

Nonfiction Annotations

Taking Notes While You Are Reading

Annotations are written notes that show you are thinking about and engaging with the text.

Insightful Annotations

1. **Summarize** a section or paragraph and highlight supporting details.
2. Make an **inference** and highlight the supporting details.
3. Explain how the **title** connects to the text.
4. Make text to **self-text-world** connections.
5. Explain how a **text feature** (maps, pictures, charts) connects to the passage.
6. Mark areas of **confusion** and writing an "I wonder..." question.
7. Clarify what an author really means when using **figurative language**.
8. Identify and label **text structures** such as cause/effect; problem/solution; compare/contrast; steps in a procedure; chronological.

SCIENCE NEWS
EARTH: NATURAL DISASTERS
QUAKE SHRINKS EVEREST?

PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD

NEPAL: A woman stands in front of destroyed buildings in Nepal.

MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS

Below are some of the world's highest mountains. How does the height of Mount Everest compare with the highest mountain in the U.S.? Everest is 9,000 feet taller than McKinley.

Mountain	Height (ft)
Mt. Everest (Nepal and China)	29,000
Mt. McKinley (U.S.)	20,000
Mt. Elbrus (Russia)	18,000
Mt. Dhaulagiri (Nepal)	17,000
Mt. Annapurna (Nepal)	16,000
Mt. Qomolangma (Nepal)	15,000
Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)	19,000
Mt. Denali (U.S.)	18,000
Mt. Fuji (Japan)	10,000

HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL (ft)

U.S. & China's border shifts 8 centimeters after quake.

The quake reminds me of the photo of the Lantaoesuan Tsunami we saw.

According to the map, Everest is on the border bet. China & Nepal. Who owns it?

Vocabulary Annotations

1. Circle an unfamiliar word, **highlight context clues** in the text, and write inferred definition in the margin.
2. Use **word-whacking** strategy. Identify base word, Greek/Latin roots, prefixes, and/or suffixes (affixes) to construct meaning of a word. Write the definition of circled word in the margin.
3. Use a **dictionary** to look up a word. Select the definition that aligns with how the word is used in context of the text. Write the definition in the margin.

Stay Away From

1. I like this.
2. I don't like this.
3. This confuses me.
4. Circling a word and leaving it.
5. Highlighting details without annotations.
6. Only annotating the text feature. You must annotate text details, too.
7. Using symbols or emoticons (smiley faces, stars, question marks, exclamation points) because they do not show that you read the text.