



Social Studies Exemplary Text Student Handout

Low fences, some of which are thousands of years old, divide much of England's countryside. These fences, called hedgerows, were first built by the Anglo-Saxons, a group of warriors from Germany and Scandinavia who arrived in England around 410 A.D. As they gained control of sections of land, they protected their property with walls made from wooden stakes and spiny plants. Dead hedgerows, as these fences were called, were eventually replaced by fences made from live bushes and trees.

Recently, people building large farms and homes in the countryside have destroyed many live hedgerows. Other people are working to save the hedgerows, which are home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, hedgehogs, and hares.

Banting, Erinn. (2004). "Living Fences." *England the Land*. New York: Crabtree.

This is an example of exemplary text found in *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects: Appendix B Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*. Retrieved from http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Social Studies Exemplary Text Teacher Resource

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EFL 3
Word Count 116

Teacher introduces the text with minimal commentary and students read it independently. Teacher then reads passage aloud. Give a brief definition to words students would likely not be able to define from context (underlined in text). Teacher guides the students through a series of text-dependent questions. Complete the performance task as a cumulative evaluation of the close-reading.

Text-Dependent Questions

1. Describe hedgerows in your own words.
2. Who were the Anglo-Saxons?
3. What was happening during the time period described in the text (410 A.D.)?
4. Give an example of what the fences have been made out of.
5. Why are people working to save hedgerows?

Performance Tasks for Informational Texts

What purposes might the hedgerows have served? Infer from the text. [RI.5.1]

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