



Reference Readiness

About the plan

EDUCATOR'S NAME	Charles Plaisance
SCHOOL	Hawkins Middle School
DISTRICT	Forest Municipal School District
GRADE LEVELS	7-8
SUBJECT	Library Skills
UNIT/THEME	Reference
COMPETENCY NUMBER	#21 Main Idea and Detail Reading
OBJECTIVES	Locate and combine information from reference sources. Students will learn how to choose, find, and use six basic reference books.
INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion of research books in the library2. Question and answer period3. Use of examples4. Students work independently to find answers in their searches5. Entire class reviews the correct answers and librarian shows students how to get the correct answers using the MAGNOLIA databases
PRIOR PREPARATION	Go through MAGNOLIA databases and formulate research questions based on information from those databases.
MATERIALS NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overhead projector• Basic reference books• MAGNOLIA• Sample questions overhead sheet• Copies of "Basic Reference Questions" handout for every student• Internet access
DURATION OF ACTIVITY	Varies – 1-2 weeks
FORMAL ASSESSMENT	Students go to MAGNOLIA and find the answers to the questions from the six books. Papers are corrected. Students who missed questions are to look again to find the right answers for the purpose is for them to learn how to find the information quickly and correctly.

Activity

1. Go to MAGNOLIA. Click on to [Wilson Biographies](#). Type in "Dictionary of American Biography." Click on "Drake, Francis Samuel."
What did Mr. Drake publish in 1872?
[A Dictionary of American Biography](#).
2. *What is the description of [A Dictionary of American Biography](#)?*
It is a biographical dictionary of about 19,000 notable Americans who died before 12/31/80. The articles are written and signed by subject specialists and include references to resources for more information.
3. Go to [First Search](#). Under OCLC [First Search](#), list all databases. Select [Worldcat](#) and click "select." Type in under "Search for:" [World Almanac](#). Once there, click on [The World Almanac and Book of Facts](#).
Name the eight libraries and their locations in Mississippi that have the [World Almanac and Book of Facts](#).
4. Click on "Libraries that own item."
What states house these reference books?
Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

These types of searches can be used with all of the reference books listed below.

Explore activity

[Current Biography Yearbook](#)

[Dictionary of American Biography](#)

[Dictionary of American History](#)

[McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Biography](#)

[World Almanac and Book of Facts](#)

Other reference books can be used in addition to the ones listed above. Students may be asked to write a research paper and use MAGNOLIA and reference books in the library to conduct a more formal search. Students must be able to cite sources.