

1 Skim Ahead

5.6 a, f 5.7 b

When you go to a new place, you look around. You look for the important things. If you went to the zoo, you would notice which animals were there. You probably would not notice the color of the zookeeper’s shirt.

The “big picture” is more helpful at first than little details. It is the same with reading something for the first time. **Skim ahead** to get an idea of what you’re about to read.

Skim All reading has a purpose. Ask yourself *why* you are reading. Are you trying to learn something? To be entertained? To answer questions? Keep your goal in mind so that you can keep trying to reach it.

The *callout boxes* explained *what key information* these features show.

When you looked at “Introducing... Stamps!” on the previous page, you couldn’t just start reading. Most of the words were nonsense. The words you could read called for attention in different ways. They were given special treatment because they help organize and highlight important information.

There are many other common organizers. For example:

- The **table of contents** shows how the material is divided into sections.
- The **glossary** defines important words and concepts.
- The **index** helps you locate key topics.
- **Footnotes** tell you more about part of the text, like where it came from.
- **Keys or legends** show how to interpret maps and charts.



Connections Websites on the Internet also need to organize and highlight important information. Can you think of some of the ways that websites help the reader quickly understand things and get around the site? Write your answer on the lines below.

Skim To get ready to read for a test or for homework, don't just skim the reading passage. Check out the questions, too! Note what the questions ask about so that you know what to look for as you read.

Example

Skim Ahead through "Introducing... Stamps!" on page 8. Look at the title, headings, picture, caption, and any highlighted words. Then come back and use what you skimmed to answer the question below.

The passage is mainly about—

- (A) the first U.S. stamps, which were successful.
- (B) how to start a stamp collection.
- (C) Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.
- (D) what mint condition means.

D I S C U S S	<p>(A) This choice puts together the headings for each section of the passage. The title and caption also support this idea.</p> <p>(B) Stamp collecting is mentioned in the passage. But it is not given any special treatment.</p>	<p>(C) Franklin and Washington are in the pictures, but the caption focuses first on the stamps, not the people.</p> <p>(D) <u>Mint condition</u> is an important term, but it is only mentioned at the end of the passage.</p>
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Example

Skim Ahead through "Introducing... Stamps!" on page 8. Look at the title, headings, picture, caption, and any highlighted words. Then come back and use what you skimmed to answer the question below.

What is the MOST important thing about the stamps pictured in the passage?

- (A) They show famous people from U.S. history.
- (B) They are not worth enough to mail a letter now.
- (C) They were the first U.S. stamps.
- (D) They look almost like money.

D I S C U S S	<p>(A) Franklin and Washington are famous, but the passage does not seem to be about them.</p> <p>(B) 5 cents and 10 cents are not enough to mail a letter now, but is that really important?</p>	<p>(C) The caption says that these were the first 5- and 10-cent stamps. Since the passage is about the first stamps, that seems important.</p> <p>(D) This might be true, but it does not seem to be mentioned in any of the places you skimmed.</p>
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