# Creating Text Sets

**What is a text set?**

A text set is a collection of related texts organized around a topic, theme, or line of inquiry. Text sets are related texts from different genres and media, such as books, charts, maps, informational pamphlets, poetry, videos, etc.

The purpose of study for a given text set is determined by an anchor text. An anchor text is a complex read aloud text that introduces the themes and major concepts that will be explored through the text set. The anchor text is often read aloud to students more than once.

The number of texts in a set can vary depending on purpose and resource availability. What is important is that the texts in the set are connected meaningfully to each other, build knowledge and vocabulary of a specific topic, and that themes and concepts are sufficiently developed in a way that promotes sustained interest for students and the deep examination of content.

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| **Step One** | |
| *Identify the Anchor Text and Formulate a Line of Inquiry for the Set* | The first step is to identify an anchor text and formulate an overall line of inquiry for the set. This can happen in either order. An educator may first identify an anchor text, from which they formulate a line of inquiry for the set OR an educator may choose to first identify a topic for a unit of study and then seek out an anchor text around which to build the set. The most important part of this step is that the anchor text be a grade-level complex text that meets the complexity demands of the Standards and is worthy of the time and attention of students. Without a rich anchor text, it is impossible to create a worthwhile text set. |
| **Step Two** | |
| *Step Two: Use Databases to Research Texts around the Topic* | Once you have identified the anchor text and line of inquiry for your set, you can use a variety of databases to search for texts. Sometimes you will need to adjust your search terms to find a range of texts on a topic. Several databases allow you to organize texts according to quantitative measure (<http://www.lexile.com/fab/>). |
| **Step Three** | |
| *Step Three: Evaluate Texts for Inclusion in the Set* | * Does the text contribute to the students building a body of knowledge connected meaningfully to the anchor text? * Is the text worthy of student time and attention? * Does the text contribute to a range and balance of text types and formats in the overall set? * Does the text contain new information that students likely don’t already know? * Does the text build background knowledge that will help students comprehend later texts and experiences? * Does the text contain information that is useful in the real world? * Does the text contain information that is relevant to students’ needs or interests? Does it help them answer questions or solve problems? * Does the text contain information that helps students connect their own experiences and situations to others and to the broader world? * Is the content of the text authentic and does it lend itself to further research, exploration, and inquiry? |

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| **Step Four** | |
| *Step Four: Refine, Finalize, and Produce Text Set* | Continue to refine your selections until you are satisfied that you have a range and balance of texts that support student engagement with the line of inquiry. Then, finalize your selections and document the text set for use in your instructional unit and to share with other educators. In documenting your set, we recommend including the title, author, quantitative measure, source, text type, and brief summary/justification for including the text in the set. |

- List borrowed and modified from three sources: *Guide to Creating Text Sets,* retrieved from [www.ccsso.org;](http://www.ccsso.org/) *The importance of content rich texts to learners and students*, retrieved from Oxford University Press English Language Teaching Global Blog; and *Informational Text and Young Children: When, Why, What, Where, and How* by Dr. Nell K.

Duke

# Blank Text Set EQ: How ondare Humans responsible for their environment?

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| **Text Set Title: Saving Earth’s Natural Beauty: Taking Action** | | |
| **Text Set Grade Placement:6** | | |
| **Enduring Understandings** | | |
| Importance of conservation and minimizing pollution to help protect our planet Earth. | | |
| **Text and Resources**  (Indicate in what order the supporting works are to be introduced and taught.) | | |
| **Anchor Text** | **Title: Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect our Planet**  **Author:** | |
| **Supporting Works** | **Book(s)**  1. The Lorax- Dr. Seuss Lexile 560  2. What Planet Are You From? -Clarice Bean Lexile1000  3. Energy Island- Allan Drummond Lexile 920  4. Seven Wonders Everyday Things for a Healthier Environment- NF  John C. Ryan  5. Just a Dream- Chris Van Allsburg  6. Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things- John C. Ryan & Alan Thien  Durning NF  **Article(s)**  1. “On My Honor, I Will Try to Save Energy-Girl Scouts Can – Newsela 930 Lexile  2. History of Earth Day 800 Lexile  **Poem(s)**  3. The Third Planet- Naqiya Shehabi  4. Warned- Sylvia Stults  **Infographic(s)**  5. Pollution charts/graphs  6.Conservation charts/graphs  **Other Media**  7. Movie- The Lorax  8. Powerpoint- Water Pollution and Acid Rain  9. DVD- Doing the 4 Rs- Stop Waste, Alameda Co. CA  10. DVD- The Cost of Cool DVD-Michael Tobias  **Supporting Works will be introduced/taught in the following order:**  **Teacher Tube: Conserving Water**  **Conserving Energy From Home** | |
| **Standards** | 6.ESS3 Earth and Human Activity  Assess the impacts of human activities on the biosphere. | |
| **Knowledge** | | **Skills** |
| Understanding everyday issues effecting the environment. | | Identify how humans are responsible for our environment. |
|  | | Discuss ways to help solve conservations and pollution problems. |
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| **Rich, Authentic Task** | | |
| After researching, students will work in groups to create an action plan on how to better help their environment focusing on conservation and solutions for pollution. Plans will be shared with the class and voted on. Students will work together to implement the action plan as a class. The continuation of this activity will be to assess the effectiveness of the plan at a later date and report the results. | | |