

Central Idea and Theme

Mighty Muskrats: The Case of the Windy Lake - Grade 5 - Short lesson

TIME

OBJECTIVE

10 minutes State a story-specific central idea and connect it to multiple kinds of knowledge used in the investigation.

PRODUCT

A central-idea statement supported by three distinct evidence connections.

Essential question: What idea about solving problems is developed through the Muskrats' use of weather information, community knowledge, and Otter's observation?

Materials	Text to mark
• The book	• Passage 8 - Write the central idea plus evidence connections.

- Prepared passages: Passage 8, Passage 9, Passage 10, Passage 11
- Student response materials

Lesson sequence

1 Set the focus - 2 min State the broad idea.

Prepared text:	Passages 8, 9, 10, 11
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- Passage 9 - Write the central idea plus evidence connections.
- Passage 10 - Write the central idea plus evidence connections.
- Passage 11 - Write the central idea plus evidence connections.

2 Work the evidence - 5 min Attach three different kinds of evidence.

Prepared text:	Passages 8, 9, 10, 11 3 Make the student product - 3 min Write the central idea plus evidence connections.
Prepared text:	Passages 8, 9, 10, 11

Teacher key

The investigation suggests that difficult problems can be solved by combining research, information from people, close observation of nature, and collaborative reasoning.

Support & extension

Above: Discuss how the story values both technological research and land-based knowledge.

Assessment

- States an idea that applies across the evidence.
- Includes research, community information, and observation.
- Uses interpretive language rather than presenting inference as explicit narration.