

Learning together

Understanding Words... That Replace Others!

ACTIVITY #12

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES
2ND CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to pay particular attention to words that replace others.



Relevance of the activity

Substitute words are used to replace pronouns and groups of words that have already been mentioned in the text. They are mainly used to avoid repetition. Understanding to whom or what these words are referring to can support reading.



Supplies



To do this activity, you can use:

- the text in the appendix
- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level

LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, we are going to focus on substitute words.

Explain why:



Maybe you've never heard of substitute words (plus, it's hard to say). However, you often encounter them when reading. Substitute words refer to words that are used to replace others. This is a way to avoid repeating the same words. For example, in a story, the main character is a young boy named Fox. In the text, instead of always repeating his name, you might see that the author uses other words or groups of words to refer to him: he, the young boy, him, his, etc.

Explain when:



In fact, this strategy is at work while you are reading. This is when you can ask yourself "Whom or what exactly is being talked about in this sentence?"

Try it together:



As I mentioned a bit earlier, a substitute word refers to another word or group of words in the text.

When you read a text, you must first realize that the word you have just read is a substitute word: You know that it refers to another word or group of words in the text. Sometimes, the substitute word is close to the one it replaces, and sometimes you have to go back to the previous sentence, or even before that to identify it.

Usually that's when you have to ask yourself the right questions:

- To whom or to what is this word **referring**?
- Can I use **number** clues (singular/plural) or **gender** clues (feminine/masculine) to identify the word or group of words it is replacing?
- If I use the word or group of words I have **identified**, does the sentence still have the same meaning?

Reference

To whom?

or

To what?

Gender and Number

Feminine

or

Masculine

Singular

or

Plural

Same Meaning

Yes

or

No

Let's look at the text "A Voyage Through Forests" (in appendix). We're going to focus on the first paragraph. As you can see, some words or groups of words are in blue. These are substitute words: that means that we are going to identify to whom or to what they are referring in the text.

Let's read the paragraph together.

Let's take the first word in blue.

It is the pronoun **they**: We already have a clue: we're looking for a word or a group of words that is plural.

- **Now, who or what are we talking about in this sentence?**

We are talking about trees, of course! I think the pronoun they refers to the group of words trees because it is plural.

- **Does it make sense if we say that trees block the sun's rays?**

Yes, I've found the right reference word.

Let's take a second example: the word **Here**.

In the sentence "Here, there is a lot of shiny foliage."

- **But which location is it referring to, exactly?**

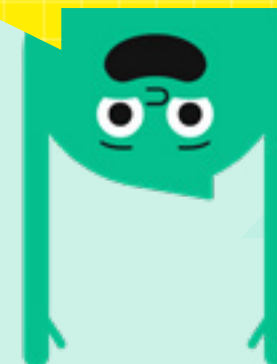
The previous sentence talks about trees and the jungle. The first sentence talks about rainforests. I therefore deduce that the word Here refers to the jungle or the rainforest.

I can say: In the jungle or in the rainforest, there is a lot of shiny foliage.

You can continue to integrate this strategy by taking a moment to identify the other words or groups of words in blue in the text.

Quick tips!

As you can see, the word **there** has also been highlighted. Most of the time, this pronoun is used to refer to a place.



A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that **they** block the sun's rays. **Here**, there is a lot of shiny foliage. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, **where** it is always hot and humid? **They** are home to exotic animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, tropical forests and the animals that live **in them** are not immune to deforestation.



Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called **taiga**, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada and Russia**. In **these forests**, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live **there**, such as black bears.



Temperate forests

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. [Here](#) we find **conifers, but also hardwoods** such as maple and birch. [This type of forest](#) is found in **Europe and North America**. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer [there](#). Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, [both](#) big and small! [They're](#) the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, [we](#) can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,
Jean Bouleau