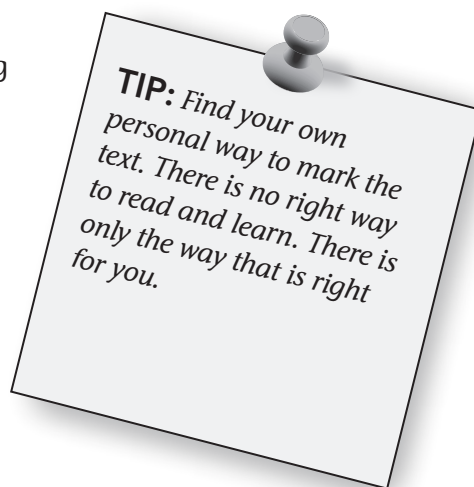


Reading Strategy: Mark the Text

Whenever you have a text that is really yours (and not a library book or a book you borrowed from a friend), marking the text is a great way to check your understanding as you read. Marking the text is a study strategy that the best readers use.



Different Ways People Mark a Text

- Underline to help remember something
- Draw pictures or diagrams in the margin to check understanding
- Flag something as important
- Write questions to ask the teacher or the class

Marking the text is personal. Here is how two students marked the same text. Discuss with a partner the pros and cons of each. Then discuss how you would mark it.

Refraction

Light travels in straight lines if the medium it travels through does not change. If a light enters a medium, it might slow down or speed up, because the speed of light is different for different mediums. If light enters the medium perpendicular to the boundary, it will keep moving in the same direction. But if it hits the boundary at an angle, it will also bend. This bending of light waves due to a change in speed is known as **refraction**.

Huh??

OK, like looking sideways at a straw in a glass of water.
Looks like straw bends.

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Speed different, depending upon what it is moving through

Coming straight, goes straight.
At an angle, bends. Makes sense!

Mark the Text *(continued)*

Sometimes people like to invent their own symbols. Some ideas are at the right. You may want to invent ones of your own.

✓	Right, makes sense
?	Huh? I don't get it.
☆	Important!

TRY THIS

1. Here is a set of laboratory directions. Mark it so that you will know what materials to collect.

Tape four paper towel sheets on your work table. Obtain a flower from your teacher. Use a ruler to measure it, and record your findings in a table your teacher has prepared for you. Use a scalpel to carefully cut off the sepals. Once you have recorded your observations of the petals, use a scalpel to cut the stamens away.

Obtain a clean slide and a coverslip. Gently tap some pollen onto a slide. Observe the pollen under a microscope.

2. Below is a text from an information sheet about the ages of rocks. Suppose that once you have read it there will be a class discussion. Keep that in mind as you mark the text. If you have questions, write them down in your notes.

Danish geologist Nicolaus Steno (1638–1686) developed the law of superposition in the 1600's. On a trip to the Mediterranean island of Malta, he noticed that the “tongues of stone” sold there as good-luck charms were actually fossilized teeth from the island's rock layers. Steno hypothesized that the island had once been under water and that the rock layers had been laid down in succession. He concluded that the deepest rocks were the oldest, thus “demonstrating” Steno's law, or the law of superposition.

3. Find a section of your text and mark it so that you can easily find the important facts when you return to it later to study.