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81 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking ActivitiesEngaging Activities and Reproducibles to Develop Kids Higher-Level Thinking Skillsby Laurie RozakisSCHOLASTICPROFESSIONALBOOKSNew York T oronto London Aukland Sydney81 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching ResourcesDedicationWith love and thanks, I dedicate this book to all the fine teachers who have enriched my life: Barbara Bengels, Chris LaRosa, Ed Leigh, Jack McGrath, Jim Pepperman, Jennifer Richmond, Elizabeth Simmons, Lenore Strober, and Tom Thibadeau.Scholastic Inc. grants teachers permission to photocopy the activity sheets from this book for classroom use. No other part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Professional Books, 555 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999. Cover design by Jaime Lucero Interior design by Jaime Lucero and Robert Dominguez for Grafica, Inc. Interior illustrations by Maxie Chambliss ISBN: 0-590-37526-1 Copyright 1998 by Laurie Rozakis. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.81 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching ResourcesContentsIntroduction 4 Recognizing and Recalling Activities. 6 Distinguishing and Visualizing Activities 20 Activities for Following Directions and Classifying 36 Sequencing and Predicting Activities 50 Activities for Inferring and Drawing Conclusions. 64 Evaluating Activities 74 Analyzing Activities 88 Synthesizing Activities 102 Answers 11581 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching ResourcesIntroductionToday's students will inherit a complex and rapidly changing world, a world in which they'll be required to absorb new ideas, examine and interpret information, apply knowledge, and solve unconventional problems. To deal with the information explosion of the twenty-first century, students will need to develop systematic ways of thinking and reasoning. Critical-thinking skills will be essential. What is critical thinking? Its the ability to: solve problems make products that are valued in a particular culture be flexible, creative, and original think about thinking locate the appropriate route to a goal capture and transmit knowledge express views and feelings appropriatelyEffective critical thinkers use one or more of the seven multiple intelligences identified by Dr. Howard Gardner:1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. verbal/linguistic logical/mathematical visual/spatial bodily/kinesthetic musical/rhythmic interpersonal (the ability to work cooperatively in a group) intrapersonal (self-identity)Research indicates that critical thinking is neither inborn nor naturally acquired. In fact, fewer than half the adults in America today have the ability to reflect upon their thinking and explain how they solved a problem. Fortunately, critical thinking can be taught and learned. This book, and its companion volume for younger grades, will help you teach students to reflect upon their own thinking processes and become more successful, active learners. Both professional educators and parents can use this book to help children learn to think critically. In our daily lives, we use many critical-thinking skills simultaneouslyand not in any prescribed order. For the purposes of this book, however, the criticalthinking activities are arranged in a hierarchy, beginning with the skills of481 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching Resourcesrecognition and recall and working up to the more advanced skills of analysis and synthesis. This arrangement will help you and your students more clearly understand and identify the specific critical-thinking skills they are using. For each thinking skill in this book, there are two kinds of activities: (1) those that you, as the teacher, will lead, and (2) student reproducibles for independent work. On the introductory pages for each section of the book, you'll find ideas for introducing and using the student reproducibles. You can use the Try This! activity at the bottom of each reproducible as an extension of the lesson, a challenge activity, or a homework assignment. Here are some ways you can use the lessons to help students become more effective thinkers:1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. Read each activity aloud or have a child read it aloud to the rest of the group. Allow children ample time to think and respond. Ask students questions to assess their understanding of the problem. Welcome different strategies for solving the problem. Encourage divergent thinking. Observe children as they work in order monitor their problem-solving skills. Give helpful hints to those children who are having difficulty finding ways to approach the problem. Guide children to link the problem to others they have already solved. Encourage children to check their work. Help children explore their thinking and identify the strategies that workedand those that didnt. Invite students to share their results.Since critical thinking doesnt end when an individual project does, you will want to give students sufficient time to evaluate their thinking strategies. Guide students to formulate ways they might adjust their critical-thinking strategies with the next problems they solve. Finally, model critical thinking for students by sharing your own problem-solving strategies and accepting unusual and unexpected strategies and solutions. Your participation as an active learner will further reinforce the critical-thinking skills you teach. Above all, encourage your students to see themselves as thinkers.581 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching ResourcesRecognizing and Recalling ActivitiesTo begin thinking critically, students must first learn to recognize and recall key information. These skills are important for the mastery of higher-level skills such as classification, inferring, and analyzing. The activities in this section will help students tap their prior knowledge to identify and remember key facts. You can present each of the following activities as a complete lesson or integrate the activities into lessons in different curriculum areas. The section begins with the easier activities and concludes with more difficult ones. Instructions for teacher-led activities appear on the same page as the activity. Use the teacher notes that follow for the student reproducibles.Cross-Curricular LinksActivity Time Capsule Mind Squeeze Trivia Trackdown Wordplay Making a Menu Recycled Words What Am I? Arctic Facts Antarctic Facts Whats Up & Whats Down? Transformations Page 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 1718 19 Content Area language arts language arts math, science/social studies language arts science/health language arts language arts/science/social studies science/social studies science/social studies science/social studies mathematicsTeacher Notes for Student ReproduciblesPage 9: Mind Squeeze This activity tests students observation and memory skills. After the class completes the reproducible, discuss various strategies that students used to recall the items on the page. For example, they might have memorized them in rows or columns; they might have classified them into groups. Page 10: Trivia Trackdown Trivia Trackdown is a great way to sharpen students recognition and recalling skills. You might begin by having students complete this page independently or with a partner. Then have the class research general information on science,681 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching Resourcesart, music, literature, sports, geography, history, and other subjects. Students can write questions on index cards with the answers on the back. Collect the cards and divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up on different sides of the room and take turns answering the questions as you call them out. Award points for correctly answered questions. Page 11: Wordplay Before students begin this page, you might want to review the parts of speech noun, pronouns and verbssentential to a sentence. Invite students to read their word lists and paragraphs aloud to the class. Page 12: Making a Menu You may wish to have students work with partners to complete this page. Encourage the teams to share their menus with the class. Page 13: Recycled Words Before assigning this page, review what students know about open and closed compound words. Point out that compound words can also be proper nouns. Page 14: What Am I? After students complete the page, work with the class to come up with more definitions for other words beginning with h. Students might also enjoy acting out some of their definitions. Page 15: Arctic Facts This page helps students recognize, recall, and organize facts. It also gives them practice in extrapolating important information from a passage. Encourage students to paraphrase the information they include in the web. Page 16: Antarctic Facts This page is similar to page 15. Completing the web will help students recognize, recall, and organiPage 281 Fresh & FunCritical-ThinkingActivitiesEngaging Activities and Reproducibles to Develop Kids Higher-Level Thinking Skillsby Laurie RozakisC H O I A S T I CPROFESSIONAL BOOKSNew York Toronto London Aukland Sydney81 Fresh & Fun Critical-Thinking Activities Laurie Rozakis, Scholastic Teaching ResourcesDedicationWith love and thanks, I dedicate this book to all the fine teachers who haveenriched my life: Barbara Bengels, Chris LaRosa, Ed Leigh, Jack McGrath,Jim Pepperman, Jennifer Richmond, Elizabeth Simmons, Lenore Strober,and Tom Thibadeau.Scholastic Inc. grants teachers permission to photocopy the activity sheets from this book for class-room use. No other part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, without written permission of the pub-lisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Professional Books, 555 Broadway,New York, NY 10012-3999.Cover design by Jaime Lucero Interior design by Jaime Lucero and Robert Dominguez for Grafica, Inc.Interior illustrations by Maxie ChamblissISBN: 0-590-37526-1Copyright 1998 by Laurie Rozakis. All rights reserved. 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