

Just a Second

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Time, Measurement, Inventions

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: What can happen in a second?
A minute? An hour? Discover new and exciting ways to think about time.

Author and

Illustrator:

Steve Jenkins

Content

Connections: Math, Science



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Show students the front cover and ask them about the title. What

does the term “just a second” mean? What does it mean *literally*?

The Pictures: Briefly flip through the pictures and explain that this text is full of facts that will help students understand different ways to measure time.

Prior Knowledge: What do you already know about a second? A minute, a day, a week, a month? Why do we divide time this way? Explain that our units of measurement are taken from a variety of different peoples throughout time. Some are *arbitrary* (like 60 minutes in an hour), while others (like months) are based on natural cycles.

Vocabulary: cycle, interval, Babylonian, Egyptians, circuit

Purpose for Reading: “We will stop after each unit of time to synthesize the information. Before we read each section, think about what you already know. As we read, think about how the new information is changing what you know or adding to it.”



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What is the oldest measure of time?
- ◆ What does the term “natural cycle” mean?
- ◆ Which fact is most surprising to you?

- ◆ How do you think the Babylonians came up with the idea of time?
- ◆ How is time related to the earth? The sun? The moon?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: “How did your thinking change throughout the text? Did you learn anything that changed how you think about time?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: “How is time related to measurement?” “How would life be different if we had no way to measure time?” “Name some everyday events that take a second, minute, or hour.”

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.



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