



POPCORN Non-Fiction

This lesson is a lot of fun if you're able to provide popcorn for the kids. The Stir Crazy West Bend Popcorn Popper is my favorite portable popper. Microwave popcorn works just as well if you have the bags and the microwave.

If you provide popcorn, I strongly suggest bringing different flavors for the kids to sprinkle onto the popcorn that they get to eat. It will go well with the lesson.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: *"You're going to write and explain facts about popcorn. This is a non-fiction piece so you will only use information and not your own opinion."*
2. Brainstorm facts about popcorn with the kids. Ask them what they know about popcorn. Write their responses on the board. Here are some examples:
 1. *Popcorn can be popped in several ways (stove, microwave, popcorn machine).*
 2. *Popcorn can be flavored in many ways (butter, salt, sugar, garlic powder, cheese, caramel, chili powder, lime etc.)*
 3. *Popcorn is sold in many places (cinema, sports events, concerts, fairs, carnivals etc.)*
 4. *Popcorn is a healthy snack (low calorie, low fat, low sugar, fiber, some protein)*
 5. *Popcorn can be used to decorate (Christmas trees, Halloween faces etc.)*
 6. *Popcorn is inexpensive*
3. Explain to the students that they are going to hook the reader with a question(s) about popcorn. The question can be almost anything as long as it's about popcorn. Ask them for their ideas. Here's are some examples:
 - a. *When was the last time you ate popcorn?*
 - b. *Where were you when you ate it?*
 - c. *How do you like to flavor your popcorn?*
 - d. *Did you know that...(write an interesting fact about popcorn)*
4. Brainstorm conclusion questions. These questions give the reader something to think about. Here are some examples:
 - a. *When will you eat popcorn next?*
 - b. *What new flavor will you try?*
 - c. *Does this make you hungry for popcorn?*
5. Show the 5 sections on the whiteboard
 - a. Question(s) to hook the reader
 - b. Fact 1 explained
 - c. Fact 2 explained
 - d. Fact 3 explained
 - e. Question(s) to think about



Now to write!

Guide the students through each step. They are free to use their own words. Sample ideas are in italics.

1. Write a question to grab the reader's attention.
When was the last time you ate popcorn? Did you make it yourself? What did you put on it?
2. Follow the question(s) with a fact that relates to the question(s).
Popcorn is a popular snack in America. There are several ways to make it.
3. Explain the fact with examples.
The fastest and easiest way to make popcorn is in the microwave. Popcorn can also be made on the stove in a pot. Many people have their own popcorn machines where they can watch the pops pop while they make it.
4. Write fact number 2.
There are many different ways to flavor popcorn.
5. Explain it with examples.
The most common popcorn topping is butter and salt. But people all across America can also buy cheddar popcorn or sweet caramel corn. Many movie theatres have powdered flavors to sprinkle on your popcorn. These flavors include sugar, cinnamon, white cheddar, garlic powder etc. In Mexico, people like to add lime and chili powder to their popcorn. The options are really endless. Consider flavors that you like. Try adding them to your popcorn next time you eat it!
6. Write fact number 3.
Popcorn is a snack that's sold in many places besides movie cinemas.
7. Explain it with examples.
Nearly every sporting event, starting from elementary soccer fields to middle school basketball games, high school football games, college baseball games and professional competitions, sells popcorn. Popcorn is also found at fairs and carnivals. Even concerts sell popcorn.
8. Ask a question for the reader to take with them.
Are you hungry for popcorn yet? Where will you get it? How will it taste?

NOTES: