# 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

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| **Text Set Title: Periodic Table** | | |
| **Text Set Grade Placement: 9-12** | | |
| **Enduring Understandings** | | |
| The development and revision of the periodic table forms the basis of chemical reactions. | | |
| **Text and Resources**  (Indicate in what order the supporting works are to be introduced and taught.) | | |
| **Anchor Text** | **Title: Chemistry Chapter 6**  **Author:Wilbraham, Staley, Matta, Waterman** | |
| **Supporting Works** | **Book(s)**  1. Chemistry For Dummies Chapter 4 , John T. Moore  2.  **Article(s)**  3. Newsela-Inventors and Scientist: Dimitri Mendeleev  4.Newsela-Science is Putting the Squeeze on Hydrogen  **Poem(s)**  1.  2.  **Infographic(s)**  3. Intro To Chemistry Coloring Workbook-Amazon  4.  **Other Media**  5.ChemMatters-The Four “New” Elements and How We Got Them-Speaking of Chemistry  6.Newsela-Jets shooting out of a blackhole have Ni and Fe  **Supporting Works will be introduced/taught in the following order:**  **Anchor, 3, 1,4,5,6,Coloring/Workbook** | |
| **Standards** | Chem 1.PS1.12 Explain the origin and organization of the Periodic Table. | |
| **Knowledge** | | **Skills** |
| Chemical and Physical Properties | | Periodic trend predictions |
|  | | Reactivity predictions |
|  | | Drawing Lewis Dot Structures |
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| **Rich, Authentic Task** | | |
| 1)Students will interact with various elements and look at the organization of the periodic table using Ward’s Chemical Elements for Observation.  2)Students will look for patterns as experiments are conducted and deepen understanding of the periodic table’s organization using Wards’s Element Groups experiment.  3)Students will use the Intro to Chemistry Coloring Workbook to reinforce concepts and gain extra practice if needed. | | |