

RI.6.2

CENTRAL IDEAS SUPPORTING DETAILS

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-1

**TOYS R US:
The End of an Era**

...childhood anywhere
States to France to Spain to
likely that you remember at
Toys R Us, the massive kid's
with its bright and bold sign.
member running up and down
at all the exciting offerings
to Legos.
Us opened its doors in the 1950s.
90s, it was the biggest toy seller in
States. Because the store focused
it was

debt. This means that the store had
borrowed money and was having trouble
paying it back. They owed 5 billion dollars.
This is because the store was struggling
financially.

One reason Toys R Us struggled was
because of larger companies like Amazon
and Walmart. **In recent years, many
customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us
because they were able to find cheaper
prices and free shipping online.** In fact, the
number of toy sales made online has
doubled in the past five years.

Because Toys R Us owed so much
money, they were not able to spend money
on improvements to their stores. They were
not able to create a better online shipping
system that could compete with Amazon,
their workers better wages, or update
r stores.

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Nonfiction Article of the Week

6.1 "Toys R Us: End of an Era"

Information

Skill: Main I

- In the graphic organizer below, two details are provided. Think about the idea that these two details support and write it in the space provided.
- Now, find one more detail that supports this idea.

(6) Fewer babies are being born.

The Great Recession of 2008 caused families to become more cautious about having children.

(7) People are waiting until later in

Gender roles are changing, and women are choosing to delay starting careers before starting a family.

Re-read this paragraph from the article.

Because Toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money on improvements to their stores. They were not able to create a better online shipping system that could compete with Amazon, pay their workers better wages, or update their stores.

- What is the main idea of this paragraph?
- List three details from the paragraph that support this idea.
- Now, fill in the graphic organizer below with your answers from question 2.

I'm LOVIN' LIT

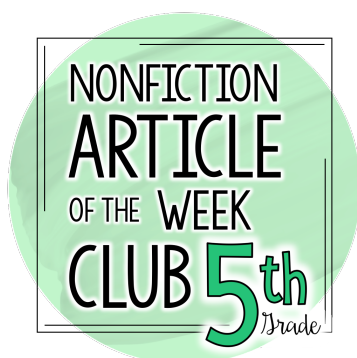
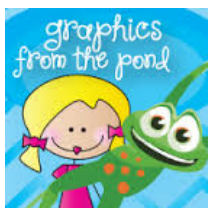
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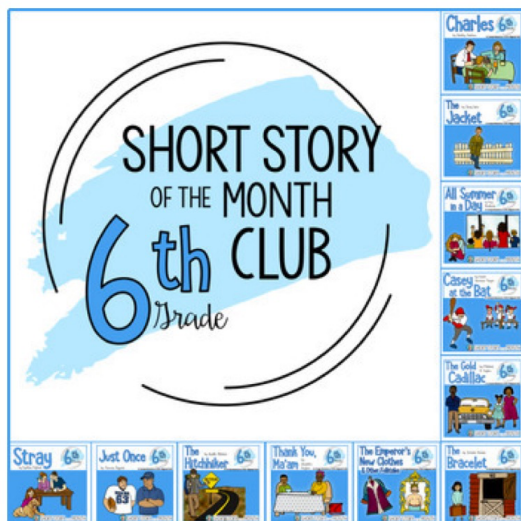
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Have you tried the reading literature companion to this resource, Short Story of the Month Club?



All units are now available, and the first **two-week** unit is **FREE!**



Activities, Difficulty Levels, and Common Core Alignment

List of Activities & Standards Difficulty Level: *Easy **Moderate ***Challenge

Activity 1: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Multiple Choice*	RI.6.1
Activity 2: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Open-Ended Questions*	RI.6.1
Activity 3: Text Evidence Activity w/ Annotation Guide for Article**	RI.6.1
Activity 4: Text Evidence Activity w/ Answer Bank**	RI.6.1
Activity 5: Skill Focus - Main Idea & Details**	RI.6.2
Activity 6: Integrate Sources - CNBC Video Clip Guide**	RI.6.7, RI.6.9
BONUS Activity: For Fun! Compare Vintage & Recent TRU Commercials**	RI.6.7, RI.6.9
Activity 7: Skills Test Regular w/Key**	RI.6.1, RI.6.2
Activity 8: Skills Test *Modified w/Key**	RI.6.1, RI.6.2

Activities, Difficulty Levels, and TEKS Alignment

List of Activities & Standards Difficulty Level: *Easy **Moderate ***Challenge

Activity 1: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Multiple Choice*	ELAR.5(F)
Activity 2: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Open-Ended Questions*	ELAR.5(F)
Activity 3: Text Evidence Activity w/ Annotation Guide for Article**	ELAR.5(F)
Activity 4: Text Evidence Activity w/ Answer Bank**	ELAR.5(F)
Activity 5: Skill Focus - Main Idea & Details**	ELAR.5(G)9(B)
Activity 6: Integrate Sources - CNBC Video Clip Guide**	ELAR.12(D)(F)
BONUS Activity: For Fun! Compare Vintage & Recent TRU Commercials**	ELAR.12(D)(F)
Activity 7: Skills Test Regular w/Key**	ELAR.5(F)(G)9(B)
Activity 8: Skills Test *Modified w/Key**	ELAR.5(F)(G)9(B)

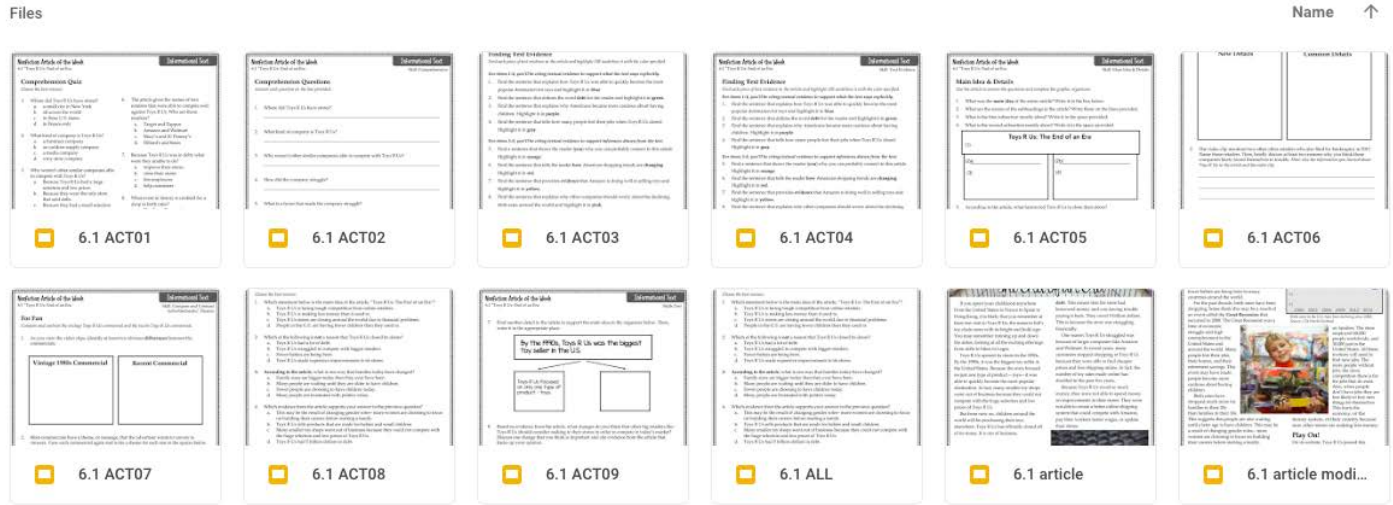
Instructions for Google Classroom Digital Components

All student activities are available in digital format compatible with Google Classroom. They are available in two formats: Google Slides and Google Forms.

Google Slides

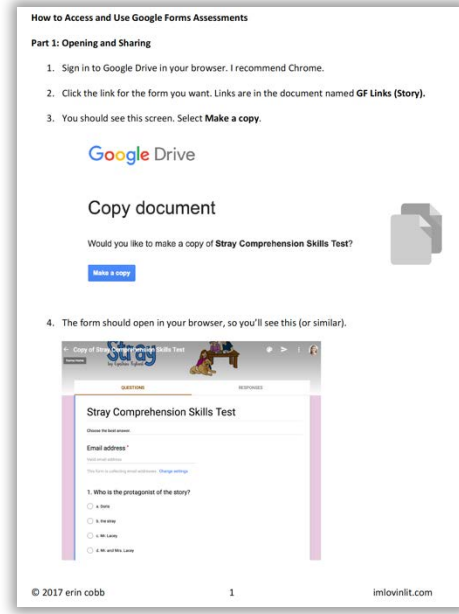
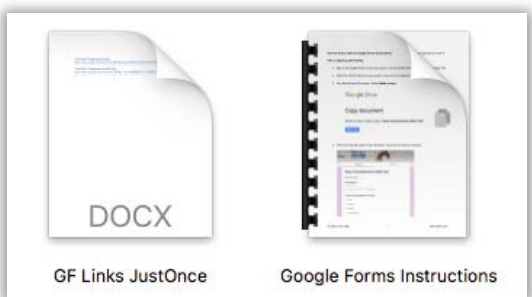
First, I have made all student pages (excluding assessments) in Google Slides format. Students can simply add text boxes to any area they wish to type on. To access the Google Slides for this article, copy and paste the link below into your browser. ***Note that you'll need to make a copy of the folder or slide before you can use it.***

<https://goo.gl/einHoy>



Google Forms

I have made the assessments available in Google Forms. Here, they are self-grading, and I have set them all up with answer keys so they are ready to go for you. You'll need to find these two files in your download folder to use Google Forms. The first file contains the links to the Forms, and the second file is explicit instructions for use. Look inside the Google Forms folder.



Nonfiction Article of the Week

6-1 Toys R Us: End of an Era

Teacher's Guide

A Couple of Options for Teaching Article of the Week Units

Here are my favorite suggestions for organizing these units with your schedule.

*Please note that thumbnails show article 6.1 and activities.

Option A: Quickie Unit

Simply complete all lesson activities in order OR pick and choose the activities you want to complete in order.

Time Needed: 2-3 fifty-minute class periods

Pros: Super flexible; perfect filler around your other units; makes it easy to assign easier components for homework; ideal no prep sub plans if you have to be out for 2-3 days in a row.

Cons: Fitting them all in around everything else you've got to do.

Option B: Daily Model

Use as a class starter or specific routine in your classroom everyday at the same time.

Time Needed: 15-20 minutes/day, 5 days/week

Pros: IDEAL for block scheduling when you need to always change it up; Great way to fit nonfiction articles in with what you're already doing.

Cons: There are 25 total articles for each grade level, so some weeks you'll need to skip the articles (I'd skip when doing projects, novels, during short weeks, and plan to finish up right before testing); The schedule doesn't provide for the FOR FUN activity I include with each article; May be difficult to commit to something rigid like this if you're a type B teacher like myself ;)

Here's how the daily model works:

Monday: Read article & complete basic comprehension activity

Tuesday: Text evidence activity

Wednesday: Skills focus activity (based on one key skill for each article)

Thursday: Integrate information (other sources)

Friday: Assessment

BONUS/OPTIONAL: For Fun activity

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Walkthrough

I have discussed here how I use each activity and included hints and links to help you, too. Feel free to take or leave what you like. Even if you don't plan to do every activity, I still recommend reading through this section to get the most out of these activities. Looking for a schedule to follow? Check the previous page for two suggested scheduling options.

These lessons and activities were designed to meet the needs of sixth graders during the first half the school year. The articles, activities, questions, and assessments will become increasingly rigorous and challenging as we progress through the year.

Activities 1-2

- *There are no higher order thinking questions included here - only basic, literal comprehension.
- These activities are designed to be completed on an **either/or** basis, meaning your students should only complete one of them, **not both**.
- Use Activity 1 for a quick cold-read assessment or after you've read the article together. I use these to hold students accountable for reading carefully. I recommend having students complete activity 1 **without the article** as long as they've just read the article (so not the next day), unless you're providing a testing accommodation.
- Use Activity 2 for an open-ended option for the same exact questions. Students may have a harder time answering this one without the article, so choose this one if you want students to use the article but still prove that they've understood the content.

Activity 1

Note: Answer key included but not shown.

Activity 2

Activities 3-4

- Again, these activities are **either/or**, so choose one or the other but not both.
- Activity 3 requires students to annotate text evidence in the article and includes an article annotation key.
- Activity 4 requires students to choose text evidence from a **bank** at the bottom. This format prepares students to choose from and **distinguish** between pieces of text evidence on a state assessment. I recommend mixing it up and going back and forth between these among units until your students are proficient at both methods.

Activity 3

Findings Text Evidence

1. Find the sentence that explains how Toys R Us was able to quickly become the most popular destination for toys and highlight it in blue.
2. Find the sentence that defines the word **debts** for the reader and highlight it in green.
3. Find the sentence that explains why Americans became more cautious about buying children. Highlight it in purple.
4. Find the sentence that tells how many people lost their jobs when Toys R Us closed. Highlight it in grey.
5. Find a sentence that shows the reader (you) why you can probably connect to this. Highlight it in orange.
6. Find the sentence that tells the reader how American shopping trends are changing. Highlight it in red.
7. Find the sentence that provides evidence that Amazon is doing well in selling toys. Highlight it in yellow.
8. Find the sentence that explains why other companies should worry about the death both rates around the world and highlight it in pink.

Play Out

U.S. Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)

1960 2010 2020

20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Activity 4

Findings Text Evidence

1. Find the sentence that explains how Toys R Us was able to quickly become the most popular destination for toys and highlight it in blue.
2. Find the sentence that defines the word **debts** for the reader and highlight it in green.
3. Find the sentence that explains why Americans became more cautious about buying children. Highlight it in purple.
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5. Find a sentence that shows the reader (you) why you can probably connect to this. Highlight it in orange.
6. Find the sentence that tells the reader how American shopping trends are changing. Highlight it in red.
7. Find the sentence that provides evidence that Amazon is doing well in selling toys and highlight it in yellow.
8. Find the sentence that explains why other companies should worry about the declining birth rates around the world and highlight it in pink.

Text Evidence Bank:

- In recent years, many companies stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online.
- In fact, the number of toy sales made has declined in the past few years.
- If you spent your childhood anywhere from the United States to France to Spain to Hong Kong, it is likely that you remember at least one visit to Toys R Us, the massive toy store chain store with its bright and bold signs.
- The store employed 60,000 people worldwide, and 30,000 just in the United States.
- Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.
- Because the store focused on just one product, it had to stay able to quickly become the most popular destination.
- Amazon is doing well in selling toys.
- Other companies should worry about the declining birth rates around the world.
- Amazon is doing well in selling toys.
- Other companies should worry about the declining birth rates around the world.

Activity 5

- This activity is focused around the main skill for this article: RI.6.2 – Main idea and details, specifically. I'll focus on summarizing in a later article.
- Complete answer keys included, as always.

Activity 5

Main Idea & Details

What is the main idea or purpose and complete the graphic organizer.

1. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

2. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

3. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

4. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

5. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

6. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

7. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

8. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

9. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

10. What is the main idea or purpose of the article?

Activity 6

- This activity requires students to integrate information from another source or media.
- Here, students view a 5-minute CNBC clip about the same topic. Students will make a list of some **details** included in the video but not the article and identify other **details** that were found in both the video clip and article. Then, they'll have to do some critical thinking about what the Toys R Us closure may mean to other big box retail stores.
- View the video clip: <https://youtu.be/7Actdg5JcM8>
- Backup: <https://goo.gl/1dCo2M>

Activity 6

Integrate Information

Use the CNBC video clip: "The Rise and Fall of Toys R Us" to help you.

1. As you view the video clip, identify three details that are not in the article and write them in the left column. As you read the article, identify three details that are in both the video clip and the article and write them in the right column.

2. The video clip mentions two other retail stores that also filed for bankruptcy in 2017. Name these stores. Then, briefly describe at least two ways these companies likely found themselves in trouble. How do the retailers you named about Toys R Us in the article compare to these?

Activity 7

- FOR FUN! This is a bonus activity that can be used anytime during this unit. Examples - for a fun way to introduce the topic, wrap up the unit, or just give your students a much-needed brain break in the middle of activities.
- Students will view and compare two Toys R Us commercials - one vintage commercial and one recent commercial.
- View vintage: <https://youtu.be/VJJ-ZLdrTwY>
Backup: <https://goo.gl/8ssEsj>
- View recent: <https://youtu.be/2EOIv5BoOEU>
Backup: <https://goo.gl/X5T9hY>

Activity 7

Nonfiction Article of the Week
6.1 Toys R Us: End of an Era

Skills Test

1. As you view the video clips, identify at least two differences between the two commercials.

Vintage 1990s Commercial	Recent Commercial

2. Match each sentence from the passage with the appropriate reason to explain the difference between the two commercials. You will use each reason only once.

Vintage 1990s Commercial	Recent Commercial

Activities 8-9

- What's the best way to make sure your students are prepared for the state assessment? Assess them regularly with that format. I always let my students practice for the first few before I start counting them for a grade, and I always use the basic comprehension assessment (activity 1 or 2) as an easy grade so it levels the playing field.
- Activity 8 is the regular assessment.
- Activity 9 is the **modified** assessment. The **modified** assessment offer students only two answer choices instead of four. Note that only the multiple choice portion of the modified test is different from the original. Simply put, only page one is different. Complete keys included as always (not shown).
- In a hurry? I always include only multiple choice questions on the first page in case you're in a hurry and need to skip the open-ended portion of the test. I don't recommend skipping regularly but every now and then, I need a grading break.

Nonfiction Article of the Week
6.1 Toys R Us: End of an Era

Skills Test

1. Which statement below is the main idea of the article, "Toys R Us: The End of an Era"?

- Toys R Us is facing tough competition from online retailers.
- Toys R Us is making less money than it used to.
- Toys R Us stores are closing around the world due to financial problems.
- People in the U.S. are having fewer children than they used to.

2. Which of the following is **not** a reason that Toys R Us closed its doors?

- Toys R Us had a lot of debt.
- Toys R Us struggled to compete with bigger retailers.
- Fewer babies are being born.
- Toys R Us made expensive investments in its stores.

3. According to the article, what is one way that families today have changed?

- Family sizes are bigger today than they ever have been.
- Many people are waiting until they are older to have children.
- Fewer people are choosing to have children today.
- Many people are frustrated with online retail.

4. Which evidence from the article supports your answer to the previous question?

- This may be the result of changing gender roles - more women are choosing to focus on building their careers before starting a family.
- Toys R Us sells products that are made for babies and small children.
- Many smaller toy shops went out of business because they could not compete with the huge selection and low prices of Toys R Us.
- Toys R Us had \$ billion dollars in debt.

5. According to the article, when did families become more cautious about having children?

- After the Great Recession of 2008.
- After some Toys R Us employees lost their jobs.
- After Americans became the biggest online retailer.

6. Which sentence from the article provides a **detail** to support your answer?

- Toys R Us has officially closed all of its stores.
- In the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States.
- This is because the stores were struggling financially.
- Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.

7. Find another detail in the article to support the main idea in the organizer below. Then, write it in the appropriate place.

By the 1990s, Toys R Us was the biggest toy seller in the U.S.

Toys R Us focused on only one type of product - toys.

8. Based on evidence from the article, what changes do you think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider making to their stores in order to compete in today's market? Discuss one change that you think is important and cite evidence from the article that backs up your opinion.

Nonfiction Article of the Week
6.1 Toys R Us: End of an Era

Skills Test

1. Which statement below is the main idea of the article, "Toys R Us: The End of an Era"?

- Toys R Us is facing tough competition from online retailers.
- Toys R Us stores are closing around the world due to financial problems.

2. Which of the following is **not** a reason that Toys R Us closed its doors?

- Fewer babies are being born.
- Toys R Us made expensive investments in its stores.

3. According to the article, what is one way that families today have changed?

- Family sizes are bigger today than they ever have been.
- Many people are waiting until they are older to have children.

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- After the Great Recession of 2008.
- After some Toys R Us employees lost their jobs.

6. Which sentence from the article provides a **detail** to support your answer to the previous question?

- In the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States.
- Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.

7. Find another detail in the article to support the main idea in the organizer below. Then, write it in the appropriate place.

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8. Based on evidence from the article, what changes do you think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider making to their stores in order to compete in today's market? Discuss one change that you think is important and cite evidence from the article that backs up your opinion.

Toys R Us:

The End of an Era

If you spent your childhood anywhere from the United States to France to Spain to Hong Kong, it is likely that you remember at least one visit to Toys R Us, the massive kid's toy chain store with its bright and bold sign. You may remember running up and down the aisles, looking at all the exciting offerings from dolls to bikes to Legos.

Toys R Us opened its doors in the 1950s. By the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States. Because the store focused on just one type of product -- toys-- it was able to quickly become the most popular destination. In fact, many smaller toy shops went out of business because they could not compete with the huge selection and low prices of Toys R Us.

But from now on, children around the world will be purchasing their toys elsewhere. Toys R Us has officially closed all of its U.S. stores. It is out of business.

Money, Money, Money

The closing of Toys R Us is newsworthy for a few different reasons. This shutdown will have a big economic **impact**. It also shows us an example of how American shopping trends are changing.

Toys R Us closed because it had a lot of

debt. This means that the store had borrowed money and was having trouble paying it back. They owed 5 billion dollars. This is because the store was struggling financially.

One reason Toys R Us struggled was because of larger companies like Amazon and Walmart. In recent years, many customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online. In fact, the number of toy sales made online has doubled in the past five years.

Because Toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money on improvements to their stores. They were not able to create a better online shipping system that could compete with Amazon, pay their workers better wages, or update their stores.



Oh, Baby!

When Toys R Us announced their decision to close their U.S. stores, they talked about competition with Amazon and Walmart. However, they also talked about the declining birth rate in the United States. They explained that their products are made for babies and small children, and in recent years fewer babies are being born in many countries around the world.

For the past decade, birth rates have been dropping. Some think this may be a result of an event called the **Great Recession** that occurred in 2008. The Great Recession was a time of economic struggle and high unemployment in the United States and around the world. Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings. This event may have made people become more cautious about having children.

Birth rates have dropped much more for families in their 20s than families in their 30s.

This suggests that people are also waiting until a later age to have children. This may be a result of changing gender roles-- more women are choosing to focus on building their careers before starting a family.

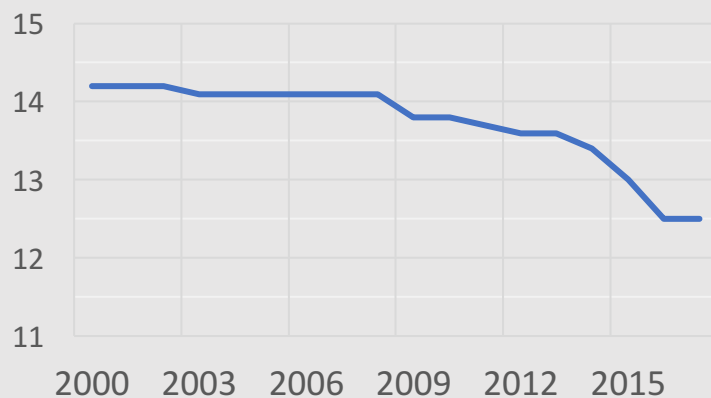
If birth rates continue to drop, there will be economic impacts far beyond the closure of one big toy store. Many companies will have to change their approach to meet the needs of an older population.

Regardless of the reasons for closing, the closure of Toys R Us will have a big impact



U.S. Birth Rates

(births/1,000 population)



Birth rates in the U.S. have been declining since 2008.

Source: CIA World Factbook

on families. The store employed 60,000 people worldwide, and 30,000 just in the United States. All these workers will need to find new jobs. The more people without jobs, the more competition there is for the jobs that do exist. Also, when people don't have jobs they are less likely to buy new things for themselves. This hurts the economy, or the

money system, of their country because now other stores are making less money.

Play On!

On its website, Toys R Us posted this message to its customers:

Thanks to each of you who shared your amazing journey to (and through) parenthood with us, and to every grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, and sister who's built a couch-cushion rocket ship, made up a hero adventure, or invented something goeey. Promise us just this one thing: Don't ever grow up. Play on!!

Toys R Us:

The End of an Era

If you grew up anywhere from the United States to France to Hong Kong, you probably remember at least one visit to Toys R Us, the huge toy store chain. You may remember running up and down the aisles, looking at all of the fun toys like dolls and bikes and Legos.

Toys R Us first opened in the 1950s. By the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States. Because the store only sold toys, it was able to quickly become the most popular toy store. In fact, many smaller toy shops had to close down because they could not keep up with the huge number of toys and low prices of Toys R Us.

But from now on, children around the world will be buying their toys from another store. Toys R Us has officially closed all of its U.S. stores. It is out of business.

Money, Money, Money

The closing of Toys R Us is a big news story for a few different reasons. It will have a big economic **impact**. It also shows us that American shopping trends are changing.

Toys R Us closed because it had a lot of **debt**. This means that the store had borrowed money and was having trouble paying it back. They owed 5 billion dollars. This is because the store was not making enough money.

One reason Toys R Us struggled was because of bigger companies like Amazon and Walmart. In the last few years, many customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us. Those customers stopped because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online. In fact, the number of toy sales made online has doubled in the past five years.

Because Toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money to make their stores better. They were not able to create a better online shipping system like Amazon had. And they could not afford to pay their workers more money or update their stores.



Oh, Baby!

Toys R Us talked about big stores like Amazon and Walmart. They also talked about lower birth rates in the United States. They said that their products are made for babies and small children. And in recent years, fewer babies are being born.

For the past ten years, birth rates have been dropping. Some think this may be because of an event called the “**Great Recession**” that occurred in 2008. The Great Recession was a time of economic struggle and high unemployment in the United States and around the world. Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings. This may have made people decide to have fewer children.

Birth rates have dropped much more for families in their 20’s than families in their 30’s. This means that people are waiting until they are older to have children. This may be a result of changing gender roles-- more women are choosing to focus on their careers before starting a family.

If birth rates keep dropping, there will be more economic impacts. Many companies will have to change to meet the needs of older people.

The closure of Toys R Us will have a big impact on families. Over 60,000 people worked for Toys R Us worldwide. Just in the United States, 30,000 people worked for Toys R Us.



All these workers will need to find new jobs. The more people without jobs, the harder it is to get a job. Also, when people don’t have jobs, they are less likely to buy new things.

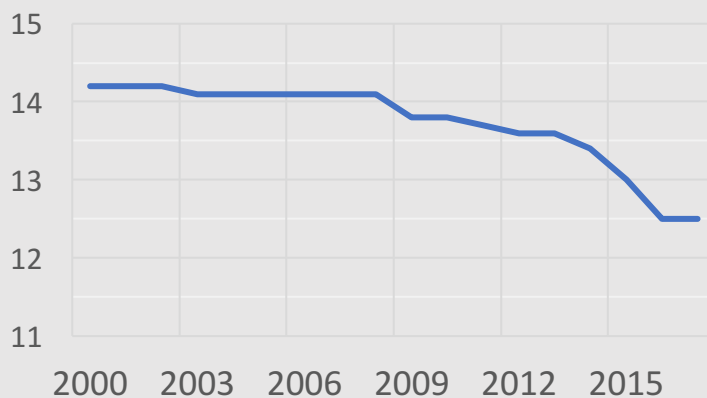
Play On!

On its website, Toys R Us posted this message to its customers:

Thanks to each of you who shared your amazing journey to (and through) parenthood with us, and to every grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, and sister who’s built a couch-cushion rocket ship, made up a hero adventure, or invented something gooey. Promise us just this one thing: Don’t ever grow up. Play on!!

U.S. Birth Rates

(births/1,000 population)



Birth rates in the U.S. have been declining since 2008.
Source: CIA World Factbook

Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer.

1. Where did Toys R Us have stores?
 - a. a small city in New York
 - b. all across the world
 - c. in three U.S. states
 - d. in France only

2. What kind of company is Toys R Us?
 - a. a furniture company
 - b. an outdoor supply company
 - c. a media company
 - d. a toy store company

3. Why weren't other similar companies able to compete with Toys R Us?
 - a. Because Toys R Us had a large selection and low prices.
 - b. Because they were the only store that sold dolls.
 - c. Because they had a small selection but low prices.
 - d. Because Toys R Us could charge customers higher prices.

4. How did the company struggle?
 - a. low stock
 - b. poor inventory habits
 - c. financial problems
 - d. logistical problems

5. Which factor made the company struggle?
 - a. slow shipping
 - b. cheap online prices from other retailers
 - c. terrible customer service
 - d. not enough employees

6. The article gives the names of two retailers that were able to compete well against Toys R Us. Who are those retailers?
 - a. Target and Zappos
 - b. Amazon and Walmart
 - c. Macy's and JC Penney's
 - d. Dillard's and Sears

7. Because Toys R Us was in debt, what were they unable to do?
 - a. improve their stores
 - b. close their stores
 - c. fire employees
 - d. help customers

8. What event in history is credited for a drop in birth rates?
 - a. The Great Depression
 - b. The Baby Boomers
 - c. The Iraq War
 - d. The Great Recession



Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer.

1. Where did Toys R Us have stores?
 - a. a small city in New York
 - b. all across the world**
 - c. in three U.S. states
 - d. in France only

2. What kind of company is Toys R Us?
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Comprehension Questions

Answer each question on the line provided.

1. Where did Toys R Us have stores?

2. What kind of company is Toys R Us?

3. Why weren't other similar companies able to compete with Toys R Us?

4. How did the company struggle?

5. What is a factor that made the company struggle?

6. The article gives the names of two retailers that were able to compete well against Toys R Us. Who are those retailers?

7. Because Toys R Us was in debt, what were they unable to do?

8. What event in history is credited for a drop in birth rates?

Comprehension Quiz

sample answers; some answers may vary

Answer each question on the line provided.

1. Where did Toys R Us have stores?

all across the world

2. What kind of company is Toys R Us?

a toy store company

3. Why weren't other similar companies able to compete with Toys R Us?

because they had the biggest selection at the lowest prices

4. How did the company struggle?

financial problems

5. What is a factor that made the company struggle?

cheap online prices from other retailers

6. The article gives the names of two retailers that were able to compete well against Toys R Us. Who are those retailers?

Amazon and Walmart

7. Because Toys R Us was in debt, what were they unable to do?

improve their stores

8. What event in history is credited for a drop in birth rates?

The Great Recession

Finding Text Evidence

Find each piece of text evidence in the article and highlight OR underline it with the color specified.

For items 1-4, you'll be citing textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly.

1. Find the sentence that explains how Toys R Us was able to quickly become the most popular destination for toys and highlight it in **blue**.
2. Find the sentence that defines the word **debt** for the reader and highlight it in **green**.
3. Find the sentence that explains why Americans became more cautious about having children. Highlight it in **purple**.
4. Find the sentence that tells how many people lost their jobs when Toys R Us closed. Highlight it in **gray**.

For items 5-8, you'll be citing textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text.

5. Find a sentence that shows the reader (**you**) why you can probably connect to this article. Highlight it in **orange**.
6. Find the sentence that tells the reader **how** American shopping trends are **changing**. Highlight it in **red**.
7. Find the sentence that provides **evidence** that Amazon is doing well in selling toys and highlight it in **yellow**.
8. Find the sentence that explains why other companies should worry about the declining birth rates around the world and highlight it in **pink**.



If you spent your childhood anywhere from the United States to France to Spain to Hong Kong, it is likely that you remember at least one visit to Toys R Us, the massive kid's toy chain store with its bright and bold sign. You may remember running up and down the aisles, looking at all the exciting offerings from dolls to bikes to Legos.

Toys R Us opened its doors in the 1950s. By the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States. **Because the store focused on just one type of product -- toys-- it was able to quickly become the most popular destination.** In fact, many smaller toy shops went out of business because they could not compete with the huge selection and low prices of Toys R Us.

But from now on, children around the world will be purchasing their toys elsewhere. Toys R Us has officially closed all of its stores. It is out of business.

Money, Money, Money

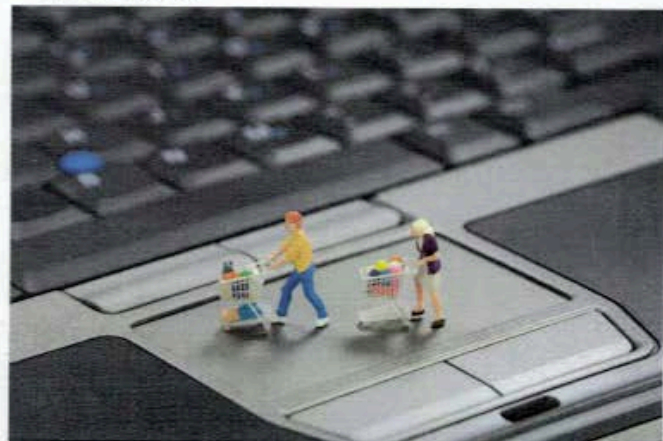
The closing of Toys R Us is newsworthy for a few different reasons. This shutdown will have a big economic **impact**. It also shows us an example of how American shopping trends are changing.

Toys R Us closed because it had a lot of

debt. **This means that the store had borrowed money and was having trouble paying it back.** They owed 5 billion dollars. This is because the store was struggling financially.

One reason Toys R Us struggled was because of larger companies like Amazon and Walmart. **In recent years, many customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online.** In fact, the number of toy sales made online has doubled in the past five years.

Because Toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money on improvements to their stores. They were not able to create a better online shipping system that could compete with Amazon, pay their workers better wages, or update their stores.



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Oh, Baby!

When Toys R Us announced their decision to close their stores, they talked about competition with Amazon and Walmart. However, they also talked about the declining birth rate in the United States. They explained that their products are made for babies and small children, and in recent years fewer babies are being born in many countries around the world.

For the past decade, birth rates have been dropping. Some think this may be a result of an event called the **Great Recession** that occurred in 2008. The Great Recession was a time of

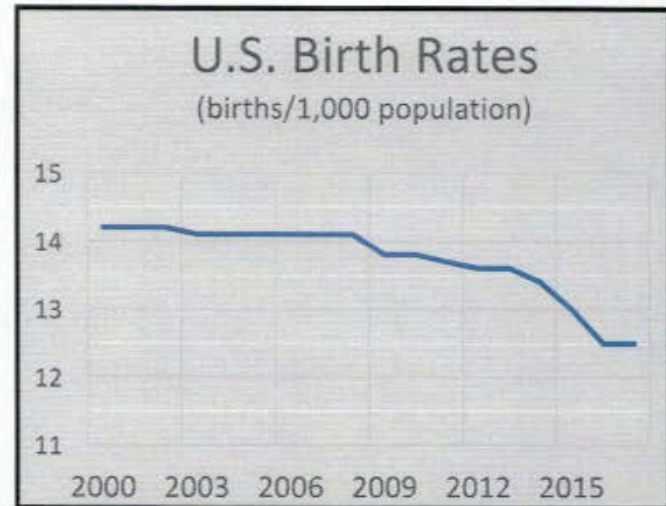
economic struggle and high unemployment in the United States and around the world. Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings. This event may have made people become more cautious about having children.

Birth rates have dropped much more for families in their 20s than families in their 30s.

This suggests that people are also waiting until a later age to have children. This may be a result of changing gender roles-- more women are choosing to focus on building their careers before starting a family.

If birth rates continue to drop, there will be economic impacts far beyond the closure of one big toy store. Many companies will have to change their approach to meet the needs of an older population.

Regardless of the reasons for closing, the closure of Toys R Us will have a big impact



Birth rates in the U.S. have been declining since 2008.
Source: CIA World Factbook



on families. The store employed 60,000 people worldwide, and 30,000 just in the United States. All these workers will need to find new jobs. The more people without jobs, the more competition there is for the jobs that do exist. Also, when people don't have jobs they are less likely to buy new things for themselves. This hurts the economy, or the

money system, of their country because now other stores are making less money.

Play On!

On its website, Toys R Us posted this message to its customers:

Thanks to each of you who shared your amazing journey to (and through) parenthood with us, and to every grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, and sister who's built a couch-cushion rocket ship, made up a hero adventure, or invented something gooey. Promise us just this one thing: Don't ever grow up. Play on!!

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4. Find the sentence that tells how many people lost their jobs when Toys R Us closed. Highlight it in **gray**.

For items 5-8, you'll be citing textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text.

5. Find a sentence that shows the reader (**you**) why you can probably connect to this article. Highlight it in **orange**.
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In recent years, many customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online.	In fact, the number of toy sales made online has doubled in the past five years.
If you spent your childhood anywhere from the United States to France to Spain to Hong Kong, it is likely that you remember at least one visit to Toys R Us, the massive kid's toy chain store with its bright and bold sign.	This means that the store had borrowed money and was having trouble paying it back.
The store employed 60,000 people worldwide, and 30,000 just in the United States.	Many companies will have to change their approach to meet the needs of an older population.
Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.	Because the store focused on just one type of product – toys – it was able to quickly become the most popular destination.

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The store employed 60,000 people worldwide, and 30,000 just in the United States. 4	Many companies will have to change their approach to meet the needs of an older population. 8
Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings. 3	Because the store focused on just one type of product – toys – it was able to quickly become the most popular destination. 1

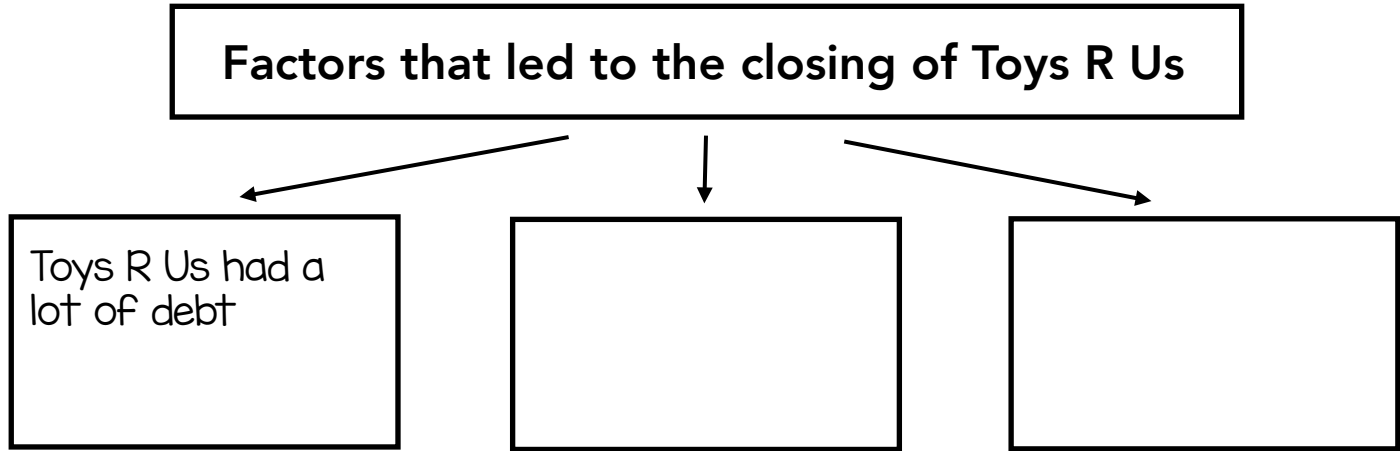
Main Idea & Details

Use the article to answer the questions and complete the graphic organizers.

1. What was the **main idea** of the entire article? Write it in the box below.
2. What are the names of the subheadings in the article? Write them on the lines provided.
3. What is the first subsection mostly about? Write it in the space provided.
4. What is the second subsection mostly about? Write it in the space provided.

Toys R Us: The End of an Era	
(1)	
(2a) _____	(2b) _____
(3)	(4)

5. According to the article, what factors led Toys R Us to close their doors?

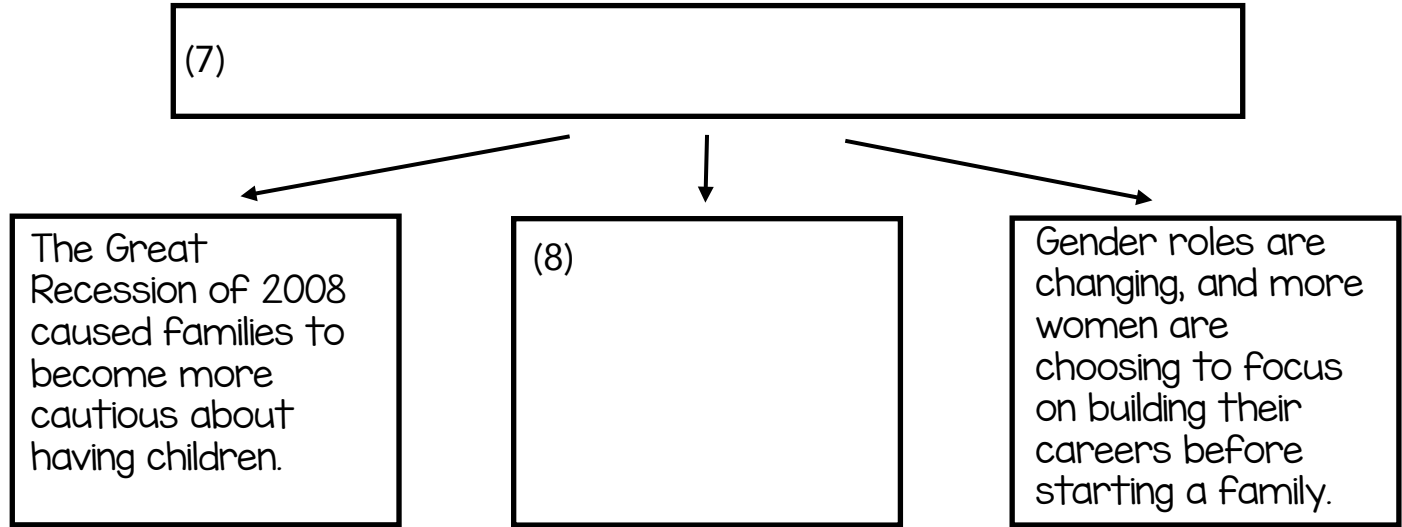


6. Look at the graph on the second page of the article. Which statement from the article does the graph support? Circle your answer.

If birth rates continue to drop, there will be economic impacts far beyond the closure of one store.

For the past decade, birth rates have been dropping.

- 7. In the graphic organizer below, two details are provided. Think about the idea that these two details support and write it in the space provided.
- 8. Now, find one more detail that supports this idea.



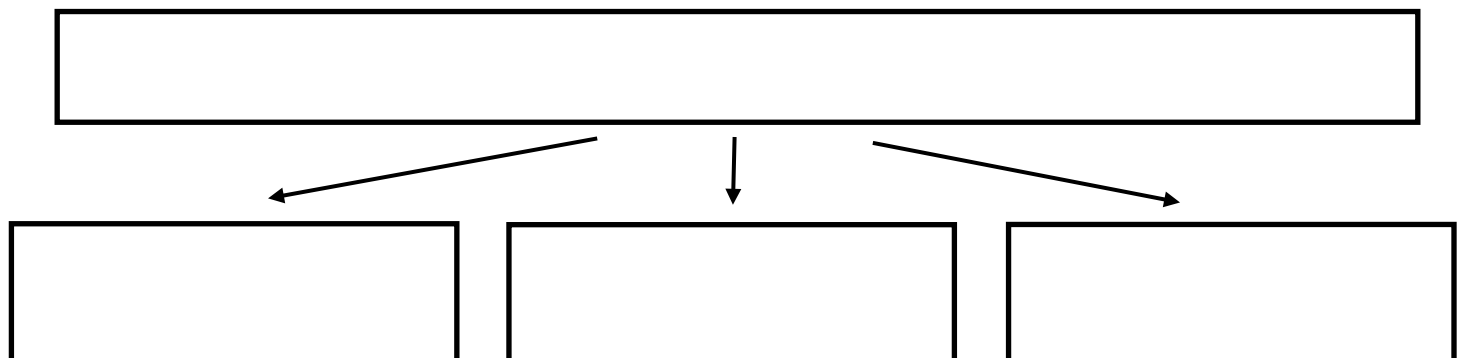
Re-read this paragraph from the article.

Because toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money on improvements to their stores. They were not able to create a better online shipping system that could compete with Amazon, pay their workers better wages, or update their stores.

- 9. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- 10. List three details from the paragraph that support this idea.

- 11. Now, fill in the graphic organizer below with your answers from questions 8 and 9 above.



Main Idea & Details

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4. What is the second subsection mostly about? Write it in the space provided.

Toys R Us: The End of an Era

(1) Toys R Us stores are closing around the world.

<p>(2a) Money, Money, Money _____</p> <p>(3) Toys R Us closed down because they weren't making enough money.</p>	<p>(2b) Oh, Baby! _____</p> <p>(4) The drop in birth rates is one major factor in Toys R Us having to close.</p>
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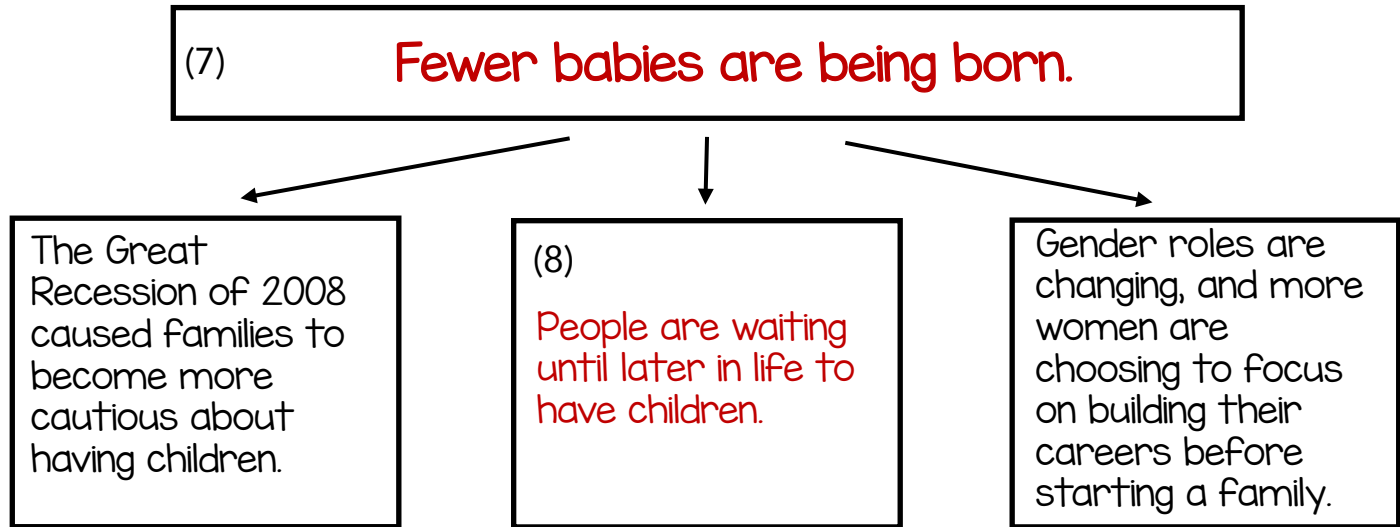


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- Now, find one more detail that supports this idea.



Re-read this paragraph from the article.

Because toys R Us owed so much money, they were not able to spend money on improvements to their stores. They were not able to create a better online shipping system that could compete with Amazon, pay their workers better wages, or update their stores.

- What is the main idea of this paragraph?

Toys R Us' debt prevented them from making improvements to their stores.

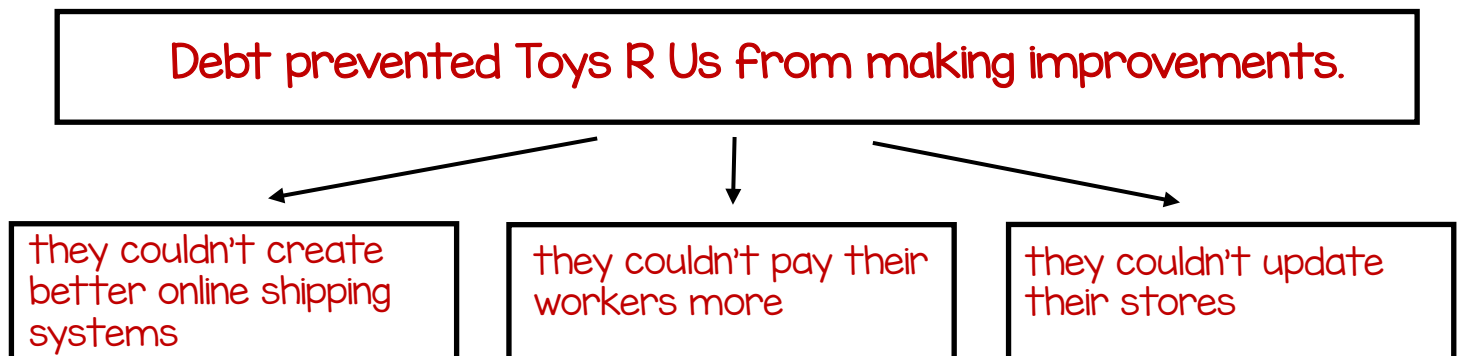
- List three details from the paragraph that support this idea.

Toys R Us couldn't create better online shipping systems to compete.

Toys R Us couldn't pay their workers better wages.

Toys R Us couldn't update their stores.

- Now, fill in the graphic organizer below with your answers from questions 9 and 10 above.



Integrate Information

View the CNBC video clip, "The Rise and Fall of Toys R Us. Then, answer these questions. Review the clip as needed.

1. As you view the video clip, identify three details that are included in the video clip that are not in the article and write them in the left column. Then, identify three details that are in both the video clip and the article and write them in the right column.

New Details

Common Details

2. The video clip mentions two other other retailers who also filed for bankruptcy in 2017. Name those retailers. Then, briefly discuss at least two reasons why you think those companies likely found themselves in trouble. *Hint: Use the information you learned about Toys R Us in the article and the video clip.*

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1. As you view the video clip, identify three details that are included in the video clip that are not in the article and write them in the left column. Then, identify three details that are in both the video clip and the article and write them in the right column.

New Details

TRU started as a baby furniture store

TRU had a disastrous partnership with Amazon

brings up other retailers similar to TRU who filed for bankruptcy: Payless and Radio Shack

Common Details

Toys R US became the go-to toy emporium, putting other toy retailers out of business

debt was a major problem for TRU

TRU faced tough competition with other online retailers

2. The video clip mentions two other other retailers who also filed for bankruptcy in 2017. Name those retailers. Then, briefly discuss at least two reasons why you think those companies likely found themselves in trouble. *Hint: Use the information you learned about Toys R Us in the article and the video clip.*

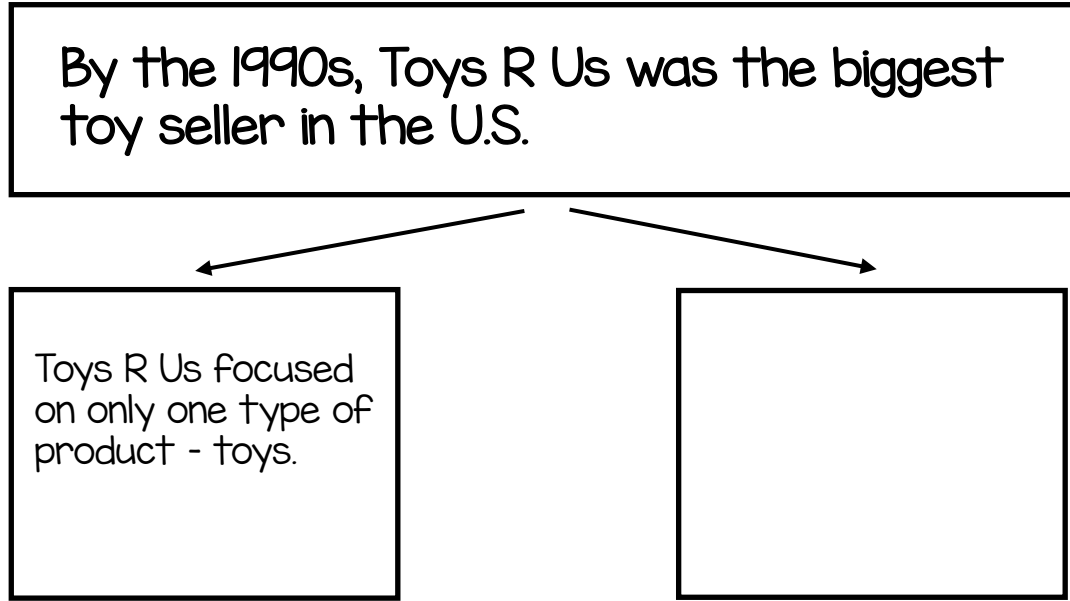
Payless and Radio Shack filed for bankruptcy in 2017. Like Toys R Us, they probably struggled to keep up with online retailers like Amazon and Zappos who also sell shoes. The Great Recession may also be a factor as well, because as more Americans struggle financially they are less likely to spend extra money on things like electronics and shoes they really don't need.

Skills Test

Choose the best answer.

- Which statement below is the main idea of the article, "Toys R Us: The End of an Era"?
 - Toys R Us is facing tough competition from online retailers.
 - Toys R Us is making less money than it used to.
 - Toys R Us stores in the U.S. are closing due to financial problems.
 - People in the U.S. are having fewer children than they used to.
- Which of the following is **not** a reason that Toys R Us closed its doors?
 - Toys R Us had a lot of debt.
 - Toys R Us struggled to compete with bigger retailers.
 - Fewer babies are being born.
 - Toys R Us made expensive improvements to its stores.
- According to the article**, what is one way that families today have changed?
 - Family sizes are bigger today than they ever have been.
 - Many people are waiting until they are older to have children.
 - Fewer people are choosing to have children today.
 - Many people are frustrated with politics today.
- Which evidence from the article supports your answer to the previous question?
 - This may be the result of changing gender roles– more women are choosing to focus on building their careers before starting a family.
 - Toys R Us sells products that are made for babies and small children.
 - Many smaller toy shops went out of business because they could not compete with the huge selection and low prices of Toys R Us.
 - Toys R Us had 5 billion dollars in debt.
- According to the article, when did families become more cautious about having children?
 - After Toys R Us announced it was closing its doors.
 - After the Great Recession of 2008.
 - After some Toys R Us employees lost their jobs.
 - After Amazon became the biggest online retailer.
- Which sentence from the article provides a **detail** to support your answer to the previous question?
 - Toys R Us has officially closed all of its stores.
 - By the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States.
 - This is because the store was struggling financially.
 - Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.

7. Find another detail in the article to support the main idea in the organizer below. Then, write it in the appropriate place.



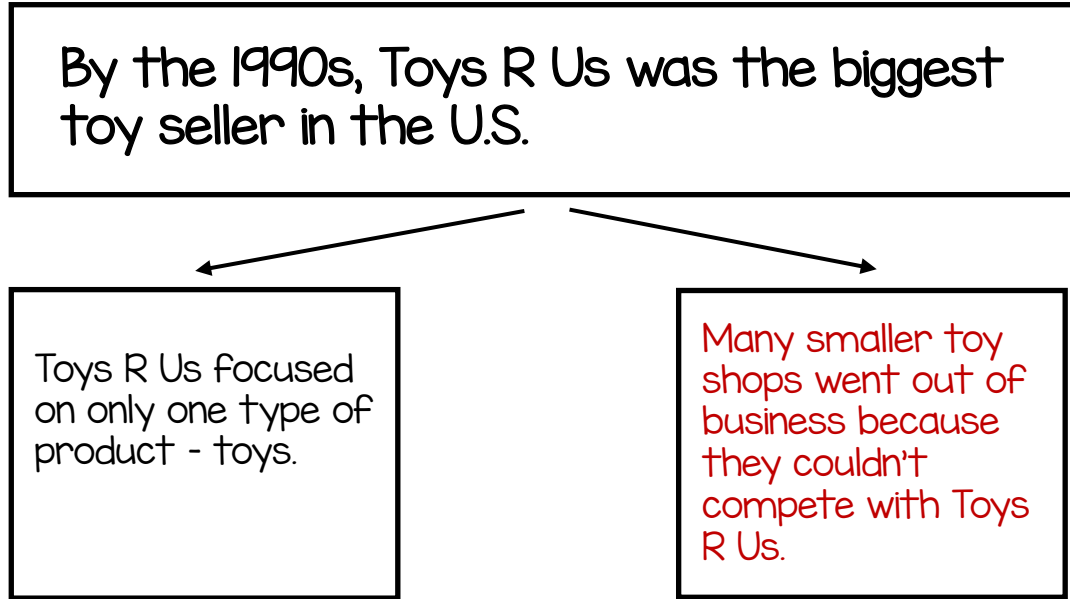
8. Based on evidence from the article, what changes do you think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider making to their stores in order to compete in today's market? Discuss one change that you think is important and cite evidence from the article that backs up your opinion.

Skills Test

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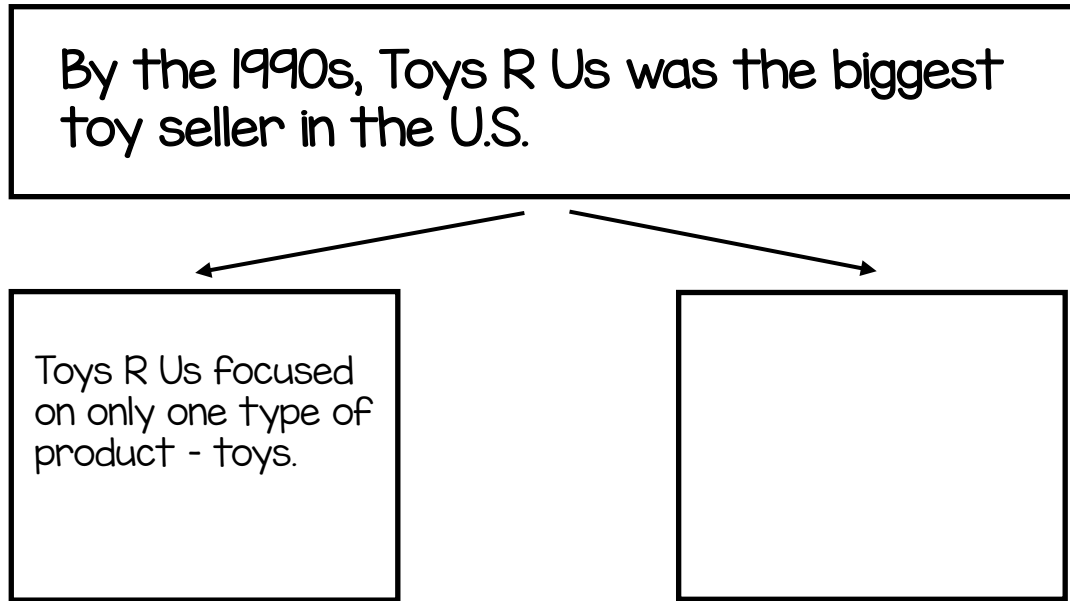
I think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider offering free shipping and cheaper prices like Amazon does. According to the article, customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online.

Skills Test

Choose the best answer.

- Which statement below is the main idea of the article, “Toys R Us: The End of an Era”?
 - Toys R Us is facing tough competition from online retailers.
 - Toys R Us stores in the U.S. are closing due to financial problems.
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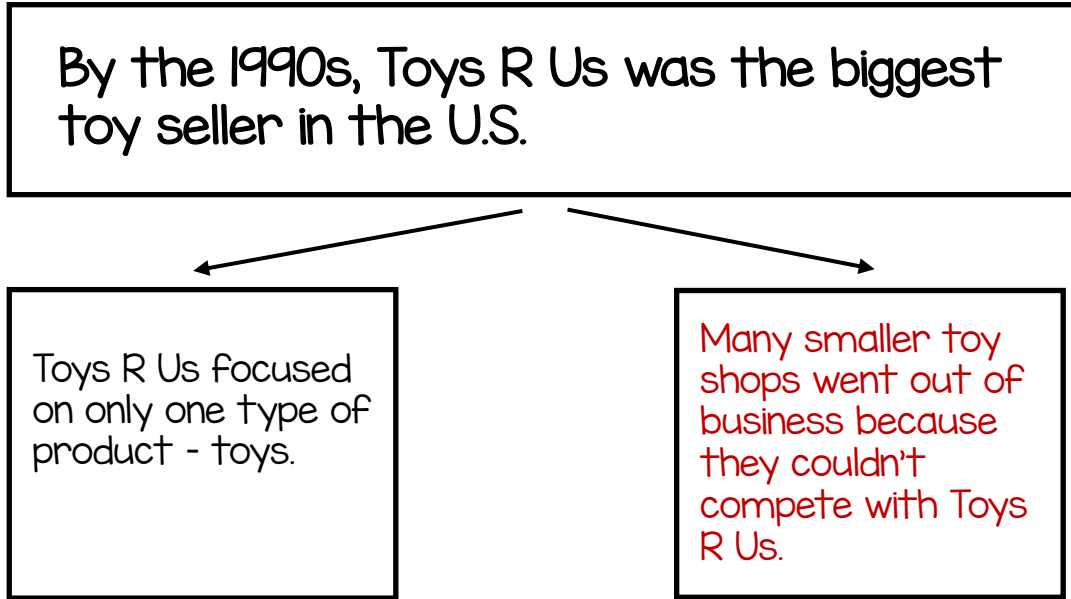
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 - b. After some Toys R Us employees lost their jobs.

6. Which sentence from the article provides a **detail** to support your answer to the previous question?
 - a. By the 1990s, it was the biggest toy seller in the United States.
 - b. Many people lost their jobs, their homes, and their retirement savings.

7. Find another detail in the article to support the main idea in the organizer below. Then, write it in the appropriate place.



8. Based on evidence from the article, what changes do you think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider making to their stores in order to compete in today's market? Discuss one change that you think is important and cite evidence from the article that backs up your opinion.

I think that other big retailers like Toys R Us should consider offering free shipping and cheaper prices like Amazon does. According to the article, customers stopped shopping at Toys R Us because they were able to find cheaper prices and free shipping online.

For Fun

Compare and contrast the vintage Toys R Us commercial and the recent Toys R Us commercial.

1. As you view the video clips, identify at least two obvious **differences** between the commercials.

Vintage 1980s Commercial

Recent Commercial

2. Most commercials have a theme, or message, that the advertiser wants to convey to viewers. View each commercial again and write a theme for each one in the spaces below.

Vintage 1980s Commercial

Recent Commercial

For Fun

Compare and contrast the vintage Toys R Us commercial and the recent Toys R Us commercial.

1. As you view the video clips, identify at least two obvious **differences** between the commercials.

Vintage 1980s Commercial

outdated graphics, poor
sound quality

kids in commercial all seem
to be about the same age

various settings

Recent Commercial

special effects

includes kids of different
age groups

set in a Toys R Us store

2. Most commercials have a theme, or message, that the advertiser wants to convey to viewers. View each commercial again and write a theme for each one in the spaces below.

Vintage 1980s Commercial

Toys R Us makes it so fun
to be a kid that no one
wants to grow up.

Recent Commercial

There's something for every
kind of kid at Toys R Us.

More Nonfiction Article Units for 6th Grade Available Here:

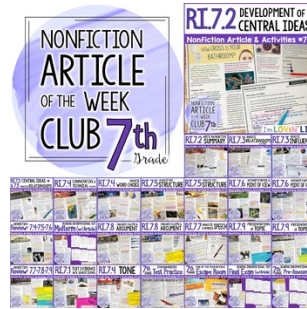
Save \$40 when you UPGRADE to the complete bundle today and get your money back on all of your individual units purchased!

How to Redeem: Simply contact TpT at their email, support@teacherspayteachers.com, and let them know you've purchased the bundle. They'll process refunds for any individual units you purchased.



Other Grade Levels Available:

New!

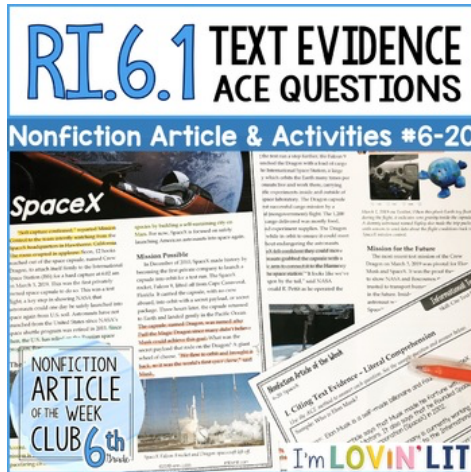


6th Grade Article Units by CCSS Standard / Skill:

RI.6.1: Citing Text Evidence:

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

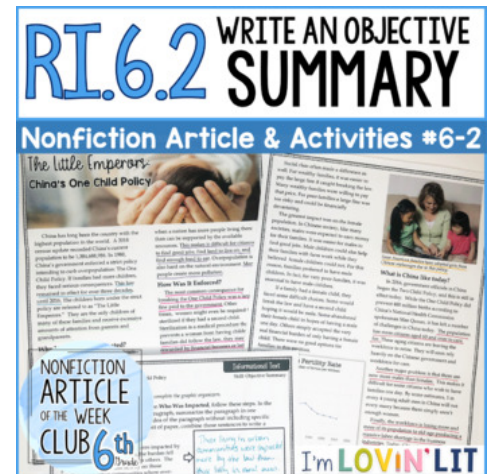
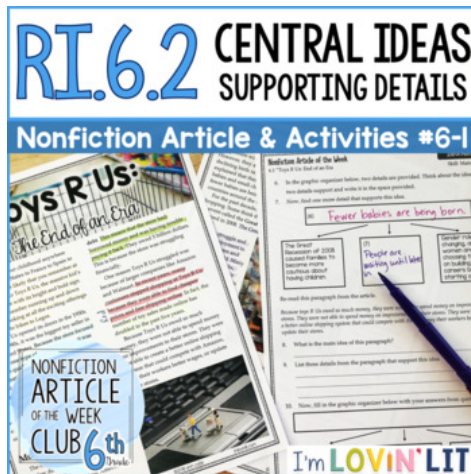
Topic: SpaceX



RI.6.2: Central Ideas & Objective Summaries:

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Topics: ToysRUs Closing
China's Population



RI.6.3: Analyze Key Details:

Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

Topics: Competitive Eating
Supervolcano

RI.6.3 ANALYZE KEY DETAILS

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-3

This page features a main article titled "The World's Fastest Eaters" with a sub-section "The Winner Competitions". It includes a table titled "Who's for the Day? Great Contest Ideas by Year" and a "Reflection Article of the Week" section. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.3 ELABORATION OF KEY DETAILS

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-4

This page features a main article titled "SUPERVOLCANO: Looking Beneath Yellowstone Park". It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.4: Connotation & Figurative Language

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

Topics: Football vs. Fútbol
Halloween History

RI.6.4 CONNOTATIVE & FIGURATIVE VOCABULARY

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-6

This page features a main article titled "Football vs Fútbol" and a "Halloween The Hidden History" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.4 CONNOTATIVE & FIGURATIVE VOCABULARY

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-7

This page features a main article titled "Halloween The Hidden History" and a "The Catholic Church" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.5: Analyze Text

Structure: Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

Topics: Japan's Population
Golden Age of Radio

RI.6.5 ANALYZE TEXT STRUCTURE

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-8

This page features a main article titled "Japan: A Population in Crisis" and a "Saying No to Marriage" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.5 ANALYZE TEXT STRUCTURE

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-9

This page features a main article titled "The Golden Age of Radio" and a "The End of the Golden Age" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.6: Author's Purpose & Point of View:

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

Topics: Too Much Sugar
Bullying

RI.6.6 AUTHOR'S PURPOSE & POINT OF VIEW

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-10

This page features a main article titled "Too Much SUGAR" and a "Bullying" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.6 AUTHOR'S PURPOSE & POINT OF VIEW

Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-11

This page features a main article titled "BULLYING" and a "What the Targem Say" article. It includes a "Reflection Article of the Week" section and a "Nonfiction Article of the Week Club 6th" badge. The "I'm LOVIN' LIT" logo is at the bottom.

RI.6.7: Integrate Multiple Sources: Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Topic: Tween Screen Time

RI.6.8: Evaluate Arguments & Claims: Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Topics: Pet Adoption
UFOs

RI.6.9: Compare Multiple Authors' Presentation of Events: Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

Topics: Human Computers
Frederick Douglass

Multi-Standard Review Units

Test Prep

This resource isn't simply a practice test but rather includes a second column to help students understand and analyze each test question before selecting an answer.

6th GRADE STANDARDIZED Test Practice
Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-22
INCLUDES QUESTION ANALYSIS & TIPS

NONFICTION ARTICLE OF THE WEEK CLUB 6th

I'm LOVIN' LIT

End of the Year Review ESCAPE ROOM

Students will read and analyze an article, "The Dawn Wall of El Capitan," about one man's perseverance and triumph in free climbing the Dawn Wall. Then they'll analyze the article in order to solve puzzles and unlock a real, digital, or imagined "box."

6th GRADE END OF THE YEAR REVIEW Escape Room
Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-23

NONFICTION ARTICLE OF THE WEEK CLUB 6th

I'm LOVIN' LIT

Assessments:

6th GRADE Pre-Assessment
READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT
Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-25

NONFICTION ARTICLE OF THE WEEK CLUB 6th

I'm LOVIN' LIT

Midterm (w/Article)
READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT
Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-13

NONFICTION ARTICLE OF THE WEEK CLUB 6th

I'm LOVIN' LIT

Final Exam (w/Article)
READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT
Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-24

NONFICTION ARTICLE OF THE WEEK CLUB 6th

I'm LOVIN' LIT