

Practice literacy skills

To drive student achievement and reading comprehension



Every opportunity to read is an opportunity to practice literacy skills.

- What are examples of this that you have seen?
- What opportunities exist in your class for students to learn and/or practice literacy skills?
- What type of content is best for practicing these skills?



Build a weekly skills routine with Newsela

Set specific routines with Newsela so it becomes second nature for students



Newsela Day

Pick a day of the week for Newsela reading. Alternate between teacher-assigned reading and student choice.

Weekly Skill Focus

Select a specific literacy skill to focus on. Choose the skill based curriculum connections like upcoming lessons, testing, etc.

Reteach

Use formative assessment data to decide which skills to review. Share high-interest, articles to reteach and practice.

TIP:

Present mode makes it easy to model skills for students.

Ways to use Newsela to build literacy skills

Introduce and practice a range of skills from finding the main idea to identifying text structures



Direct instruction

I do

teach specific skills through modeling and examples.

Practice

We do

provide opportunities for students to practice literacy skills.

Broad application

You do

help students apply literacy skills across genres and content areas.

Use the reading skills filter

Find texts related to your lessons with quizzes aligned to skills your students need most.

Filter to the following skills:

- *What the text says*
- *Main Idea*
- *Key Details*
- *Summarization*
- *Connecting People, Events & Ideas*
- *Word Meaning & Choice*
- *Text Structure*
- *Point of View & Purpose*
- *Interpret Multimedia*
- *Arguments & Claims*
- *Theme*

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, 'Educator Center', and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below that is a search bar with 'What do you want to teach?' and a 'Search' button. There are tabs for 'All Content Types', 'Articles', 'Worksheets', 'Videos', 'Standards', and 'Text Sets'. A filter bar shows 'Filters: Reading Level', 'Grade Level', 'Instructional Features', 'Reading Skills', and 'Clear Filters'. Below this, it says '10000 results available'. A 'Reading Skills' filter menu is open, listing various skills with checkboxes. The background shows search results for 'Articles' and 'Infographics'.

newsela Educator Center VT ELA / SS / SCI

Search Browse Your Content Assignments Binder

What do you want to teach? Search English

All Content Types Articles Worksheets Videos Standards Text Sets

Filters: Reading Level Grade Level Instructional Features Reading Skills Clear Filters

10000 results available

Reading Skills

See content with quizzes that align to selected reading skills.

- What the text says
- Main Idea
- Key Details
- Summarization
- Connecting People, Events & Ideas
- Word Meaning & Choice
- Text Structure
- Point of View & Purpose
- Interpret Multimedia
- Arguments & Claims
- Theme

Article 1: George and Martha Washington were early fans of ice cream at Mount Vernon estate. 07/04/2023. Assign

Article 2: The gay "Sip Rights Move... 06/30/2023. Assign

Infographic 1: A look at how solar panels work. 06/29/2023. Assign

Infographic 2: New Jersey greenhouse gas sources. 06/29/2023. Assign

Article 3: At this barber get a haircut... 06/29/2023. Assign

Article 4: LGBTQIA+ activists: Harvey Milk. 06/28/2023. Assign

Assign standards-aligned quizzes regularly

Quizzes:

- Provide students with immediate feedback
- Help teachers track how students are performing with key skills

Quizzes also help inform reading level

After reading five articles and completing quizzes, students will begin to receive articles at their reading level rather than at the grade level of their classroom.

The screenshot displays the Newsela Educator Center interface. At the top, the Newsela logo is on the left, and 'Educator Center' and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI' are on the right. A navigation bar includes 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main article title is 'Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine'. Below the title are buttons for 'English', 'MAX', 'Assign', and 'Print'. A central image shows a man (David Bishop) sitting at a table with several children playing chess. To the left of the article is a sidebar with icons for 'Share', 'Save', 'Hide', 'Add', 'Present', 'Size: S', 'Count', and 'Listen'. On the right, a 'Quiz' window is open, showing a question: 'What conclusion is BEST supported by the paragraph?'. The options are:

- A David Bishop has a lot of past experience as a chess coach.
- B David Bishop prefers working with middle school students.
- C David Bishop is passionate about helping students learn chess. (Marked as 'Correct Answer')
- D David Bishop spends more time coaching than being a custodian.

 A 'Next' button is at the bottom of the quiz window.

Leverage leveled texts

Texts in Newsela are available at 5 different reading levels.

You can set the reading level or let Newsela set it automatically at each student's reading level.

Setting the reading level ensures your students get practice reading and developing skills at grade level. Use the Newsela recommended level as a way to help students work up to grade-level tasks.

newsela Educator Center DP

Search Browse Your Content Assignments Binder

LISTEN 4x

View as student

Create assignment

Title assignment

Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine

Add assignees

Assign to a class OR Assign to students

Give instructions

Paragraph B I U :: := " @ ↶ ↷

Set lexile level

Select Newsela recommended to adapt the assigned text to each student's individual reading level.

Newsela recommended	
Newsela recommended	
Grade 8	1110 - 1180 L
Grade 6	921 - 1010 L
Grade 5	781 - 920 L
Grade 4	621 - 780 L
Grade 2	300 - 500 L

Annotations

Helps students engage in active learning by highlighting and taking notes within a text.

Suggested routine:

- *I do (direct instruction) - Use the annotation tool to model skill application during whole-class read or small group instruction.*
- *We do (guided practice) - Invite students to annotate alongside you.*
- *You do (independent practice) - In the assignment instructions, prompt students to use the annotation tool to highlight or comment.*

Ideas to use the four highlight colors:

Questions = yellow

Main idea = green

Key details = blue

Connections = pink

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, user profile 'AS', and menu items like 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main article title is 'Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine'. Below the title are filters for 'English', '680L', and an 'Assign' button. A photo shows a man (Mr. Bishop) sitting at a table with several children playing chess. Below the photo, the article text begins: 'By Sydney Page, The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff'. A metadata line indicates 'RECOMMENDED FOR Upper Elementary School - Middle School' and 'WORDS 600 | TEXT LEVEL 4 | PUBLISHED 6/25/2023'. The article text includes: 'David Bishop's students often ask him the same question. "Mr. Bishop, what's your favorite chess piece?"' and 'Bishop, who is a chess coach, answers that the bishop is one of his favorite pieces. But the queen is his very favorite.'. On the right side, an 'Annotations' panel is open, showing two annotations by 'Blue' (A. Saedi). The first annotation highlights 'the queen is his very favorite.' and the second highlights 'He's been a custodian there for the past six years.' Both annotations are marked as 'UNSHARED'.

Teaching scenario

Targeted and guided skills practice for a small group

Five of your students are struggling with finding the key details in a text. You use small group assignments to give them a high-interest article. As part of the assignment, students use annotations to mark 5 sentences that they believe are key details. You also ask them to explain why they've chosen to annotate those sentences.

After they submit the assignment, you read their responses. You can provide more practice by having them work together to compare and justify their thoughts with others. Additionally, you can model how they can take those key details and put them in their own words to create a summary.



Skill-building tools and student activities

Check out these short videos for an overview of some of the skill-building features Newsela teachers love most.



Lesson Sparks

Instructional supports and ideas that make lesson planning easier - including suggestions related to skill-building.



Write prompts

Opportunities for students to demonstrate skills. Use the Newsela provided prompt or create your own.



Small group assignments

Options to target specific skills for individual students or small groups.



Power Words (ELA only)

Vocabulary support with In-context definitions a Tier II vocabulary words and connected activities.

For ELA classrooms, try these collections* to practice skills

[ELA Standards and Skills Collection](#)

Texts, videos, and resources for grades 3-12, fiction and nonfiction.

[ELA Videos: Skills and Concepts](#)

Videos on topics from theme to media skills to writing conclusions.

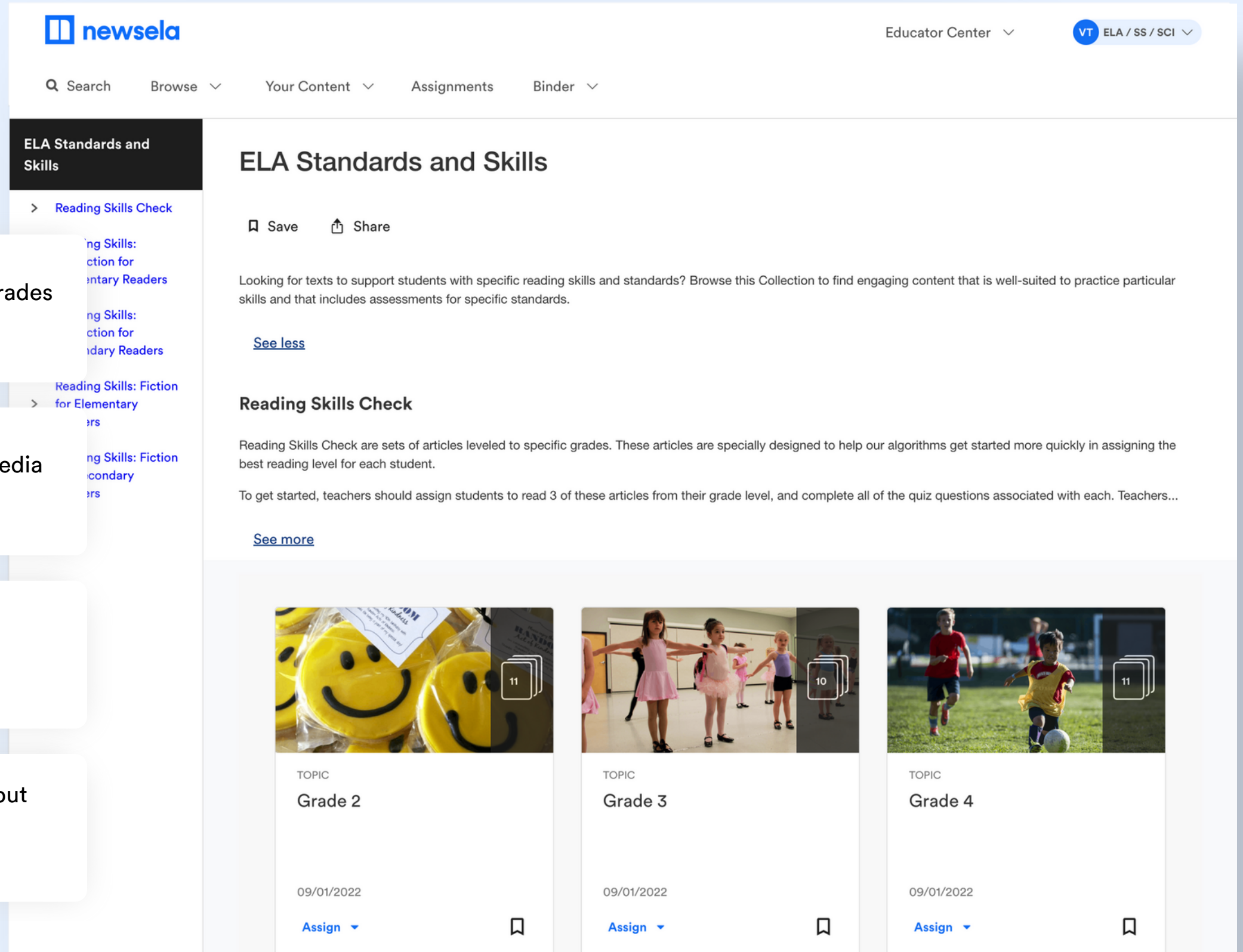
[Teach this Poem](#)

Lessons to deepen students' understanding of poetry.

[Reading Skills Check Collection](#)

Texts with extended quizzes that put students on their recommended reading level quickly.

*Available to Newsela ELA users



The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo and user options like 'Educator Center' and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below the navigation, there is a search bar and a menu with options like 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main content area is titled 'ELA Standards and Skills' and includes a 'Save' and 'Share' button. A descriptive paragraph explains the collection's purpose: 'Looking for texts to support students with specific reading skills and standards? Browse this Collection to find engaging content that is well-suited to practice particular skills and that includes assessments for specific standards.' Below this, there is a section for 'Reading Skills Check' with a 'See less' link. A detailed description follows: 'Reading Skills Check are sets of articles leveled to specific grades. These articles are specially designed to help our algorithms get started more quickly in assigning the best reading level for each student. To get started, teachers should assign students to read 3 of these articles from their grade level, and complete all of the quiz questions associated with each. Teachers...' and a 'See more' link. At the bottom, there are three featured article cards. Each card has a topic, a date (09/01/2022), and an 'Assign' button. The first card is for 'Grade 2' with a smiley face image. The second is for 'Grade 3' with a dance class image. The third is for 'Grade 4' with a soccer game image.



Try these collections* to practice literacy skills relevant to social studies

[Key Concepts and Skills](#)

Essential background on concepts from core social studies courses.

[Explainer videos](#)

Key information on historical events, people, and ideas reinforce grade-level concepts and deepen connections.

[Primary sources](#)

Historical documents, speeches, firsthand accounts, and more to help build skills from summarization to argumentation.

[This Week in History](#)

Weekly opportunities to practice literacy skills in the context of social studies.

*Available to Newsela Social Studies users

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, 'Educator Center', and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below that is a search and navigation menu with options like 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main content area is titled 'Review: Key Concepts and Skills' and includes a 'Save' and 'Share' button. A description states: 'This collection provides resources to review and remediate key concepts from core social studies courses. The units within this collection are not meant to serve as comprehensive guides to each social studies course, but to offer focused review of essential information. Within each unit you'll find text sets with 3-4 articles overviewing the key concepts from the relevant social studies course. You'll also find opportunities to apply the concepts you've reviewed. Teachers will find instructional resources in the right-hand resources panel.' There are links for 'See less' and 'See more'. Below the text, there's a section for 'Social Studies Skills' with a description: 'Use these lessons to refresh or review key skills used by historians, social scientists, geographers, and economists, and apply them to real-world scenarios.' It lists 'Student Objectives':

- I will be able to construct a timeline and differentiate between dating systems and time periods.
- I will be able to construct and analyze models in the form of...

 At the bottom, there are three instructional set cards:

- 'Social Studies Skills: Designate Time Periods' with a date of 07/08/2022 and a card icon showing 2 items.
- 'Social Studies Skills: Interpret Models' with a date of 07/08/2022 and a card icon showing 4 items.
- 'Social Studies Skills: Discern Between Real and Fake News' with a date of 07/08/2022 and a card icon showing 7 items.

Try these collections* to practice literacy skills relevant to science

[Claim-Evidence-Reasoning collection](#)

Focused practice in supporting claims with evidence on a range of topics and concepts with resources that provide background and teacher tips.

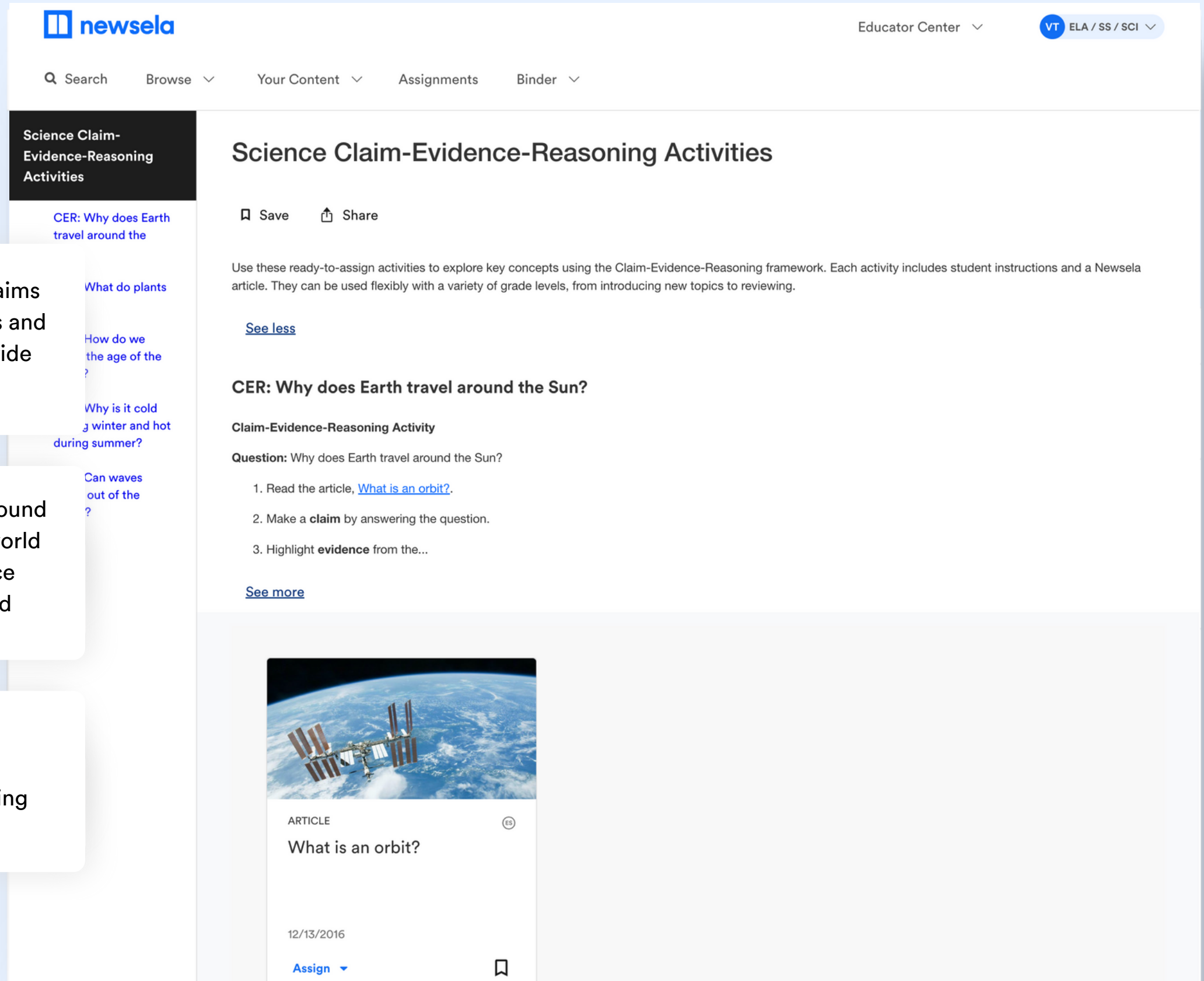
[Everyday Mysteries](#)

High-engagement lessons built around fun science questions about the world - includes activities to build science literacy skills, PDF worksheets, and extension content to explore.

[Science in the News](#)

Easy-to-assign lessons based on current news topics for building literacy skills while reading engaging science stories.

*Available to Newsela Science users



The screenshot shows the Newsela Science interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, 'Educator Center', and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below that are search and navigation options: 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main content area is titled 'Science Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Activities'. It includes a 'Save' and 'Share' button, a description: 'Use these ready-to-assign activities to explore key concepts using the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning framework. Each activity includes student instructions and a Newsela article. They can be used flexibly with a variety of grade levels, from introducing new topics to reviewing.', and a 'See less' link. A specific activity is highlighted: 'CER: Why does Earth travel around the Sun?'. It is a 'Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Activity' with the question: 'Why does Earth travel around the Sun?'. The activity steps are: 1. Read the article, [What is an orbit?](#). 2. Make a claim by answering the question. 3. Highlight evidence from the... There is a 'See more' link below. At the bottom, there's a preview of an article titled 'What is an orbit?' with a date of 12/13/2016 and an 'Assign' button.

Appendix

Contents

- [View our other Newsela Guides](#)
- [Links to How-To Videos](#)
- [Link to Companion Guide](#)



Enhance your instruction with Newsela with these professional learning options

Get started with Newsela

Learn the basics for long-term Newsela success with this collection of curated resources.

[View Resource](#)

Build background knowledge

Boost learners' confidence and understanding with this group of results-driven resources.

[View Resource](#)

Include diverse perspectives

Create a more lively and inclusive classroom using this selection of dedicated resources

[View Resource](#)

[← Back to Start](#)

Looking for more help? Check out these additional resources.

 [What is Newsela?](#)

 [How to find and save content on Newsela](#)

 [How to assign Newsela articles to students](#)

 [How to use article tools & activities](#)

 [How to annotate text in articles for students](#)

 [How to review student assignments on Newsela](#)

 [The student experience on Newsela.com](#)

 [How to track student progress in your Newsela Binder](#)

 [How to assign content to small groups of students](#)

 [How to use Lesson Sparks](#)

 [How to find and use text sets with your class](#)

 [How to use and edit write prompts in your assignments](#)

 [Download Companion Guide](#)

Practice literacy skills with Newsela Lite

To drive student achievement and reading comprehension



[Just beginning with Newsela? Try our Get Started resources.](#)

Every opportunity to read is an opportunity to practice literacy skills.

- What are examples of this that you have seen?
- What opportunities exist in your class for students to learn and/or practice literacy skills?
- What type of content is best for practicing these skills?



Build a weekly skills routine with Newsela

Set specific routines with Newsela Lite so it becomes second nature for students.



Newsela Day

Pick a day of the week for Newsela reading. Alternate between teacher-assigned reading and student choice.

Weekly Skill Focus

Model and practice a specific literacy skill that students need to focus on with engaging, timely content.

Reteach

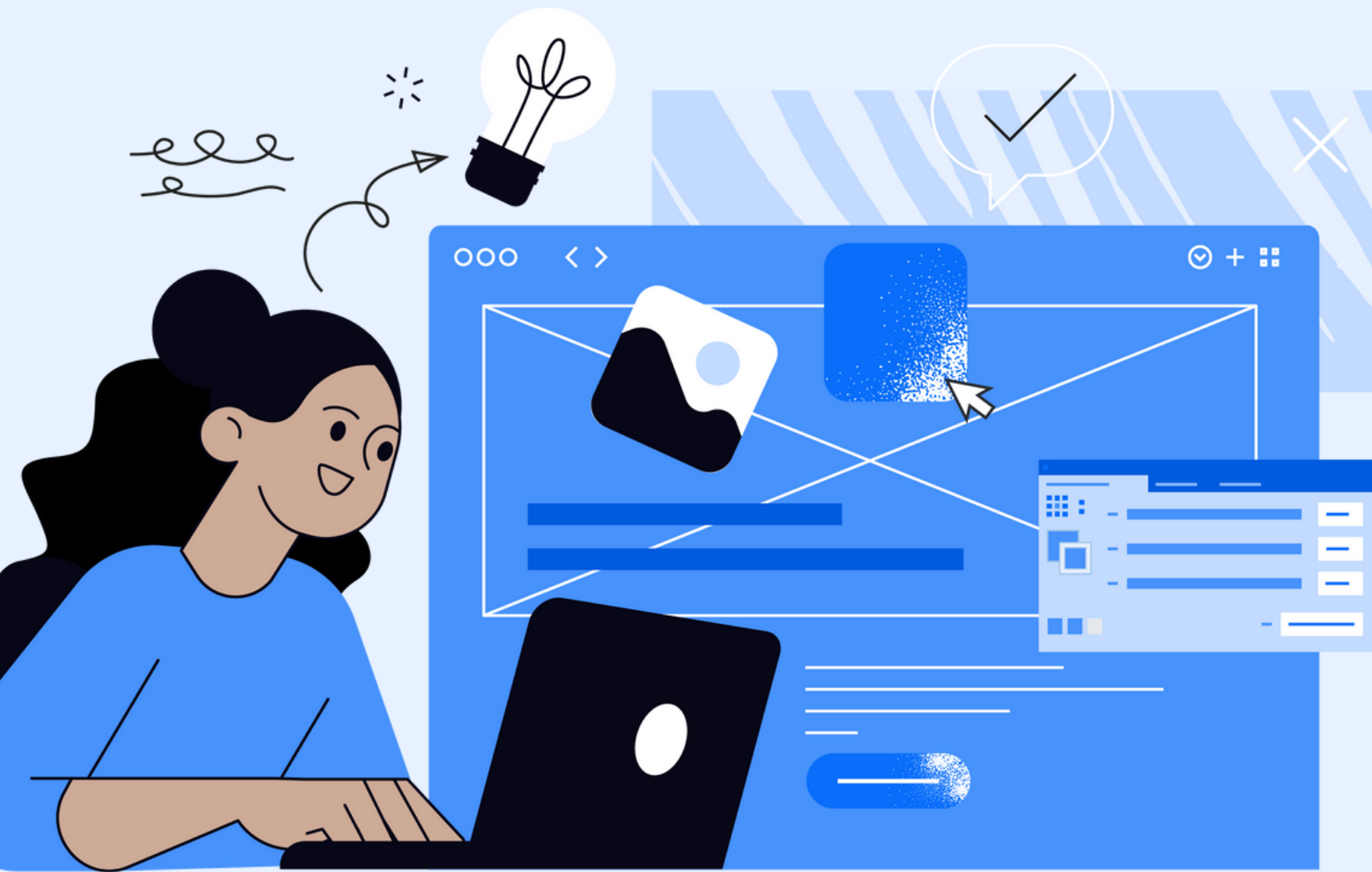
Use formative assessment data to decide which skills to review. Share high-interest, articles to reteach and practice.

TIP:

Present mode makes it easy to model skills for students.

Ways to use Newsela to build literacy skills

Introduce and practice a range of skills from finding the main idea to identifying text structures.



Direct instruction

I do

teach specific skills through modeling and examples.

Practice

We do

provide opportunities for students to practice literacy skills.

Broad application

You do

help students apply literacy skills across genres and content areas.

On your homepage you'll find 4 engaging, timely news articles offered at 5 reading levels.

Every week a new text is added here to the homepage, where it will be for four weeks. When a new article is added, one drops.

Preview the content before sharing with students.

The screenshot shows the Newsela Lite homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, "Educator Center", "Start free trial", and "LITE" options. Below the navigation bar, there are search and navigation links: "Search", "Browse", "Your Content", "Assignments", and "Binder". The main heading is "Welcome to Newsela Lite". To the right of the heading is a paragraph: "Newsela Lite is your free pass to engaging content at 5 reading levels. You get complete access to 4 staff-picked articles for 1 month each. Each week you'll discover new content as we swap out an old article for something fresh and current." Below this paragraph are three buttons: "4 current articles", "5 reading levels", and "Assess understanding". The "Free content" section features a grid of four article cards. Each card includes a date range (e.g., "Read until 9/10/23"), a thumbnail image, the word "ARTICLE", a title, and an "Assign" button. The articles are: 1. "Drexel Food Lab wants to minimize food waste" (Read until 9/10/23), 2. "Meet Danielle Ross, the first female master builder at Legoland New York" (Read until 9/17/23), 3. "Parrots taught to video call each other become less lonely, study finds" (Read until 9/24/23), and 4. "Going, going, gone!: Climate change is making home runs easier to hit, study says" (Read until 10/1/23). Below the "Free content" section is a "Discover more great content" section with a "Start free trial" button. At the bottom, there is a "Latest news" section with four "Premium" article thumbnails.

Assign standards-aligned quizzes regularly

Quizzes are included with every Newsela Lite article and:

- provide students with immediate feedback
- help teachers track how students are performing with key skills

Quizzes also help inform reading level

After reading five articles and completing quizzes, students will begin to receive articles at their reading level rather than at the grade level of their classroom.

The screenshot shows the Newsela interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, 'Educator Center', and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below that is a search and navigation menu. The main article title is 'Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine'. There are buttons for 'English', 'MAX', 'Assign', and 'Print'. A sidebar on the left contains icons for Share, Save, Hide, Add, Present, Size: S, Count, and Listen. The article text starts with 'As a chess coach, David Bishop is often asked the same question by his students: "Mr. Bishop, what's your favorite chess piece?"'. A quiz overlay is shown on the right, titled 'Quiz', with a question: 'What conclusion is BEST supported by the paragraph?'. The options are: A. David Bishop has a lot of past experience as a chess coach. B. David Bishop prefers working with middle school students. C. David Bishop is passionate about helping students learn chess. (Marked as 'Correct Answer') D. David Bishop spends more time coaching than being a custodian. A 'Next' button is at the bottom of the quiz.

Leverage leveled texts

Texts in Newsela are available at 5 different reading levels.

You can set the reading level or let Newsela set it automatically at each student's reading level.

Setting the reading level ensures your students get practice reading and developing skills at grade level. Use the Newsela recommended level as a way to help students work up to grade-level tasks.

newsela Educator Center DP

Search Browse Your Content Assignments Binder

LISTEN 4x ↺ ↻ ×

View as student

Create assignment

Title assignment

Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine

Add assignees

OR

Give instructions

Paragraph ⌵ **B** *I* U ⋮ ⋮ “ ” ↶ ↷

Set lexile level

Select Newsela recommended to adapt the assigned text to each student's individual reading level.

Newsela recommended ⌵

Newsela recommended	
Grade 8	1110 - 1180 L
Grade 6	921 - 1010 L
Grade 5	781 - 920 L
Grade 4	621 - 780 L
Grade 2	300 - 500 L

Annotations

Helps students engage in active learning by highlighting and taking notes within a text.

Suggested routine:

- *I do (direct instruction) - Use the annotation tool to model skill application during whole-class read or small group instruction.*
- *We do (guided practice) - Invite students to annotate alongside you.*
- *You do (independent practice) - In the assignment instructions, prompt students to use the annotation tool to highlight or comment.*

Ideas to use the four highlight colors:

Questions = yellow

Main idea = green

Key details = blue

Connections = pink

The screenshot shows the Newsela interface with the article "Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine". The interface includes a navigation bar with "newsela" logo, "Educator Center", and user initials "AS". Below the navigation bar are search and content management options. The article title is prominently displayed, followed by language and reading level filters (English, 680L) and an "Assign" button. A photograph shows a man, David Bishop, coaching a group of students around a chess table in a library. Below the photo, the article's byline and metadata are shown: "By Sydney Page, The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff", "RECOMMENDED FOR Upper Elementary School – Middle School", "WORDS 600 | TEXT LEVEL 4 | PUBLISHED 6/25/2023". The main text of the article is partially visible, showing a quote from David Bishop: "Mr. Bishop, what's your favorite chess piece?" and his response: "Bishop, who is a chess coach, answers that the bishop is one of his favorite pieces. But the queen is his very favorite." A blue callout box titled "Annotations" is overlaid on the right side of the article, showing two annotations made by "Blue" (A. Saedi). The first annotation highlights the sentence "the queen is his very favorite." and the second highlights "He's been a custodian there for the past six years." Both annotations are marked as "UNSHARED".

Teaching scenario

Targeted and guided skills practice for a small group

Five of your students are struggling with finding the key details in a text. You use small group assignments to give them a high-interest article. As part of the assignment, students use annotations to mark 5 sentences that they believe are key details. You also ask them to explain why they've chosen to annotate those sentences.

After they submit the assignment, you read their responses. You can provide more practice by having them work together to compare and justify their thoughts with others. Additionally, you can model how they can take those key details and put them in their own words to create a summary.



Skill-building tools and student activities

Check out these short videos for an overview of some of the skill-building features Newsela teachers love most.



Write prompts

Opportunities for students to demonstrate skills. Use the Newsela provided prompt or create your own.



Small group assignments

Options to target specific skills for individual students or small groups.

