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KINDS OF
NONFICTION

ACTIVE

Highly interactive and/or teaches skills for engaging in activity

How-to guides, field guides, cookbooks, craft books

Clear, straightforward language

Expository writing style

Best used for: Engaging in an activity or learning a new skill; perfect for makerspaces

BROWSEABLE

Eye-catching design, lavishly illustrated

Short blocks of straightforward text

Can be read cover to cover or by skipping around

Great for shared reading

Expository writing style

Description text structure

Best used for: Engaging readers quickly by offering interesting or unusual facts; text features make it easy to find specific information; the emphasis is on the book's design and visuals; use later in the research process to add interesting detail

TRADITIONAL

Survey (all about) books

Overview of a topic

Often part of a large series

Clear, straightforward language

Expository writing style

Description text structure

Best used for: An overview or introduction to a topic, use early in the research process to build understanding



NARRATIVE

Narrative writing style

Tells a story or conveys an experience

Real characters, scenes, dialog, narrative arc

Strong voice and rich, engaging language

Chronological sequence structure

Books about people (biographies), events, or processes

Best used for: Understanding a past time or place, a person, or a process; nonfiction read alouds

EXPOSITORY LITERATURE

Focused topics presented creatively

Strong voice and rich, engaging language

Innovative format

Carefully chosen text structure

Expository writing style

Books about specialized ideas, such as STEM concepts

Best used for: Providing more depth or interesting perspective, ideal mentor texts for writing workshops, nonfiction read alouds

What will you read next?

