
died April 14, 1964.

**LEGACY FOR
THE EARTH:**
She put a spotlight
on environmental
pollution.

**FOR FURTHER
READING:**
"Sea and Earth: The
Life of Rachel
Carson,"
by Philip Sterling;
"Rachel Carson,"
by Carol B. Gartner.

“Future historians
may well be amazed
by our distorted
sense of proportion.
How could intelligent
beings seek to
control a few un-
wanted species by a
method that conta-
minated the entire
environment and
brought the threat
of disease and death
even to their own
kind? Yet this is
what we have
done.” —*Rachel
Carson's warning in
"Silent Spring."*

be used with little or no advance investigation of their effect on soil, water, wildlife, and man himself."

Parts of the book began appearing in *The New Yorker* magazine in 1962. Rachel's message made for a noisy summer. It was attacked by the chemical industry, food companies, and some government agencies. They said the book was scientifically unsound. They dismissed her as a "nature nut," "food faddist," and "just a bird watcher."

Mild-Mannered but Tough

Rachel was quiet and mild-mannered, but she was also tough-minded. She stood up to all the criticism and enjoyed the praise that came from many scientists who knew about pesticides.

In following years, DDT and 11 other chemical pesticides Rachel had warned about were banned or tightly restricted. By the time of her death in 1964, her name was a household word.

A Writer at Age 10

Rachel Carson had come a long way from her childhood in a small town near Pittsburgh, Pa.

She had learned to love nature as a young girl. Her mother could not bear to kill a living thing, and so Rachel had to catch insects that got into the house and release them outside.

Rachel's first published story appeared in *St. Nicholas*, a children's magazine, when she was only 10 years old. She decided to become a writer, but in college she had to take a science course. She chose biology—and liked it. That was the start of a career that joined science with literature.

By the time she had published her third best seller on the sea, Rachel Carson was famous. People were ready to listen to her scary message in "Silent Spring." It changed how they thought about the earth—and also how they treated it.✱

—*Robert W. Peterson*



Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution





Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

Video about DDT
(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

I can identify the speaker's argument and specific claims in a video about DDT. (RI.6.8)

I can determine whether the speaker's argument and claims are supported by evidence. (SL.6.3)

Name of the Video: "DDT—Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane"

DIRECTIONS:

Watch the following video. Listen for the argument of the video. After you have watched it once, write down what you have identified as the argument of the video.

When you watch it the second time, write down a specific claim or claims in the video. Then complete the rest of the graphic organizer.

Speaker's Argument: (Answers may vary)

DDT is harmful for the environment.

Speaker's Claim: (Answers may vary)

- 1. DDT had a big impact on birds.**
- 2. DDT is a persistent chemical**
- 3. The ban on DDT has been effective.**

Evidence to Support Claim: (Answers may vary)

- 1. DDT made eggshells thinner, so when they sat on them they broke, and no young were produced.**
- 2. DDT can remain in water for up to 150 years.**
- 3. Levels of DDT in herring gull eggs are 10% of what they were 25 years ago.**

Is the claim supported by sufficient evidence?

Yes

No



After evaluating the evidence that supports each claim, is the overall argument supported by sufficient evidence? Explain why or why not.

(Answers may vary)

The overall argument, that DDT is harmful for the environment is supported by sufficient evidence. The video gives three claims to support the argument: DDT made eggshells thinner and harmed the bird population, DDT remains in the environment as a persistent chemical, and the ban on DDT has been beneficial for the environment. The video provides evidence to support each of these claims.

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer for each question below.

The evidence used by the speaker in this video helps support the position that birds at the top of the food chain have been harmed the most by DDT. The speaker does this by:

1. Sharing a story about DDT and how it affected animals, particularly birds
2. Stating claims about birds and their environment and using evidence to
 - a. support the claims
- 3. Explaining the build-up of DDT in the environment**

The speaker states that bio-magnification, also called bio-accumulation, caused DDT to build up in the food chain. How does the video help the viewer understand this process?

1. Gives facts and statistics
- 2. Shows drawings of smaller fish to larger fish and birds**
3. Tells a true story



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

“Rachel Carson: Sound the Alarm on Pollution”

(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

I can identify the author’s argument and specific claims in a text. (RI.6.8)

I can determine whether the author’s argument and claims are supported by evidence. (RI.6.8)

Name of the Article: “Rachel Carson: Sounding the Alarm on Pollution”

DIRECTIONS:

Read the article.

After you have read it, write down what you have identified as the argument in the text. Write down a specific claim from the article. Then write what evidence was given to support the claim. Decide if the evidence did a good job supporting the claim.

Author’s Argument: (Answers may vary)

DDT is a harmful chemical for the environment, and Rachel Carson helped to spread the word about how harmful it is.

Author’s Claim:

- 1. Chemicals hurt not only insects, but also birds, fish, and mammals.**
- 2. Rachel Carson’s book led to strict controls on pesticides.**

Evidence to Support Claim:

- 1. Fish died by the tens of thousands when orchards near lakes were sprayed with pesticides.**
- 2. DDT and 11 other chemicals were banned after she wrote her book. By the time of her death, her name was a household word.**

Is the claim supported by sufficient evidence?

Yes

No



Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Tracing and Evaluating an Argument

“Rachel Carson: Sound the Alarm on Pollution”

(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

After evaluating the evidence that supports each claim, is the overall argument supported by sufficient evidence? Explain why or why not.

(Answers may vary – look for students to justify their response by discussing the evidence the text offers.)

The overall argument is not supported by sufficient evidence. The author makes two claims: Rachel Carson was very influential in banning DDT and DDT is harmful for the environment. For each claim, the author only offers one piece of supporting evidence.

Learning from Frightful's Perspective:

Chapter 8

Name: _____

Date: _____

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Focus Question: What does Jon teach Frightful? How does he teach her this lesson?</p> <p>Use evidence from this chapter to support your thoughts.</p> | <p>Evidence from the Text:</p> | |
| <p>Chapter 8: "Hunger Is Frightful's Teacher"</p> <p>Words I Found Difficult:</p> <p>Glossary: cote—noun: a small shed or coop for small animals transformer—noun: a device that transfers electric energy from one alternating-circuit current to one or more other circuits, either increasing (stepping up) or reducing (stepping down) the voltage raptors—noun: any bird of prey; examples of raptors include owls, eagles, falcons, hawks, and vultures</p> | <p>What and how does Jon teach Frightful? My Thoughts:</p> | |