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EYEWITNESS TRAVEL



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Teaching with Travel

How to use DK EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDES in the classroom and at home to help teens and tweens gain a better understanding of their studies and the world.

The visually striking DK Eyewitness Travel Guides provide a wealth of information about countries, regions, and cities around the world. Their eye-catching pages combine text, photographs, maps, and diagrams to introduce readers to new places, complete with history, geography, and numerous landmarks. Sidebars highlight useful details about people and events, and the text recommends many digital resources for further research. Each book starts with an overview and history, and then explores different geographical areas in a clear progression, wrapping up with practical advice for travelers.

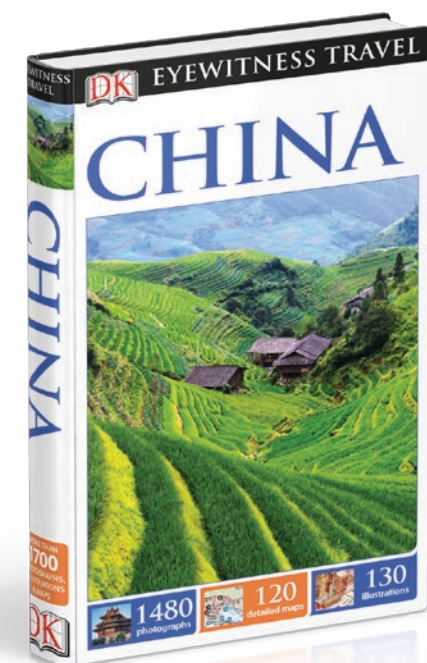
ALIGNED WITH THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS BY KATHLEEN ODEAN, EXPERT IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

The emphasis of the Common Core State Standards on informational text makes this series an excellent fit for classrooms and libraries. The standards require students to evaluate print and visual elements, which the guides offer in abundance. Curricular tie-ins include writing, research, and speaking assignments in geography and history. Students also can use the guides when studying the narrative element of setting for reading and writing fiction. No matter what the curricular area, students will be drawn to the appealing design and easy-to-use format of this stellar series.

EXPOSITORY AND NARRATIVE WRITING (Writing Anchor Standards 1, 2 & 7)

The DK Eyewitness Travel Guides lend themselves to exercises in writing informational text and fiction. The array of topics in each guide can provide ideas for students who are composing essays or writing research papers. Fiction-writing assignments that emphasize setting can start with any city or town in the guides. Fulfilling the Common Core emphasis on close study, students can draw descriptions and visuals from the guides to create a vivid and authentic sense of place in their stories.

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM (History/Social Studies Standards 1, 5 & 7)



Because the guides open with a historical summary and provide details on historical places and events, they serve to supplement classroom history units. For example, students can get a quick overview of China's history in the timelines in *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: China*. The accompanying summary moves from the first settlers to the Cultural Revolution, then on to more current events. In *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Peru*, students will learn fascinating information about historic Machu Picchu through text, photographs, a map, a numbered site plan, and a labeled diagram of the Temple of the Sun. Students also can use the guides to generate lots of ideas for papers and presentations.

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING (Reading Anchor Standards 5 & 9)

The travel guides have a unique structure that was specially created to suit their content. Students can analyze the structure, looking closely at the overall organization and how the parts relate to one another, and assess how the structure enhances use of the

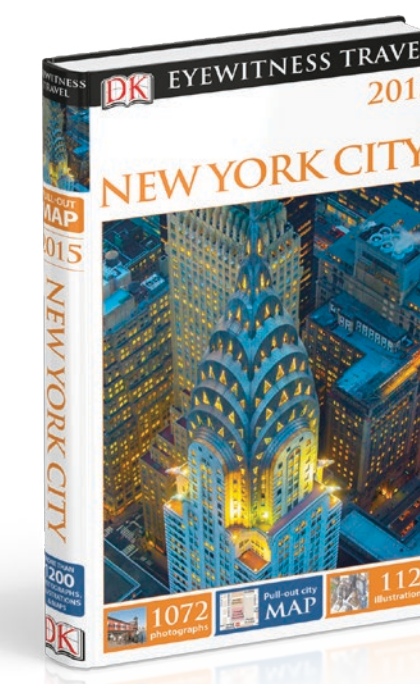
books. Since the books in the series share similar organizations, comparing two guides side-by-side is a good way to highlight the structure and content they share, as well as to highlight their differences. For another exercise in analyzing structure, have students compare a travel guide on a given country with other print sources of information on that country, such as more traditional nonfiction books or magazine articles.

Why Teach with DK Eyewitness Travel Guides?

- Hundreds of full-color photographs showcasing historic architecture and modern life
- Three-dimensional illustrations of significant buildings
- Images of the most important works of art found in major museums
- Concise, trusted information on history, art, and thousands of locations
- Timelines of relevant history and cultural moments
- Maps for countries, regions, cities, and neighborhoods

VISUAL ELEMENTS IN INFORMATIONAL TEXT (Reading Anchor Standard 7)

The Common Core requires students at all levels to “integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.” DK Eyewitness Travel Guides model the effective integration of text, photographs, diagrams, maps, cutaways, floor plans, and more. An assignment based on this standard would have each student take a major city in a country or region guide, or a major urban section in a city guide, and evaluate how the three types of content—verbal, visual, and quantitative—complement and supplement one another in conveying information. What do the photographs provide that text cannot? How do diagrams show details that are otherwise difficult to convey?



THE ELEMENT OF SETTING IN FICTION (Reading Anchor Standards 1 & 3)

The element of setting is central in reading and appreciating fiction. Being able to visualize the setting of a story helps draw readers in and keep them engaged, but students who struggle with reading often have a hard time visualizing the places described. DK Eyewitness Travel Guides provide visual elements that enrich the reading of many novels and plays with historical and contemporary settings. For example, middle school students reading *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg can use *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: New York City* to explore the novel's setting, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, through photographs and floor plans. Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, often taught and performed in high schools, gains a new dimension through the photographs and maps of historic Salem in *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: New England*.

TECHNOLOGY TIE-INS (Reading Anchor Standard 7)

Because of the importance of digital information today, the standards call for students to compare print sources and digital sources of information. The travel guides facilitate this by pointing readers to websites related to the print content. Students reading *Romeo and Juliet*, for example, can consult *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Italy* about the play's setting, Verona. In a sidebar, the guide lists a Verona website that includes a section on the play, allowing students to further explore the setting through digital material that complements the travel guide's overview.

SPEAKING & LISTENING STANDARDS (Speaking & Listening Anchor Standards 1, 4 & 5)

The many alluring destinations in the United States and abroad covered in the DK Eyewitness Travel Guides series can be the basis of multimedia presentations for students to give to their classmates. Have each student choose a city, region, or country and plan a trip using the guide. He or she should create an itinerary as a basis for the talk, including at least two landmarks, such as museums or famous historic buildings. The student can then combine photographs, maps, videos, and music from the Internet for a presentation, answering questions afterward from the class.

