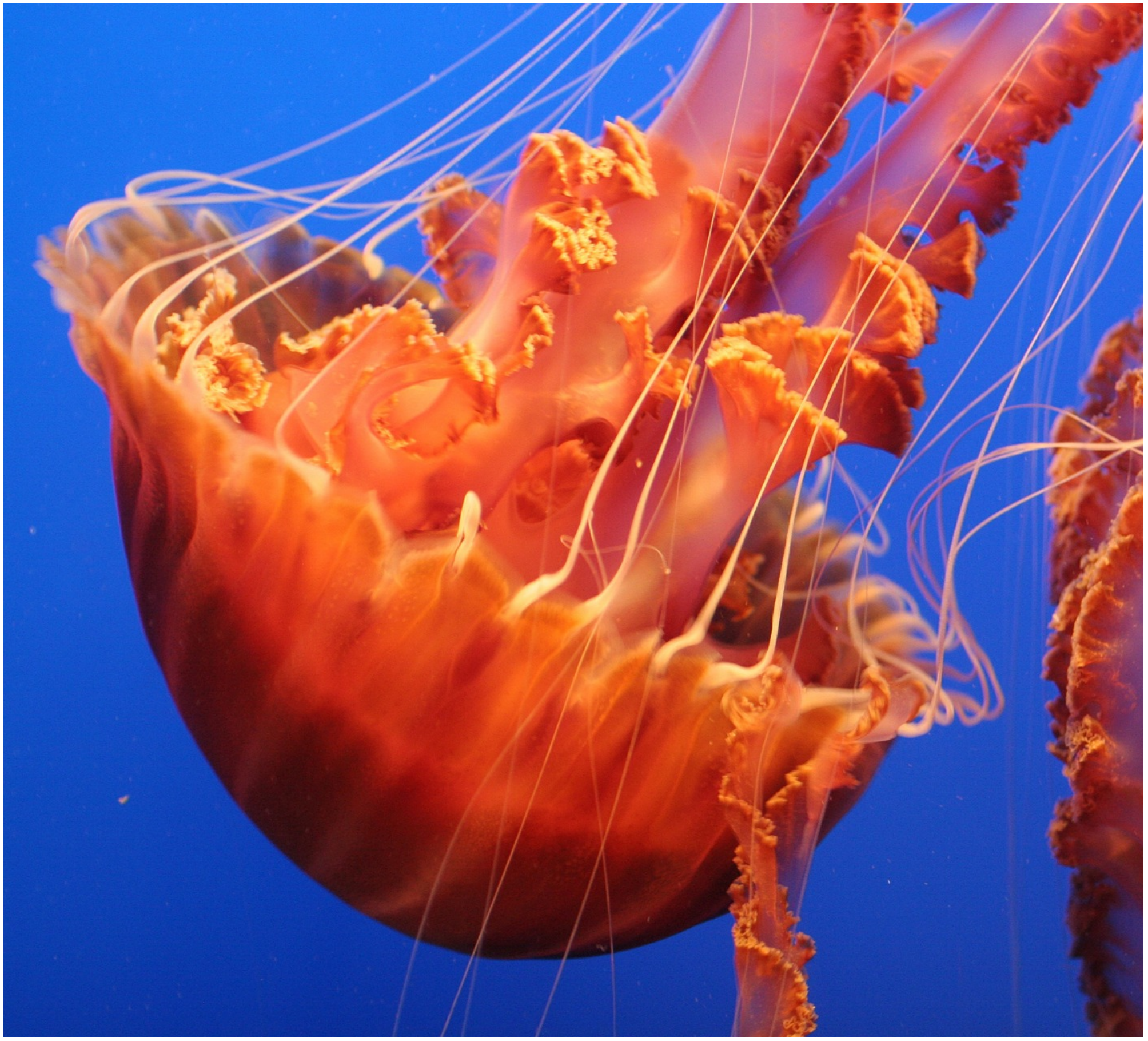


Jellyfish

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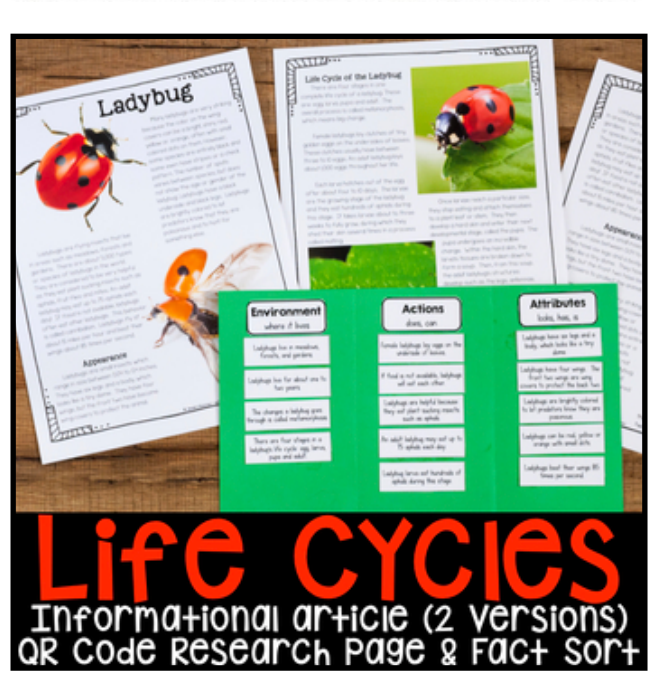
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LINK TO ACCESS DIGITAL VERSION

More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.







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Teacher Notes

The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

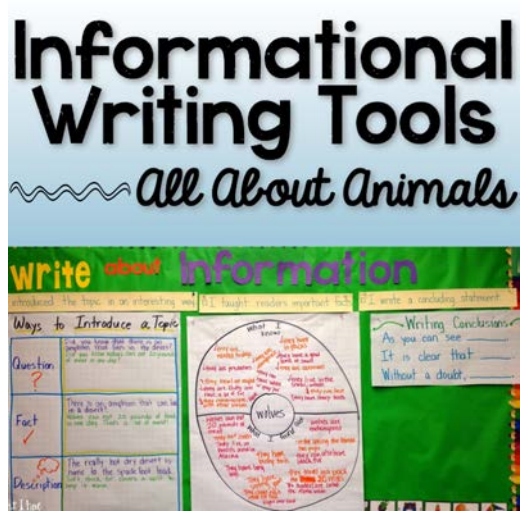
The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube. There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

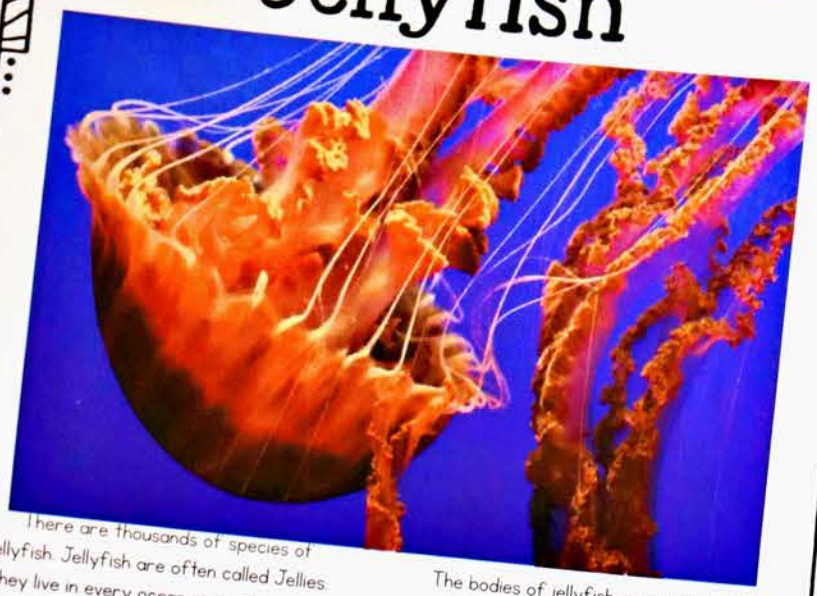
The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.





Jellyfish



There are thousands of species of jellyfish. Jellyfish are often called Jellies. They live in every ocean around the world. Despite their name, jellyfish aren't fish. They are plankton like the microscopic plants and animals that float in the oceans. They are related to coral, sea anemones, and the Portuguese Man-of-War.

The bodies of jellyfish are usually bell or cup-shaped. Their mouths are the center of their bodies. Jellies can be smaller than an inch or as long as seven feet. They have several tentacles that hang from their main body. Some jellies have tentacles that are over 100 feet long!

Appearance

Jellyfish are 95%-98% water. They have simple bodies without brains, hearts, or eyes. Jellies are also invertebrates, which means they don't have bones. They have simple nervous systems to see light or smell food and danger. Nerves at the base of their tentacles can sense food or danger nearby.

Diet and Feeding

Jellyfish are mostly carnivores, which means they eat other animals. Smaller ones eat algae and other plankton, and larger ones eat shellfish and other fish. The tentacles of jellyfish sting their prey and bring it to their mouth. Jellyfish digest their prey quickly and get rid of the waste.

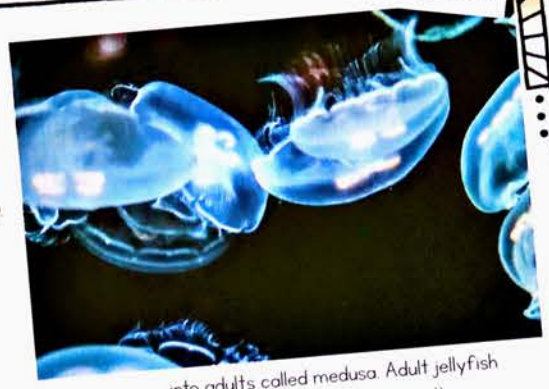
Websites

Videos

Jellyfish



Jellyfish tentacles are covered in stinging cells that contain venom. The venom's power varies by species. Most jellyfish stings are harmless to people, but some can be deadly. Jellyfish use their sting to defend themselves, too.



Offspring

A female jellyfish can produce dozens of larvae at one time. After the larvae hatch from their eggs, they float away with the ocean current and look for a place to attach, like a rock. When they attach to the rock, they become polyps. Polyps are soft-bodied animal in the shape of a hollow cylinder with tentacles on top. The polyps grow into young jellyfish called ephyrae. The ephyrae float away after a few weeks and grow into adults called medusa. Adult jellyfish usually live for three to six months.

Predators and Threats

Jellyfish have many natural predators, including sharks, tuna, penguins, and other jellyfish. The Freshwater Jelly is endangered because of pollution of its river homes. However, most jellyfish are not threatened. Instead, numbers are increasing because of climate change. Their rising numbers are harming the ecosystems they live. Too many jellyfish means less oxygen for other life. Jellyfish are too many and threaten populations



Text in Two Formats & QR Codes for Internet Research



venom

a poisonous substance injected by animals

Jellyfish Vocabulary

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Name

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

Non-Examples

species

Jellyfish Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.



invertebrate

a cold-blooded animal without a backbone



carnivore

an animal that eats other animals



species

types of a specific animal

plankton

Vocabulary Cards & Activities

Name: _____

Jellyfish Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

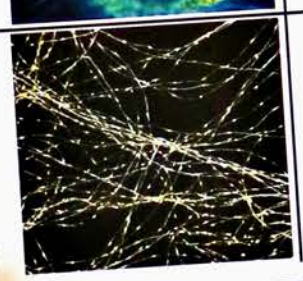
Picture	Word	Definition
	carnivore	
	larvae	
	venom	a poisonous substance injected by animals
		

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Name: _____

Jellyfish Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		small and microscopic animals drifting or floating in the water
		

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polyp

types of a specific animal

soft-bodied animal in the shape of a hollow cylinder with tentacles on top

Jellyfish Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

species	plankton	an animal that eats other animals	whitish fiber that transmits messages to the brain and from the brain to muscles
invertebrate	nerves	a cold-blooded animal without a backbone	a young form of an animal that changes dramatically

Vocabulary Activities

Fact Sort

Sort the facts into categories.

Name: _____

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
They have several tentacles that hang from their main body.	A female jellyfish can produce dozens of larvae at one time.	They live in every ocean around the world.
Jellies are also invertebrates, which means they don't have bones.	Nerves at the base of their tentacles can sense food or danger nearby.	

Jellyfish have many natural predators, including sharks, tuna, penguins, and other jellyfish.

They are plankton like the microscopic plants and animals that float in the oceans.

Adult jellyfish usually live for three to six months.

Jellyfish are 95%-98% water.

The tentacles of jellyfish sting their prey and bring it to their mouth.

The polyps grow into young jellyfish then float away after a few weeks and grow into adults.

Despite their name, jellyfish aren't fish.

They have simple bodies without brains, hearts, or eyes.

Jellyfish use their sting to defend themselves, too.

When they attach to the rock, they become polyps.

Jellyfish are often called Jellies.

There are thousands of species of jellyfish.

Jellyfish digest their prey quickly and get rid of the waste.

Jellyfish are mostly carnivores, which means they eat other animals.

They have simple nervous systems to see light or smell food and danger.

The bodies of jellyfish are usually bell or cup-shaped.

After the larvae hatch from their eggs, they float away with the ocean current and look for a place to attach, like a rock.

Jellyfish tentacles are covered in stinging cells that contain venom.

Their mouths are the center of their bodies.

Fact Sort for Organizing Writing

Note Taking Sheet

Name

What makes the jellyfish unique?

Describe a jellyfish's habitat.

Write three facts about the j

Fact

Describe ho

What I Remember About the Jellyfish

Name: _____

1. What does a jellyfish look like?

2. Describe a jellyfish's habitat.

3. What and how does a jellyfish eat?

4. Describe how jellyfish make new jellyfish.

Jellyfish Note Taking Sheet

Name: _____

Appearance

Habitat

& Feeding

Three Other Facts

Jellyfish Cloze Read

Name: _____

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

invertebrates	carnivores	tentacles	nervous
larvae	simple	polyps	plankton

There are thousands of species of jellyfish. They live in every ocean around the world. Despite their name, jellyfish aren't fish. They ar

like the microscopic plants and animals that float in th

Jellyfish are 95%-98% water. They have _____

brains, hearts, or eyes. Jellies are also _____

have bones. They have simple _____

food and danger. Nerves at the base of their tentacl

nearby.

Jellyfish are mostly _____, wh

The tentacles of jellyfish stir

their prey quickly. Jellyfis

that contain venom. Jelly

A female jellyfish

After the larvae ha

look for a place to

_____

a few weeks

Jellyfis

jellyfish.

Compare It

Name: _____

Choose another animal and compare the jellyfish to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?

Jellyfish

same

Other Animal

Habitat

Appearance

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

What questions do you still have about the jellyfish? Write them in the bubbles.

How can you find the answers to your questions?

Comprehension Activities

THANK YOU

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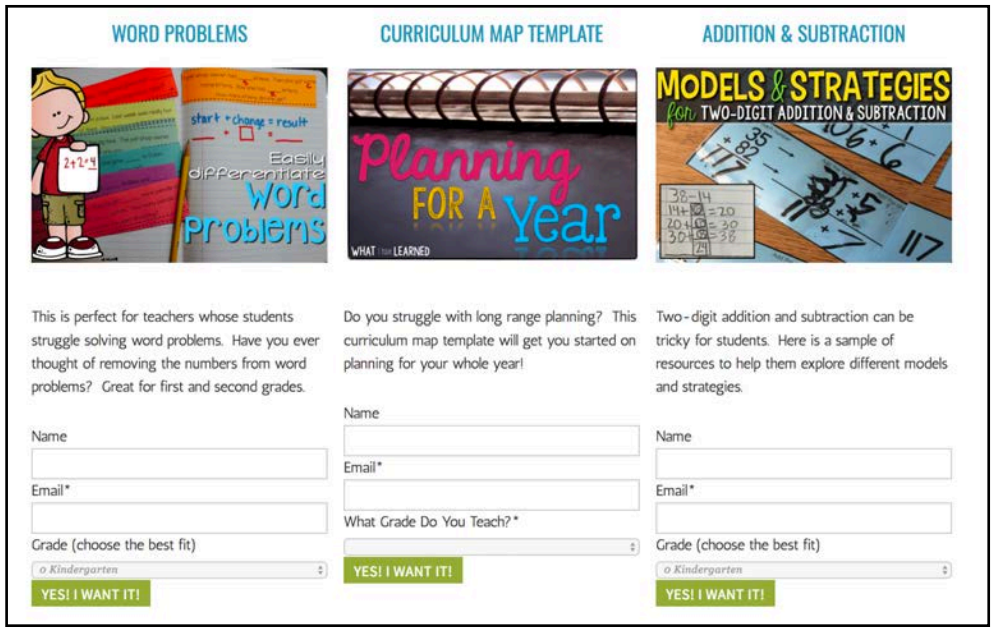
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