

Letters Home from Yosemite

Day 1: Before You Read

1. Word Study

Suffixes

The suffixes **-ist** means "one who is an expert in." The suffix **-ive** means "tending or inclined to."

Take Notes from Above

-ist means _____

-ive means _____

2. Find the word ***naturalist*** in *Letters Home from Yosemite* in the 1st paragraph on page 147. Use the base word ***natural*** along with the suffix ***-ist*** to help you understand what John Muir is an expert in.

Base word + Meaning of Suffix

+

= New Meaning

= _____

3. Find the word ***impressive*** in the 3rd paragraph on page 149. Use the word ***impress*** along with the suffix ***-ive*** to learn something about Bridalveil Falls.

Base word + Meaning of Suffix

+

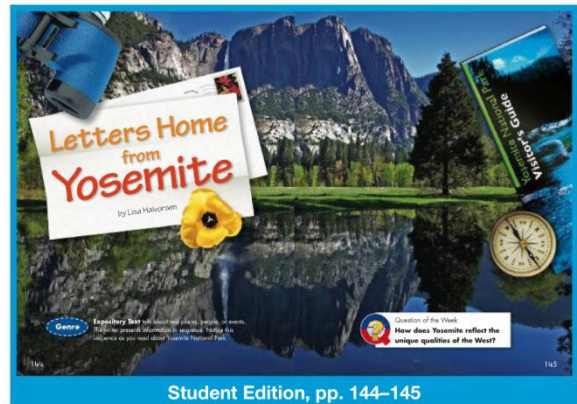
= New Meaning

= _____

4. On page 151, ***aggressive*** probably means _____

5. On page 155, ***active*** probably means _____

2. Introduce Main Selection



GENRE Explain that **expository text** tells about real people, places, or events. Explain that a letter is a kind of expository text. It usually has a heading, inside address, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Explain that "Letters Home from Yosemite" looks more like a scrapbook than letters.

PREVIEW AND PREDICT Have students preview the title, headings, guide words, photographs, and captions to gain an overview of *Letters Home from Yosemite*. Ask students to predict what they will learn about.

PURPOSE By analyzing *Letters Home from Yosemite*, an expository text, students will gain knowledge about how Yosemite reflects the unique qualities of the West.

Take Notes from Above

Genre- _____

Text Prediction- _____

Reading Strategy of the Week:

Text Structure: _____

Letters Home from Yosemite

Day 2-3: Close Reading Questions for While You Read

Name _____

Page	Question	My Answer
146	<p>Together</p> <p>Take a picture walk through the text and notice how each page (after the 1st page) is set up.</p> <p>Now read the 1st page, and determine the author's purpose for this page?</p>	<p><i>Most expository texts start with some sort of introduction.</i></p>
146	<p>Independent</p> <p>Which details on this page would be helpful to someone visiting Yosemite?</p>	
147	<p>Together</p> <p>Instead of just saying that Yosemite is 15.5 million acres large, the author states that Yosemite "is about the size of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut combined." How does this detail help the reader?</p>	
147	<p>Independent</p> <p>The information on this page about Yosemite is presented to the reader out of order in terms of history.</p> <p>Put the following events in order based on how they would have had to happened in real time and history.</p>	<p>_____ Native Americans lived in Yosemite.</p> <p>_____ The Sierra Nevadas were formed.</p> <p>_____ The author arrived in Yosemite for her visit.</p> <p>_____ Explorers arrived in the Yosemite valley.</p>
148	<p>Together</p> <p>Since this week's text is expository text, it includes both facts along with the author's opinions.</p> <p>Make a list of the opinion words the author uses, along with the words that carry a +/- connotation.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Based on these opinion words, I can conclude the author feels _____ about Badger Pass.</p>
148	<p>Independent</p> <p>What does this map show the reader?</p>	
149	<p>Together</p> <p>What information does the author give about the Native Americans who used to live in Yosemite Valley?</p> <p>Why does the author include this information?</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
150	<p>Independent</p> <p>What was the author's purpose in choosing to put in a photograph that had a person in it?</p>	

Letters Home from Yosemite

Day 2-3: Close Reading Questions for While You Read		Name _____
Page	Question	My Answer
150	Together Why does the author include the names of several different kinds of giant sequoias?	
151	Independent The author uses the sentence, " <i>We have seen a ton of mule deer since we arrived.</i> " How does the author know exactly how much the mule deer weigh?	
151	Together How is the text on this page organized?	_____ Cause/Effect _____ Chronologically _____ Main Idea/Details
152	Together What is the main idea of Glacier Point ? _____ _____	Underline a sentence that supports the main idea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It made me dizzy to look over the edge. • The ranger told us that this is a good place to see the peregrine falcons in flight. • They can dive at speeds up to 200 miles per hour.
153	Independent Why is the name "El Capitan" a fitting name for this rock?	
153	Together Check off all of the details that support this fact: <u>El Capitan is the biggest single block of granite on Earth?</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> It is more than 3,600 feet from its base to its top. <input type="checkbox"/> It's a favorite climbing spot for visitors from all over the world. <input type="checkbox"/> It can take anywhere from several hours to several days to scale this rock.
154	Independent/Together Circle all the geography words in this passage. <i>Because it's so high, many flowers and plants that grow here differ from those grow in lower elevations such as the Yosemite Valley. The trees are also small and stunted, because it's difficult for them to grow at such high altitudes.</i>	
155	Independent Using context clues, what do you think the word yield means on this page?	
155	Together Using what you have learned about the West in this selection, what can you conclude?	

Letters Home from Yosemite

Day 1: Before You Read **ANSWERS**

1. Word Study

Suffixes

The suffixes **-ist** means "one who is an expert in." The suffix **-ive** means "tending or inclined to."

Take Notes from Above

-ist means one who is an expert in

-ive means tending or inclined to

2. Find the word **naturalist** in *Letters Home from Yosemite* in the 1st paragraph on page 147. Use the base word **natural** along with the suffix **-ist** to help you understand what John Muir is an expert in.

Base word + Meaning of Suffix

natural + one who is an expert in

= New Meaning

= one who is an expert in the natural world

3. Find the word **impressive** in the 3rd paragraph on page 149. Use the word **impress** along with the suffix **-ive** to learn something about Bridalveil Falls.

Base word + Meaning of Suffix

impress + tending or inclined to

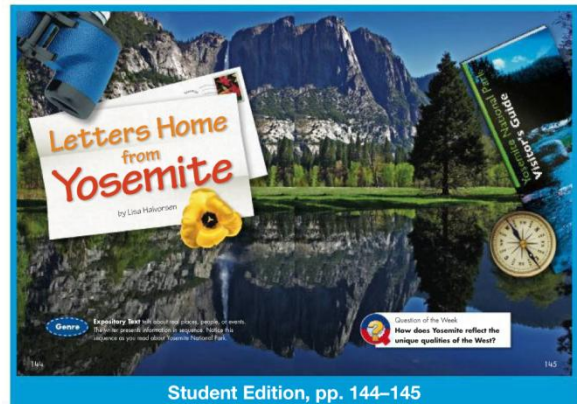
= New Meaning

= tending to amaze

4. On page 151, **aggressive** probably means tending to be aggressive (pushy)

5. On page 155, **active** probably means tending to have action (move)

2. Introduce Main Selection



GENRE Explain that **expository text** tells about real people, places, or events. Explain that a letter is a kind of expository text. It usually has a heading, inside address, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Explain that "Letters Home from Yosemite" looks more like a scrapbook than letters.

PREVIEW AND PREDICT Have students preview the title, headings, guide words, photographs, and captions to gain an overview of *Letters Home from Yosemite*. Ask students to predict what they will learn about.

PURPOSE By analyzing *Letters Home from Yosemite*, an expository text, students will gain knowledge about how Yosemite reflects the unique qualities of the West.

Take Notes from Above

Genre- expository text that tells about real people, places, or events.

Text Prediction- information about places in nature

Reading Strategy of the Week:

Text Structure: the way the author chooses to organize the information in the text.

Letters Home from Yosemite

Day 2-3: Close Reading Questions for While You Read

Name _____

Page	Question	My Answer
146	<p>Together</p> <p>Take a picture walk through the text and notice how each page (after the 1st page) is set up.</p> <p>Now read the 1st page, and determine the author's purpose for this page?</p>	<p>An introduction to let the reader know some GENERAL information about the place the author visited and has chosen to write about.</p> <p><i>Most expository texts start with some sort of introduction.</i></p>
146	<p>Independent</p> <p>Which details on this page would be helpful to someone visiting Yosemite?</p>	<p>Its history, its location, and sights to see.</p>
147	<p>Together</p> <p>Instead of just saying that Yosemite is 15.5 million acres large, the author states that Yosemite "is about the size of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut combined."</p> <p>How does this detail help the reader?</p>	<p>It lets the reader really understand how large Yosemite is by comparing it to the size of something they may know or can easily look up.</p>
147	<p>Independent</p> <p>The information on this page about Yosemite is presented to the reader out of order in terms of history.</p> <p>Put the following events in order based on how they would have had to happened in real time and history.</p>	<p><u>2</u> Native Americans lived in Yosemite.</p> <p><u>1</u> The Sierra Nevadas were formed.</p> <p><u>4</u> The author arrived in Yosemite for her visit.</p> <p><u>3</u> Explorers arrived in the Yosemite valley.</p>
148	<p>Together</p> <p>Since this week's text is expository text, it includes both facts along with the author's opinions.</p> <p>Make a list of the opinion words the author uses, along with the words that carry a +/- connotation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">amazed scenic</p> <p>Based on these opinion words, I can conclude the author feels <u>amazed</u> about Badger Pass.</p>
148	<p>Independent</p> <p>What does this map show the reader?</p>	<p>It shows the reader exactly where in Yosemite the author started her journey.</p>
149	<p>Together</p> <p>What information does the author give about the Native Americans who used to live in Yosemite Valley?</p> <p>Why does the author include this information?</p>	<p>The Native Americans named places based on their features.</p> <p>It might be interesting to the reader to know the history of the names of the places they are reading about.</p>
150	<p>Independent</p> <p>What was the author's purpose in choosing to put in a photograph that had a person in it?</p>	<p>To give the reader something to compare the size of the sequoias to in order to see how extremely big and tall they really are.</p>

Letters Home from Yosemite

Page	Question	My Answer
150	Together Why does the author include the names of several different kinds of giant sequoias?	To get the reader to realize that their names comes from their size and shape.
151	Independent The author uses the sentence, "We have seen a ton of mule deer since we arrived." How does the author know exactly how much the mule deer weigh?	The author doesn't. It's an exaggeration/figure of speech to mean she saw a lot of mule deer.
151	Together How is the text on this page organized?	<p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cause/Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Chronologically <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Main Idea/Details </p>
152	Together What is the main idea of Glacier Point ? <u>The view from Glacier Point was amazing, because it was so high.</u>	Underline a sentence that supports the main idea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It made me dizzy to look over the edge. • <u>The ranger told us that this is a good place to see the peregrine falcons in flight.</u> • They can dive at speeds up to 200 miles per hour.
153	Independent Why is the name "El Capitan" a fitting name for this rock?	"El Capitan" means the captain, and a captain is a leader. This block of granite is a leader in size.
153	Together Check off all of the details that support this fact: <u>El Capitan is the biggest single block of granite on Earth?</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is more than 3,600 feet from its base to its top. <input type="checkbox"/> It's a favorite climbing spot for visitors from all over the world. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It can take anywhere from several hours to several days to scale this rock.
155	Independent/Together Circle all the geography words in this passage. <i>Because it's so high, many flowers and plants that grow here differ from those grow in lower <u>elevations</u> such as the Yosemite <u>Valley</u>. The tree are also small and stunted, because it's difficult for them to grow at such <u>high altitudes</u>.</i>	
155	Independent Using context clues, what do you think the word yield means on this page?	produce or give forth, (accept have)
155	Together Using what you have learned about the West in this selection, what can you conclude?	There are many amazing natural wonders to visit and see.