

Synthesizing

Activity: Mrs. Pingel's Synthesizing Activity

Purpose: To monitor changes in thinking about text while reading.

Prepare for the lesson by selecting an expository text. Mrs. Pingel used an *Endangered Species Chocolate* candy bar wrapper that presented information about gorillas.

1. Print a copy of Mrs. Pingel's Synthesizing Graphic Organizer (pg.2).
2. Begin the lesson by asking students to activate their prior knowledge about the selected topic.

Suggested prompts:

- What do you know that will help you understand the information in the text?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word _____?
- What do you already know about _____?
- What personal connections can you make with _____?

3. Record student responses inside the prior knowledge hat.
4. Begin to read the selected text. Pause when you encounter new or important information. Record this information in the "New Information" oval. Remind students that careful readers stop every so often and think about what they have read.
5. Continue reading the text. Encourage students to share when they hear new or important information. Record that information.
6. Model how the new information, combined with what you already know about the topic, begins to change your thinking and new ideas are created. The new ideas are the syntheses and are recorded in the "Synthesis" oval.
7. Encourage students to share how and when their thinking changed. Record the syntheses.

