Comprehension

Directions:

Comprehension refers to the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning. In other words, there are two challenges: Figuring out how print represents words (accurately and efficiently--extracting), at the same time formulating a representation of the information being presented (building new meaning and integrating new and old information--constructing meaning). (Snow & Sweet, 2003, p. 1.)

For this activity you will need sets of markers or crayons. Students will learn how to "code" paragraphs in order to identify the topic sentence, supporting details, concluding sentence, and transitional words or phrases. Students will use the key below to work with a partner to code the paragraph. The teacher can/should model this process with a paragraph written on the board first, prior to having the students code with a peer or independently.

GREEN= Color or underline the topic sentence of a paragraph in green crayon or marker
BLUE=Color or underline each supporting detail in a paragraph in blue crayon or marker
RED= Color or underline the concluding sentence in a paragraph in red crayon or marker
YELLOW=Color or underline transitional words or phrases in a paragraph in yellow crayon or marker

This resource can be used in whole group instruction, literacy stations, small group instruction, or for reading intervention.

CODING PARAGRAPHS

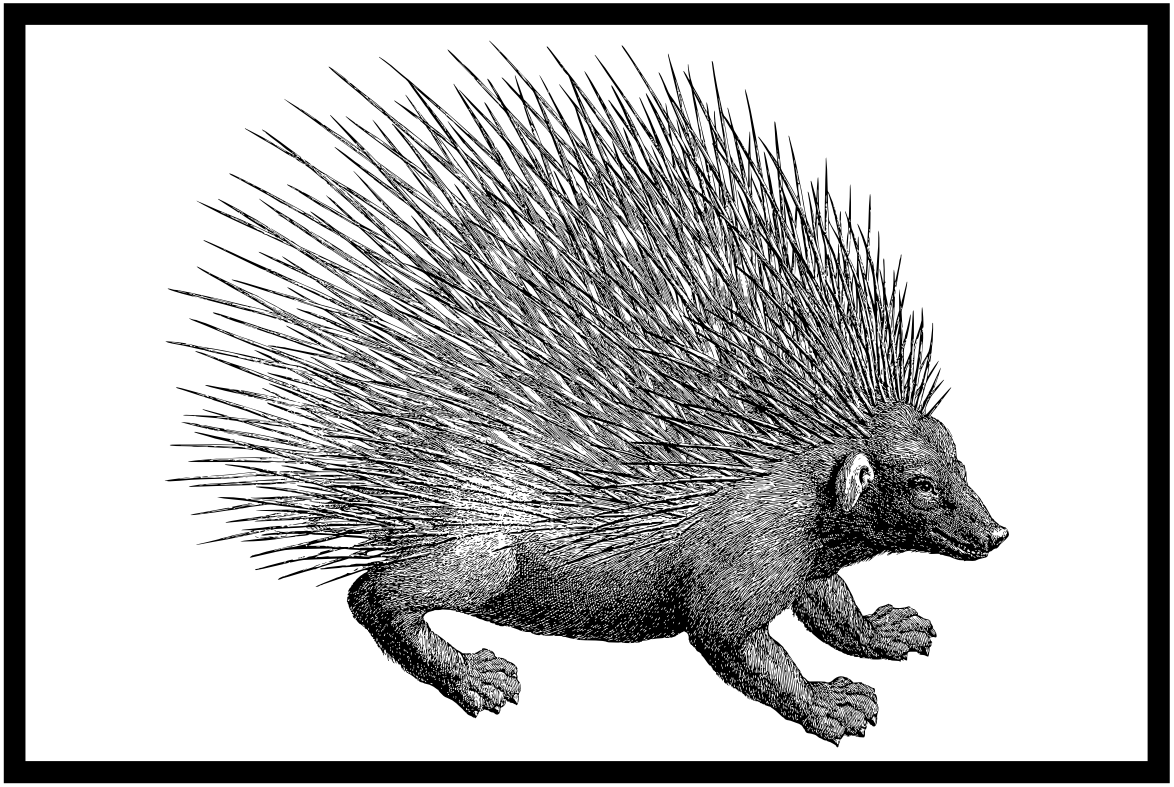
GREEN= Color or underline the topic sentence of a paragraph in green crayon or marker
BLUE=Color or underline each supporting detail in a paragraph in blue crayon or marker
RED= Color or underline the concluding sentence in a paragraph in red crayon or marker
YELLOW=Color or underline transitional words or phrases in a paragraph in yellow crayon or marker



A fox has a clever way to get rid of fleas. First, the fox grabs a stick with its mouth. Then, the fox slowly backs into a river. As the fox slowly backs into the river, fleas jump up the fox's back towards its head. The fox slowly pulls its head low in the water. The fleas jump off the fox's head and onto the stick. The fox lets go of the stick and it floats away down the river. This clever strategy helps the fox keep its fur clean and bug free.

CODING PARAGRAPHS

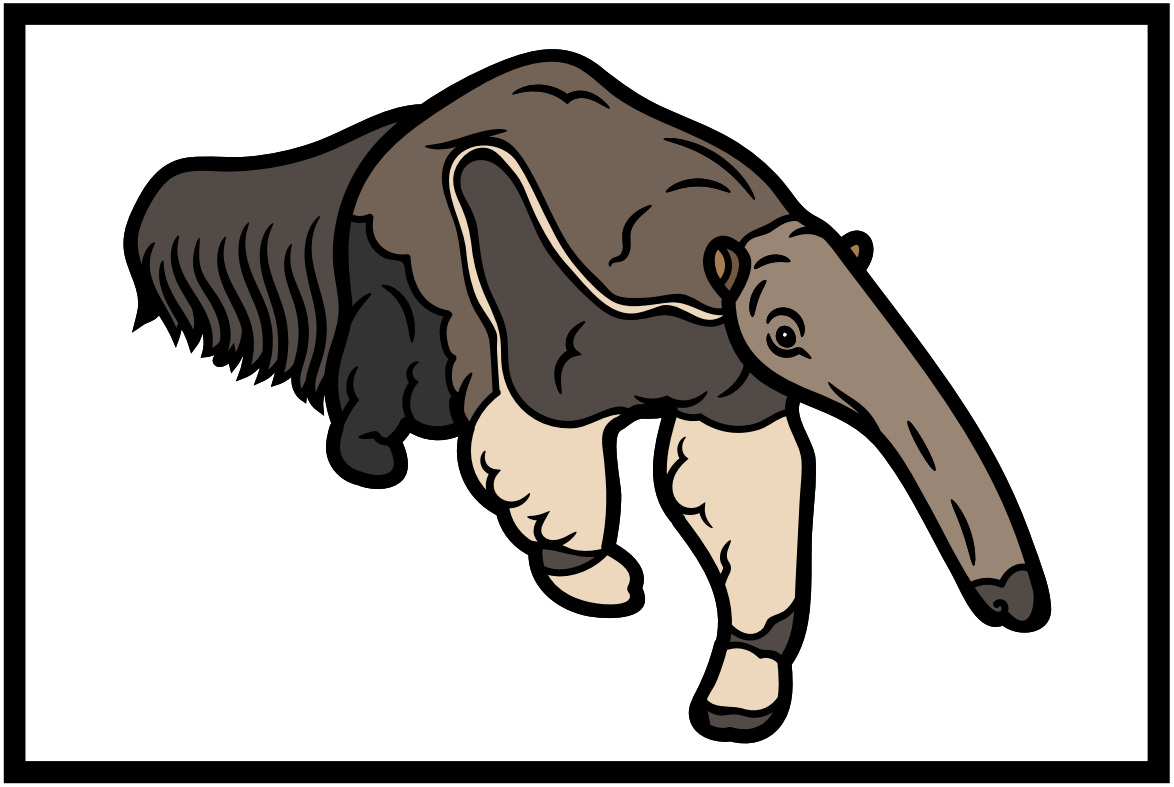
GREEN= Color or underline the topic sentence of a paragraph in green crayon or marker
BLUE=Color or underline each supporting detail in a paragraph in blue crayon or marker
RED= Color or underline the concluding sentence in a paragraph in red crayon or marker
YELLOW=Color or underline transitional words or phrases in a paragraph in yellow crayon or marker



Porcupines give a number of warnings when attacked before using their quills to protect themselves. When a porcupine feels threatened, its first defensive reaction is to straighten its quills until they stand erect. Next, it may make a clattering noise with its teeth. The porcupine is also able to give off a foul odor to repel attackers. If none of these things work, the porcupine will run sideways or backwards into attackers with its sharp quills. Multiple defenses keep porcupines safe!

CODING PARAGRAPHS

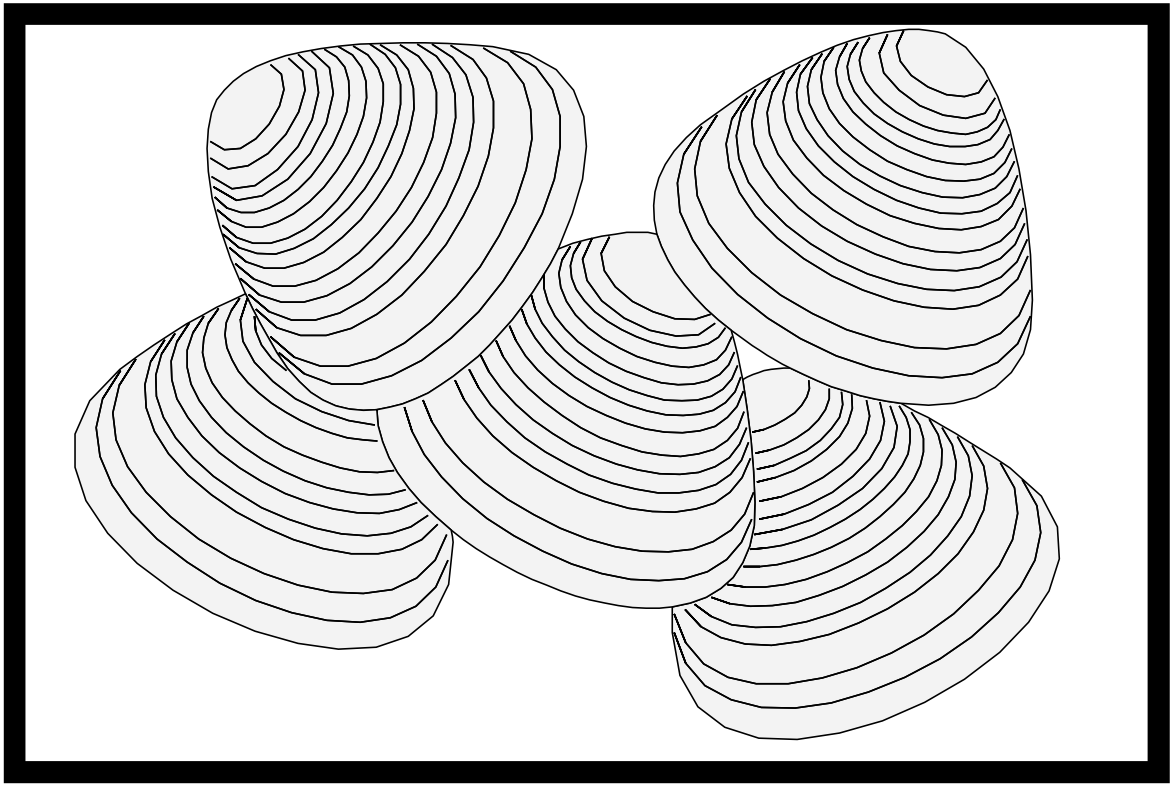
GREEN= Color or underline the topic sentence of a paragraph in green crayon or marker
BLUE=Color or underline each supporting detail in a paragraph in blue crayon or marker
RED= Color or underline the concluding sentence in a paragraph in red crayon or marker
YELLOW=Color or underline transitional words or phrases in a paragraph in yellow crayon or marker



An anteater's body is designed to find and eat ants! First, the anteater has curved foreclaws that help it to rip open ant or termite mounds. Second, the anteater has long, thick fur that protects it from bites or attacks. An anteater has a long snout that allows it to reach into holes. Finally, it has a sticky tongue that it can use to get down into ant or termite holes, making it easy to remove and eat the insects. It almost seems like an anteater was specially created to limit ants!

CODING PARAGRAPHS

GREEN= Color or underline the topic sentence of a paragraph in green crayon or marker
BLUE=Color or underline each supporting detail in a paragraph in blue crayon or marker
RED= Color or underline the concluding sentence in a paragraph in red crayon or marker
YELLOW=Color or underline transitional words or phrases in a paragraph in yellow crayon or marker



Clams play an important role in the ecosystem, both as a source of food and a cleaner of our water. Many animals rely on clams as a source of food. Walruses, sea lions, sea otters, and some seals eat clams. Humans have been harvesting clams from the sand or mud to eat for hundreds, possibly thousands of years. Clams also filter, or clean, our water. Clams remove excess nitrogen from water, and store it in their shell. Without clams, many animals would be in trouble!