

Summarize It!

Cross-Curricular Focus: Study Skills



You have probably written a **summary** as an activity after the **completion** of a book you have read. Often, you tell how a **problem** was **solved**. But did you know that summarizing is not just for stories? You can use your summarizing skills to be better prepared in all your subjects.

Some students have a hard time with science and social studies because there are lots of new words, and a lot of information to remember. Research shows that just writing things down will help you remember them – even if you never even read what you wrote ever again. Wow! That’s a great reason for taking notes.

Do you know another way to say “taking notes” ? Surprise! Taking notes is summarizing! When you read your science and social studies textbooks, keep a notebook with lined paper out, and sharpen your pencil! Most textbooks are divided into sections that have headings, which are like titles in darker letters. Write down the heading of each section just before you read the section. As you read, jot down a few big ideas and new words. Use your summary to study!

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) Why are science and social studies hard for some people? _____

2) What does research say about writing things down? _____

3) What is a heading in your textbook? _____

4) Based on the other information in the last paragraph, what do the words “jot down” mean? _____

5) How can you use your notes to remember even more? _____
