

Grade 5



Evan-Moor®
EMC 6035

Common Core Mastery

Text-Based Writing Nonfiction

Grade **5**

*Correlated to State and
Common Core State Standards*

- 12 units + bonus unit
- Leveled selections:
science, social studies,
health, biography
- Writing prompts include
argument, opinion,
compare & contrast,
cause & effect

FREE
Home-School
Connection
Resources!

Sample Unit

Precious Pearls

Lesson Objectives

Writing

Students use information from the social studies article to write a cause-and-effect essay.

Vocabulary

Students learn content vocabulary words and use those words to write about the causes and effects of the demand for pearls.

Content Knowledge

Students learn how pearls are created, how they are gathered, and why they are so valuable.

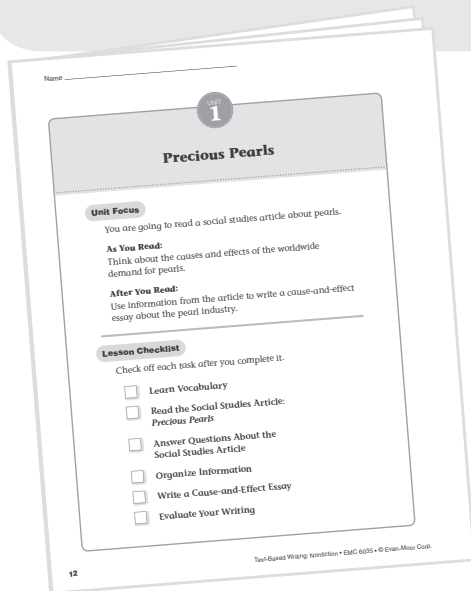
Essential Understanding

Students understand that pearls were and are expensive because they are rare and hard to gather and are used to indicate social status.

Prepare the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student.

LESSON	PAGE
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3 Read the Social Studies Article: <i>Precious Pearls</i>	14
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1 Unit Focus and Lesson Checklist

Distribute one unit to each student and direct students' attention to the Unit Focus and Lesson Checklist. Tell them they will be able to refer to the focus of the unit as needed while working on the lessons. Instruct students to check off each task on the checklist after they complete it.

Read aloud the focus statements, and verify that students understand their purpose for reading. Ask:

- *What are we going to read about?* (pearls)
- *What are you going to learn about them?* (the causes and effects of their worldwide demand)
- *What are you going to write based on this article?* (a cause-and-effect essay)

UNIT
1**Precious Pearls****Unit Focus**

You are going to read a social studies article about pearls.

As You Read:

Think about the causes and effects of the worldwide demand for pearls.

After You Read:

Use information from the article to write a cause-and-effect essay about the pearl industry.

Lesson Checklist

Check off each task after you complete it.

- Learn Vocabulary
- Read the Social Studies Article:
Precious Pearls
- Answer Questions About the
Social Studies Article
- Organize Information
- Write a Cause-and-Effect Essay
- Evaluate Your Writing

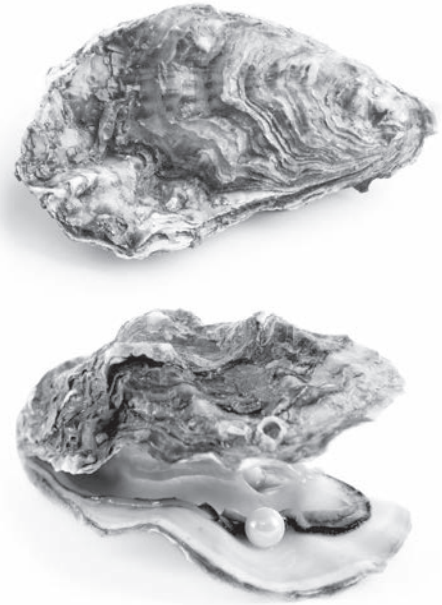
Learn Vocabulary

Read the word and its definition.
Then write the vocabulary word on the line.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------|
| 1. coating | covering completely | _____ |
| 2. culturing | growing in an artificial, or
unnatural, manner | _____ |
| 3. inflatable | able to be filled or blown up with air | _____ |
| 4. irritant | something that causes itching,
swelling, scratching, or discomfort | _____ |
| 5. nobility | people at the highest level of a
social class, such as a queen | _____ |
| 6. pearl farms | underwater areas where businesses
grow and harvest oysters
specifically for pearls | _____ |
| 7. scuba gear | equipment that allows one to
breathe and see clearly underwater | _____ |
| 8. submerged | covered entirely with water;
underwater | _____ |

Precious Pearls

Most pearls are made by oysters that live deep in the world's oceans. The process begins when an irritant, such as a simple piece of sand, enters an oyster's shell. The oyster protects itself by coating the irritant with a shiny mineral. As time passes, more and more layers of this mineral are added to the irritant. Eventually, the irritant becomes a pearl—a natural, shimmering gem that is often worn as jewelry.



Throughout history, pearls have been prized as rare objects of great value and beauty. In many cultures, including those of ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece, pearls were very important. They were desired and worn by the wealthiest people and by nobility. As a result, there was a great demand for pearls. The demand created many jobs for people. Unfortunately, the work was difficult and dangerous.

To find pearls, professional oyster divers would hold their breath and swim to the ocean floor. Diving would continue from sunup to sundown. Because pearls are created from a natural process only if the oyster encounters an irritant, it was impossible for the divers to tell which oysters held the treasured pearls. It was quite possible that out of 2,000 oysters, only one pearl would be found. But that did not slow down the demand for pearls.

As pearls became more and more valuable, the search for them extended across the continents. The job was made a bit easier by the introduction of some very basic equipment. In the Persian Gulf, divers wore nose clips, a stone weight, and cotton suits. Other examples of equipment included bronze helmets and weighted boots. Weights helped divers stay submerged in the water for greater amounts of time, allowing them to gather more oysters on each trip.

Eventually, the supply of natural pearls was greatly reduced, and the demand exceeded the supply. A solution to the problem came about at the end of the 19th century, when a technique for culturing pearls was invented in Japan. People could now copy the oyster's natural process of making a pearl in pearl farms. Professional divers were still needed to collect the pearls, however. Experienced divers quickly moved to live near the farms.

Today, more pearls are being produced than at any time in human history. Modern pearl divers wear inflatable dive vests and breathe with scuba gear. Enormous oyster farms are widespread and are operated all across the world. Some businesses even allow nonprofessional divers to swim in small oyster tanks to see if they can locate one of the precious pearls. With pearls of all shapes, sizes, and colors, today's pearl industry offers great variety and beauty to pearl lovers everywhere.



UNIT
1

Precious Pearls

Answer Questions

Read and answer each question.

1. Pearls are created by multiple layers of ____.
Ⓐ an irritant
Ⓑ a mineral
Ⓒ sand

2. Historically, natural pearls were worn only by ____.
Ⓐ very wealthy people
Ⓑ pearl divers
Ⓒ people from Japan

3. Why were natural pearls so valuable?
Ⓐ They were very popular in ancient Rome.
Ⓑ They were available in many shapes and colors.
Ⓒ They were rare and difficult to gather.

4. Which of these tools is used by modern pearl divers?
Ⓐ bronze helmets
Ⓑ scuba gear
Ⓒ nose clips

5. Why would someone feel it is important to wear pearl jewelry?
List two reasons.

6. How might the pearl industry be different today if Japan had not invented a way to culture pearls?

Organize Information

Read the social studies article again. Then write information in the graphic organizer that tells about the causes and effects of the demand for pearls. Tell how the demand affected or affects people and the pearl industry.

Cause	Effect

Evaluate Your Writing

Read about the cause-and-effect text structure. Then use your essay to complete the activity below.

A text that has a **cause-and-effect** structure tells what happens (effect) and why it happens (cause). It also tells if a cause has multiple effects.

The reason for writing is clear.

My essay described the cause-and-effect relationship(s) between: _____

I used these cause-and-effect signal words:

I provided details that support the topic.

I included these detail sentences:

1. _____

2. _____

My paragraphs have a clear focus.

My first paragraph explains that _____

caused (or causes) _____

My last paragraph summarizes the cause-and-effect relationship(s) with this sentence:
