GR 5 Literacy: Non-fiction Research and Writing a Research Essay

In this unit, Grade 5 readers study nonfiction texts to understand how authors organize and present information. They identify key text features, main ideas, and supporting details, and use notetaking strategies to record information for research. Students also learn how text structures like cause/effect, problem/solution, and compare/contrast reveal implicit main ideas. In addition, they practice using context clues to understand new vocabulary and recognize bias and perspective in texts. Nonfiction book clubs provide opportunities to apply and discuss these skills together.

In this unit, Grade 5 writers learn to write organized paragraphs through the lens of nonfiction writing. They explore how to find and evaluate credible sources, and how to use secondary sources to gather information for research. Using graphic organizers, students practice taking notes and organizing their thinking before drafting. As the unit progresses, they begin constructing a research-based essay, using their notes to support ideas, citing sources accurately, and building clear, informative writing grounded in evidence.

Key Concepts:	**Form:** • The structure and features of nonfiction texts (headings, subheadings, diagrams, captions, and organization). • The form of research-based essays, understanding how paragraphs, evidence, and citations fit together to communicate ideas clearly. **Function:** • How nonfiction texts work to inform readers and how text structure functions to convey meaning. • Effective note taking and credible sourcing to support research-based writing **Perspective:** • Bias and point of view of information presented in texts
Related Concepts:	Credible Sources and Academic Honesty Note taking
Related Vocabulary:	Text Features; Note taking; skimming; annotating; main idea; text structures (chronology, cause and effect, compare and contrast, problem and solution); bias
Anchor Chart:	