

# RI.6.8 EVALUATE CLAIMS & ARGUMENT

## Nonfiction Article & Activities #6-15



In December of 2017, the United States government revealed that it had funded a secret investigation into unidentified flying objects (UFOs) from 2007 to 2012. The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was a \$22 million dollar program. It was not the first of its kind, though. In 1948, the government had also funded a UFO investigation called Project Sign.

Why would the U.S. government spend such a large amount of money to this type of research? Is there reason to believe that extraterrestrial UFOs are out there? Are we not alone? How are they flying are actual

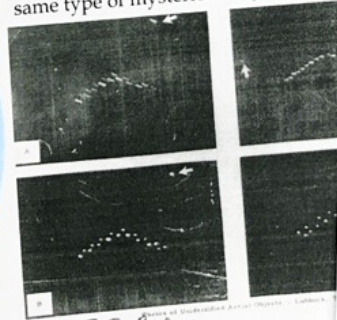
NONFICTION  
ARTICLE  
OF THE WEEK  
CLUB 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

The initial

Ruppelt. The investigators claimed there were no UFOs and explained the lights as birds reflecting the light of the street lamps. Witnesses claimed that the objects were flying too fast to be birds. Later, in "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects," Captain Ruppelt said, "They weren't birds, they weren't refracted light, but they weren't spaceships." So, the mystery remains.

### Belgium (1989-90)

On November 29, 1989, several group police officers in different locations claim they saw and followed a large triangular object with orange, pulsating headlight. Over the next few months, hundreds of Belgian citizens claimed they had seen same type of mysterious object. One r



Photographs taken of the lights over Lubbock, Texas. Project Blue Book.

able to locate an object in an area of a sighting, but it could not determine the type of aircraft. Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object. The aircraft was tracked at varying altitudes as the pilots chased it. Suddenly and quickly, it darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound, a speed that a human pilot could not survive.

Skeptics claim that the large number of UFO sightings in this case is due to widespread rumors of the UFOs existence. They believe many people may have claimed they saw something they did not. The man who took the photograph came forward in 2011 and admitted that it was a hoax. He had created a replica of what was described to stage the photos. Many who saw the UFO, however, claimed to be certain that what they saw v



Patrick Murec had created the



### California Coast (2004)

On November 14, 2004, U.S. Commander David Fravor and were flying off the coast of San California. An order came in to unidentified flying object. The tracking a couple dozen of their weeks. They would reach 80,000

### Nonfiction Article of the Week 6-15: UFOs

A. Analyze Arguments Using R  
Read each claim in the left column. Draw a line to that best supports it.

Claim

Even very educated, credible citizens have strong beliefs that they have seen and studied UFOs.

I'm LOVIN' LIT

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## Activities, Difficulty Levels, and Common Core Alignment

**List of Activities & Standards**      **Difficulty Level:** \*Easy \*\*Moderate \*\*\*Challenge

Activity 1: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Multiple Choice*	RI.6.1
Activity 2: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Open-Ended Questions*	RI.6.1
Activity 3: Text Evidence Activity w/ Annotation Guide for Article**	RI.6.1
Activity 4: Text Evidence Activity w/ Answer Bank**	RI.6.1
Activity 5: Skill Focus - RI.6.8 Evaluate Claims and Arguments***	RI.6.8
Activity 6: Integrate Sources - CNN Interview Video & Questions	RI.6.9
Activity 7: Skills Test Regular w/Key**	RI.6.1, RI.6.8, RI.6.2
Activity 8: Skills Test *Modified w/Key**	RI.6.1, RI.6.8, RI.6.2

## Activities, Difficulty Levels, and TEKS Alignment

**List of Activities & Standards**      **Difficulty Level:** \*Easy \*\*Moderate \*\*\*Challenge

Activity 1: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Multiple Choice*	ELAR.5(F) 6(C)
Activity 2: Basic Comprehension Quiz/Check - Open-Ended Questions*	ELAR.5(F) 6(C)
Activity 3: Text Evidence Activity w/ Annotation Guide for Article**	ELAR.5(F), 6(C)(E)
Activity 4: Text Evidence Activity w/ Answer Bank**	ELAR.5(F), 6(C)(E)
Activity 5: Skill Focus - RI.6.8 Evaluate Claims and Arguments***	ELAR.5(C), 8(D), 9BC
Activity 6: Integrate Sources - CNN Interview Video & Questions	ELAR.6(B) 12(F)
Activity 7: Skills Test Regular w/Key**	ELAR.8(E) 5(F) 6(C)
Activity 8: Skills Test *Modified w/Key**	ELAR.8(E) 5(F) 6(C)



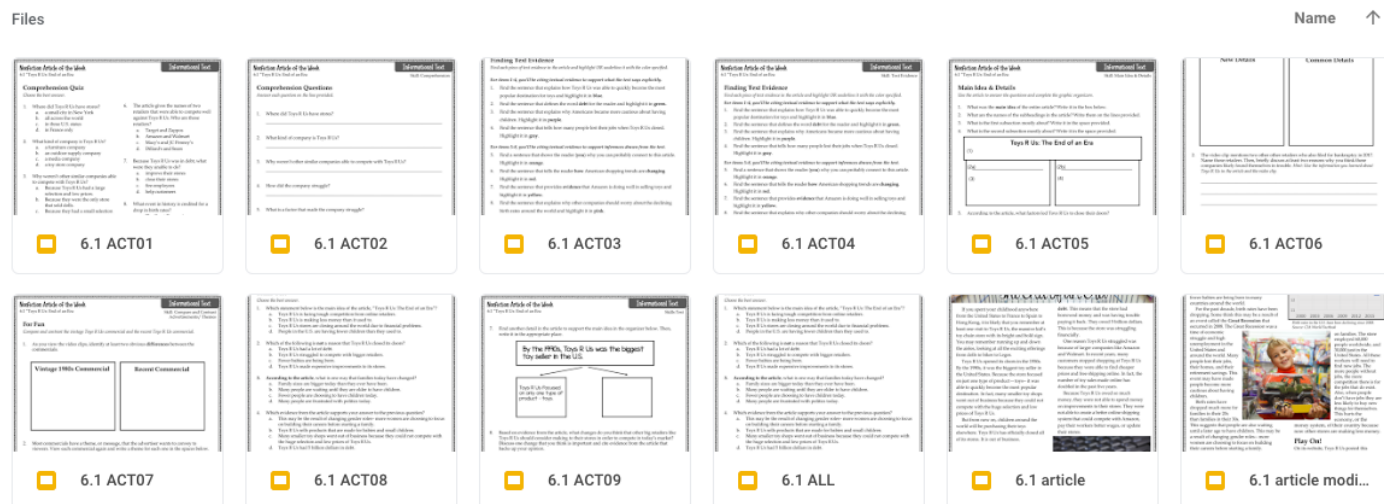
## Instructions for Google Classroom Digital Components

All student activities are available in digital format compatible with Google Classroom. They are available in two formats: Google Slides and Google Forms.

### Google Slides

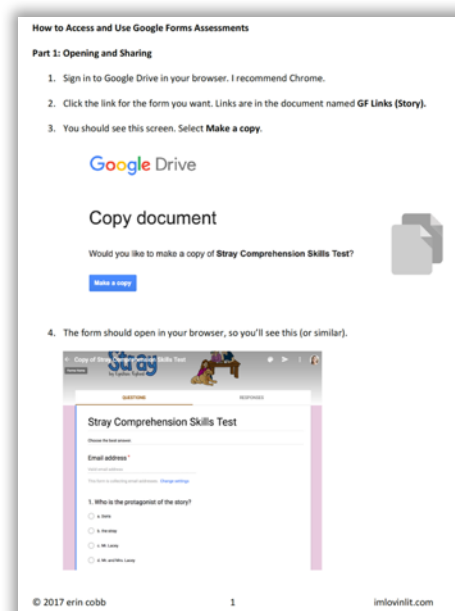
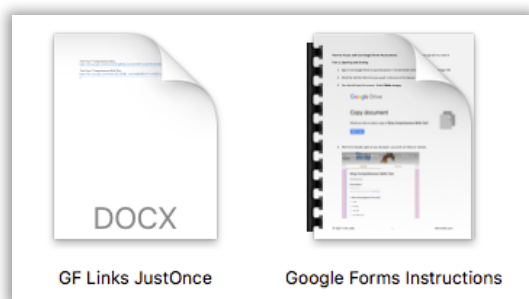
First, I have made all student pages (excluding assessments) in Google Slides format. Students can simply add text boxes to any area they wish to type on. To access the Google Slides for this article, copy and paste the link below into your browser. **\*Note that you'll need to make a copy of the folder or slide before you can use it.\***

link omitted in preview file



### Google Forms

I have made the assessments available in Google Forms. Here, they are self-grading, and I have set them all up with answer keys so they are ready to go for you. You'll need to find these two files in your download folder to use Google Forms. The first file contains the links to the Forms, and the second file is explicit instructions for use. Look inside the Google Forms folder.



## A Couple of Options for Teaching Article of the Week Units

Here are my favorite suggestions for organizing these units with your schedule.

\*Please note that thumbnails show article 6-1 and activities.

### Option A: Quickie Unit

Simply complete all lesson activities in order OR pick and choose the activities you want to complete in order.

**Time Needed:** 2-3 fifty-minute class periods

**Pros:** Super flexible; perfect filler around your other units; makes it easy to assign easier components for homework; ideal no prep sub plans if you have to be out for 2-3 days in a row.

**Cons:** Fitting them all in around everything else you've got to do.

### Option B: Daily Model

Use as a class starter or specific routine in your classroom everyday at the same time.

**Time Needed:** 15-20 minutes/day, 5 days/week

**Pros:** IDEAL for block scheduling when you need to always change it up; Great way to fit nonfiction articles in with what you're already doing.

**Cons:** There are 25 total articles for each grade level, so some weeks you'll need to skip the articles (I'd skip when doing projects, novels, during short weeks, and plan to finish up right before testing); May be difficult to commit to something rigid like this if you're a type B teacher like myself ;)

**Here's how the daily model works:**

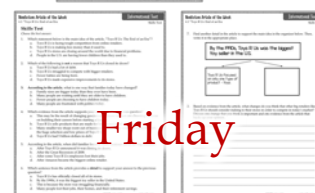
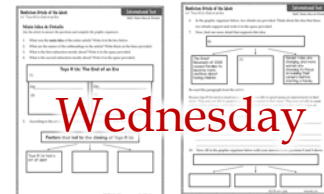
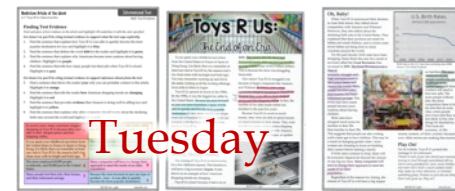
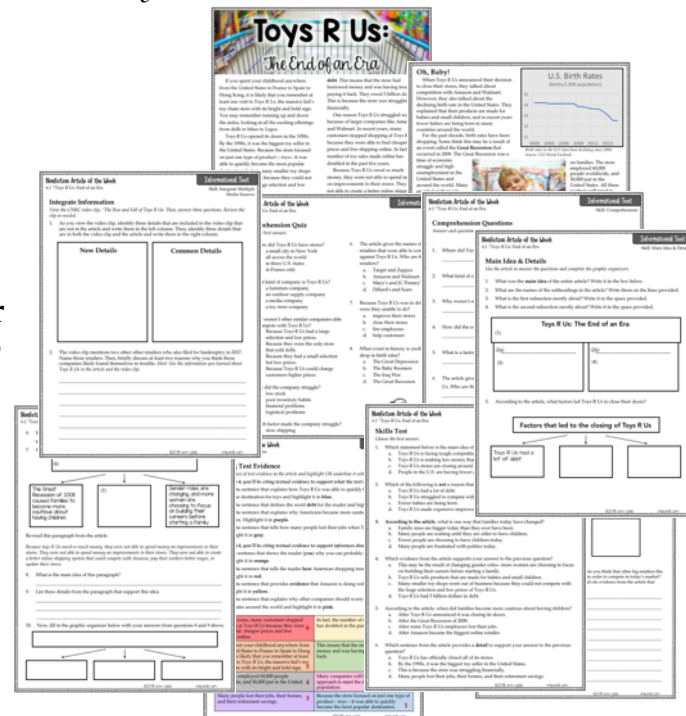
**Monday:** Read article & complete basic comprehension activity

**Tuesday:** Text evidence activity

**Wednesday:** Skills focus activity (based on one key skill for each article)

**Thursday:** Integrate information (other sources)

**Friday:** Assessment



## Walkthrough

*I have discussed here how I use each activity and included hints and links to help you, too. Feel free to take or leave what you like. Even if you don't plan to do every activity, I still recommend reading through this section to get the most out of these activities. Looking for a schedule to follow? Check the previous page for two suggested scheduling options.*

*These lessons and activities were designed to meet the needs of sixth graders during the middle part of the school year. The articles, activities, questions, and assessments will become increasingly rigorous and challenging as we progress through the year.*



**UFOs**

In December of 2017, the United States government revealed that it had funded a secret investigation into unidentified flying objects (UFOs) from 2007 to 2012. The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was a \$22 million dollar program. It was not the first of its kind, though. In 1948, the government had also funded a UFO sightings investigation called Project Sign.

Why would the U.S. government spend such a large amount of money on this type of research? Is there reason to believe that extraterrestrial UFOs are out there? Are we not alone? You be the judge! The following are actual reports of UFO sightings in history.

**Lubbock, Texas (1951)**

On a clear night in Lubbock, Texas, three science professors claimed that they saw 15 to 30 bluish-green V-shaped lights in the night sky traveling at a high rate of speed. They were shrouded. Soon, dozens of reports came in across the area. Hundreds described the same shape and having "soft, glowing, bluish lights." The professors even tracked the lights over the following weeks during twelve additional sightings.

The incident was investigated by Project Blue Book, an Air Force department that investigated UFOs led by Captain Edward



even came forward with a photograph of the UFO.

An air tracking station was able to locate an object in an area of a sighting, but it could not determine the type of aircraft. Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object. The aircraft was tracked at varying altitudes as the pilots chased it. Suddenly and quickly, it darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound, a speed that a human pilot could not survive.

Belgium (1989-90)

On November 29, 1989, several groups of police officers in different locations claimed they saw and followed a large triangular object with orange, pulsating headlights. Over the next few months, hundreds of Belgian citizens claimed they had seen the same type of mysterious object. One man

**California Coast (2004)**

On November 14, 2004, U.S. Navy Pilot Commander David Fravor and his squadron were flying off the coast of San Diego, California. An order came in to look around for an unidentified flying object. The Navy had been tracking several of them for two weeks. They would reach 80,000 feet then drop to 20,000 feet and disappear.

When the pilots arrived, they saw an object flying near a white patch of water in the ocean. Fravor described it as "a white Tic Tac, about the size of a Hornet fighter plane, 40 feet long with no wings, just hanging close to the water." The object could not be seen. It began to copy the movements of Fravor's F/A-18 Hornet fighter plane. As Fravor moved closer, the object sped up and vanished. When they looked back at the water, there was nothing in the water, either.

A separate crew took off and was able to track the object on video for about a minute and a half. Navy officials were told of the event, but it was never investigated. The video was released in December of 2007, also revealing that the U.S. government had kept secret information regarding UFOs for some time.



**UFOs**

In December of 2017, the United States government revealed that it had paid for a secret investigation into unidentified flying objects (UFOs) from 2007 to 2012. The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was a \$22 million dollar program. It was not the first of its kind, though. In 1948, the government had also funded a UFO sightings investigation. The 1948 investigation was called Project Sign.

Why would the U.S. government spend such a large amount of money on this research? Is there reason to believe that extraterrestrial UFOs are out there? Are we not alone? You be the judge. The following are actual reports of UFO sightings in history.

**Lubbock, Texas (1951)**

On a clear night in Lubbock, Texas, three science professors. They described 15 to 30 bluish-green V's at a high rate of speed. They were shrouded. Soon, hundreds described the same shape and "soft, glowing, bluish lights." The professors even tracked the lights over the following weeks. There were twelve more sightings.

The incident was investigated by Project Blue Book. This was an Air Force department that investigated UFOs. Project Blue Book was led by Captain Edward Ruppelt. The investigators said there were no UFOs. They said the lights seen were just birds reflecting the light from street lamps.

Belgium (1989-90)

On November 29, 1989, several groups of police officers in different locations claimed they saw and followed a UFO. They described a large, triangular object with orange, pulsating headlights. Over the next few months, hundreds



of Belgians said they had seen the same strange object. One man even came forward with a photograph of the UFO.

An air tracking station was able to locate an object in an area of a sighting. However, it could not determine the type of aircraft. Two Air Force F-16s were immediately sent to find the UFO. The aircraft was tracked at many different altitudes as the pilots chased it. Suddenly, the UFO darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound. This is a speed that a human pilot could not survive.

Skeptics claim that the large number of UFO sightings in this case is due to widely spread rumors about the UFO. They believe many people may have said they saw something they did not. The man who took the photograph came forward in 2011 and admitted that it was a hoax. He had created a model of what was described to stage the photos. Many who saw the UFO, however, claimed to be certain that what they saw was real.

**California Coast (2004)**

On November 14, 2004, U.S. Navy Pilot Commander David Fravor and his squadron were flying off the coast of San Diego, California. An order came in to look around for an unidentified flying object. The Navy had been tracking several of them for two weeks. They would reach 80,000 feet then drop to 20,000 feet and disappear.

When the pilots arrived, they saw an object flying near a white patch of water in the ocean. Fravor described it as "a white Tic Tac, about the size of a Hornet fighter plane, 40 feet long with no wings." The UFO control room began to copy the movements of Fravor's fighter plane. As Fravor moved closer, the object sped up and vanished. When they looked back at the water, they saw nothing.

The object was never investigated. The video was released in December of 2007. This also revealed that the U.S. government had kept secret information about UFOs for some time.

## Activities 1-2

- \*There are no higher order thinking questions included here – only basic, literal comprehension.
- These activities are designed to be completed on an **either/or** basis, meaning your students should only complete one of them, **not both**.
- Use Activity 1 for a quick cold-read assessment or after you've read the article together. I use these to hold students accountable for reading carefully. I recommend having students complete activity 1 **without the article** as long as they've just read the article (so not the next day), unless you're providing a testing accommodation. Answer key included but not shown.
- Use Activity 2 for an open-ended option for the same exact questions. Students may have a harder time answering this one without the article, so choose this one if you want students to use the article but still prove that they've understood the content on a surface level.

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**Comprehension Quiz**  
Choose the best answer according to the article.

- What was the name of the first government funded UFO investigation?
  - Project Blue Book
  - Project Sign
  - UFOA
  - U.S. UFO Agency
- Who were the first people to see the UFO in Lubbock, Texas?
  - science professors
  - doctors and nurses
  - school children
  - Project Blue Book reps
- The lights over Lubbock were first reported to be \_\_\_\_\_, but later that was said to be wrong.
  - small airplanes
  - aliens
  - spaceflights
  - birds
- The lights on the Belgium UFO were
  - triangular
  - orange
  - bluish
  - red
- Navy pilots spotted a UFO off the coast of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Virginia
  - Florida
  - California
  - Maine
- According to the graph, how has the number of global UFO sightings changed since 2012?
  - There have been more sightings.
  - There have been fewer sightings.
  - There has been very little change in the number of sightings.
  - There are no visible patterns in the number of global UFO sightings.
- Who decided to investigate the 2004 sightings?
  - the U.S. government
  - Project Blue Book
  - no one
  - AATIP

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Literal Comprehension

**Activity 1**

Belgium UFO reportedly travel?

- faster than the speed of sound
- faster than the speed of light
- faster than the speed of humans
- faster than the speed of a hornet

## Activity 1

Belgium UFO reportedly travel?

- faster than the speed of sound
- faster than the speed of light
- faster than the speed of humans
- faster than the speed of a hornet

**Activity 2**

Belgium UFO reportedly travel?

- faster than the speed of sound
- faster than the speed of light
- faster than the speed of humans
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### Activities 3-4

- Again, these activities are **either/or**, so choose one or the other but not both.
- Activity 3 requires students to annotate text evidence in the article and includes an article annotation key.
- Activity 4 requires students to choose text evidence from a **bank** at the bottom. This format prepares students to choose from and **distinguish** between pieces of text evidence on a state assessment. I recommend mixing it up and going back and forth between these among units until your students are proficient at both methods.

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**Finding Text Evidence**  
Find each piece of text evidence in the article and highlight OR underline it with the color specified.

For items 1-4, you'll be citing textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly.

- Find the sentence that tells the name of the secret government investigation that was revealed in 2017. Highlight it in blue.
- Find the sentence that reveals the reported altitude of the UFO spotted off the California coast. Highlight it in green.
- Find the sentence that tells who was sent to locate the UFOs in Belgium. Highlight it in purple.
- Find the sentence that describes the lights seen in Lubbock, Texas. Highlight it in gray.

For items 5-8, you'll be citing one piece or multiple pieces of textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text.

- Find one piece of evidence that supports the claim that the professors are certain that they saw UFOs in Texas. Highlight it in orange.
- Find one piece of evidence from the article that supports the idea that there were no pilots in the UFO in Belgium. Highlight it in yellow.
- Find two pieces of text evidence from the article that support the idea that there was no UFO in Belgium. Highlight them in pink.
- Find three pieces of text evidence from the article that support the idea that the UFOs were not a hoax. Highlight them in red.

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Text Evidence

**Activity 3**

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**Finding Text Evidence**  
Find each piece of text evidence in the evidence bank provided and highlight OR underline it with the color specified.

For items 1-4, you'll be citing textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly.

- Find the sentence that tells the name of the secret government investigation revealed in 2017. Highlight it in blue.
- Find the sentence that reveals the reported altitude of the UFO spotted off the California coast. Highlight it in green.
- Find the sentence that tells who was sent to locate the UFOs in Belgium. Highlight it in purple.
- Find the sentence that describes the lights seen in Lubbock, Texas. Highlight it in gray.

For items 5-8, you'll be citing one piece or multiple pieces of textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text.

- Find one piece of evidence that supports the claim that the professors are certain that they saw UFOs in Texas. Highlight it in orange.
- Find one piece of evidence from the article that supports the idea that there were no pilots in the UFO in Belgium. Highlight it in yellow.
- Find two pieces of text evidence from the article that support the idea that there was no UFO in Belgium. Highlight them in pink.
- Find three pieces of text evidence from the article that support the idea that the UFOs were not a hoax. Highlight them in red.

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Text Evidence

**Activity 4**

**Text Evidence Bank**

On a clear night in Lubbock, Texas, three science professors claimed that they saw 15 to 30 bluish-green V-shaped lights in the night sky traveling at a high rate of speed.

They would reach 80,000 feet then drop to 20,000 feet and disappear.

The man who took the photograph came forward in 2011 and admitted that it was a hoax. He had created a replica of what was described to stage the photos.

The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was a \$22 million dollar program.

As F-35s moved closer, the object sped up and vanished.

It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound, a speed that a human pilot could not survive.

Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object.

Shapiro claims that the large number of UFO sightings in this case is due to widespread rumors of the UFOs' existence. They believe many people may have claimed they saw something they did not.

### Activity 5

- This activity is focused around the main skill for this article: RI.6.8 Analyzing Arguments. Complete answer keys included, as always.

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**A. Analyze Arguments Using Reasons and Evidence**  
Read each claim in the left column. Draw a line to match the claim to the subsection that best supports it.

Claim	Subsection
Even very educated, credible citizens have strong beliefs that they have seen and studied UFOs.	Introduction
The U.S. government has proven its belief in UFOs by supporting costly investigations.	Lubbock, Texas (1951)
Even the most baffling events including UFO sightings sometimes go uninvestigated.	Belgium (1987-92)
A whole community can be fooled into believing false evidence.	California Coast (2004)

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Analyze Arguments and Claims

**Activity 5**

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**B. Analyzing Evidence of Main Argument**  
Use the article to answer the questions and complete the graphic organizer.

- What is the main idea of the entire article? Write it in the box below.
- Based on the article, identify 4 arguments to support UFO existence. Write them in the space provided.
- Based on the article, identify 4 arguments to support the idea that UFOs do not exist. Write them in the space provided.

UFOs	
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Analyze Arguments and Claims

**Activity 5**

### Activity 6

- This activity requires students to integrate information from another source or media.
- Here, students watch a video clip about the conditions in puppy mills – be sure to preview first. 3 minutes.
- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4mWYnTIAEAo>
- Backup: <https://goo.gl/wpFpzK>

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**Integrate Information**  
Watch the CNN video interview with retired Navy Commander Pilot, David Frazee. Then, answer the questions using what you learned from the article AND the video. You may need to reread the video more than once.

- How does Commander Frazee describe the movement of the UFO when he first saw it?
- Did Frazee think it was a checkmate move to get a better look, what did the UFO do?
- What did the UFO do when it was finally approached by Frazee and his crew?

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Integrate Multiple Sources

**Activity 6**

**Nonfiction Article of the Week**  
6-15: UFOs

**Integrate Information**  
Watch the CNN video interview with retired Navy Commander Pilot, David Frazee. Then, answer the questions using what you learned from the article AND the video. You may need to reread the video more than once.

- How does Commander Frazee describe the movement of the UFO when he first saw it?
- Did Frazee think it was a checkmate move to get a better look, what did the UFO do?
- What did the UFO do when it was finally approached by Frazee and his crew?

**Informational Text**  
Skill: Integrate Multiple Sources

**Activity 6**

# Nonfiction Article of the Week

6-15: UFOs

## Teacher's Guide

### Activities 7-8

- \*Final assessments are **always** designed to be taken **with access to the article**.
- What's the best way to make sure your students are prepared for the state assessment? Assess them regularly with that format. I always let my students practice for the first few before I start counting them for a grade, and I always use the basic comprehension assessment (activity 1 or 2) as an easy grade so it levels the playing field.
- Activity 7 is the regular assessment.
- Activity 8 is the **modified** assessment. The **modified** assessment offer students only two answer choices instead of four. Note that only the multiple choice portion of the modified test is different from the original. Simply put, only page one is different. Complete keys included as always (not shown).
- In a hurry? I always include only multiple choice questions on the first page in case you're in a hurry and need to skip the open-ended portion of the test. I don't recommend skipping regularly but every now and then, I need a grading break. (On this test, the multiple choice questions are 1-6 and extended response 7-8.

Nonfiction Article of the Week  
6-15: UFOs

Skills Test

Choose the best answer.

- Which statement below is the **main idea** of this article?  
a. Witnesses of UFO sightings cannot be believed.  
b. Many credible accounts of UFO sightings have emerged over the years.  
c. There is scientific data to prove that UFOs are real, and the government has refused to take part in UFO research.  
d. The U.S. government has refused to take part in UFO research.
- How does the author **support the claim** that the U.S. government may believe in UFOs?  
a. by giving several examples of open cases by the U.S. government  
b. by giving quotes from government officials on specific UFOs  
c. by questioning the large amount of money dedicated to UFO research  
d. by reporting that the government launched a full investigation
- Which piece of **text evidence** from the article **best supports** your answer to question 2?  
a. "Why would the government spend such a large amount of money on research?"  
b. "The following are actual reports of UFO sightings in history."  
c. "It was called the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program."  
d. "In 1948, the government had also funded a UFO investigation."
- Which piece of **text evidence** **discredits** Project Blue book's claim that the reflecting the street lamp lights?  
a. The professors even tracked the lights over the following week.  
b. Hundreds described the same shape and having "soft, glowing" light.  
c. Witnesses claimed that the lights were "soft, glowing, blue."  
d. Some, dozens of reports.
- Which statement below **supports** the police officers' claim that the UFOs were seen on November 29, 1997?  
a. Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object.  
b. An air tracking station was able to locate an object in an area to determine what kind of aircraft it was.  
c. Suddenly and quickly, it darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound.  
d. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound.
- Which claim is made in the subsection **California Coast**?  
a. Commander David Fraser has been a Navy Pilot for a long time.  
b. A formal investigation was launched into the UFO sighting off the California coast.  
c. Commander David Fraser was part of an elite Navy crew.  
d. The U.S. government had kept information about UFO sightings secret.

Activity 7

#### Skills Test

Choose the best answer.

\* Required

Enter address \*

City \*

State \*

Zip \*

Country \*

Your answer

Google Forms assessments always included!

Nonfiction Article of the Week  
6-15: UFOs

Skills Test

Choose the best answer.

- Which statement below is the **main idea** of this article?  
a. Many credible accounts of UFO sightings have emerged over the years.  
b. There is scientific data to prove that UFOs are real, and the government has refused to take part in UFO research.  
c. The U.S. government has refused to take part in UFO research.  
d. The U.S. government has refused to take part in UFO research.
- How does the author **support the claim** that the U.S. government may believe in UFOs?  
a. by giving several examples of open cases by the U.S. government  
b. by giving quotes from government officials on specific UFOs  
c. by questioning the large amount of money dedicated to UFO research  
d. by reporting that the government launched a full investigation
- Which piece of **text evidence** from the article **best supports** your answer to question 2?  
a. "Why would the government spend such a large amount of money on research?"  
b. "The following are actual reports of UFO sightings in history."  
c. "It was called the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program."  
d. "In 1948, the government had also funded a UFO investigation."
- Which piece of **text evidence** **discredits** Project Blue book's claim that the UFOs reflecting the street lamp lights?  
a. The professors even tracked the lights over the following week.  
b. Hundreds described the same shape and having "soft, glowing" light.  
c. Witnesses claimed that the lights were "soft, glowing, blue."  
d. Some, dozens of reports.
- Which statement below **supports** the police officers' claim that the UFOs were seen on November 29, 1997?  
a. Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object.  
b. An air tracking station was able to locate an object in an area to determine what kind of aircraft it was.  
c. Suddenly and quickly, it darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound.  
d. It was reported that it flew faster than the speed of sound.
- Which claim is made in the subsection **California Coast**?  
a. Commander David Fraser has been a Navy Pilot for a long time.  
b. A formal investigation was launched into the UFO sighting off the California coast.  
c. Commander David Fraser was part of an elite Navy crew.  
d. The U.S. government had kept information about UFO sightings secret.

Activity 8

Name: \*

Student

✕ 1. Edgar Allan Poe was raised by his...

0/1

☒ a. aunt.

☐ b. foster parents.

☐ c. grandparents.

☐ d. brother's family.

Correct answer

☒ b. foster parents.

Self-grading Google Forms assessment always included for:

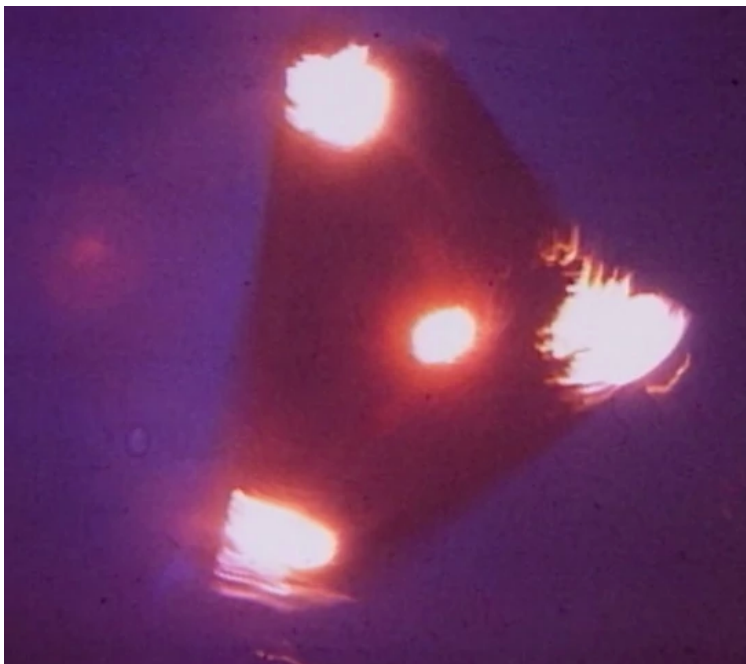
- Activity 1 (Comprehension Quiz)
- Activity 7 (Skills Test)
- Activity 8 (Modified Skills Test)



even came forward with a photograph of the UFO.

An air tracking station was able to locate an object in an area of a sighting, but it could not determine the type of aircraft. Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object. The aircraft was tracked at varying altitudes as the pilots chased it. Suddenly and quickly, it darted out of range at a very high speed. It was reported that it fled faster than the speed of sound, a speed that a human pilot could not survive.

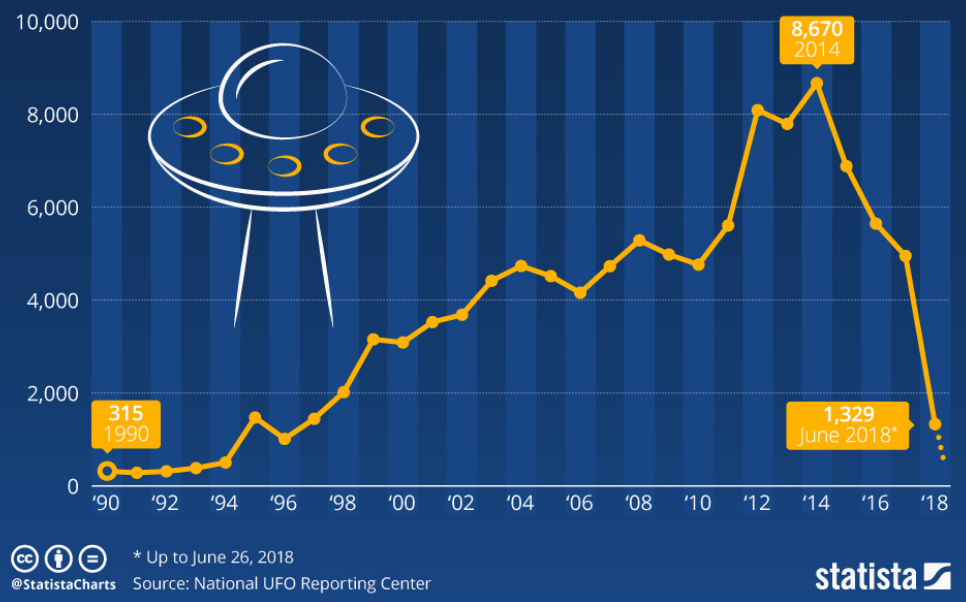
Skeptics claim that the large number of UFO sightings in this case is due to widespread rumors of the UFOs existence. They believe many people may have claimed they saw something they did not. The man who took the photograph came forward in 2011 and admitted that it was a hoax. He had created a replica of what was described to stage the photos. Many who saw the UFO, however, claimed to be certain that what they saw was real.



*Patrick Marechal came forward in 2011 and admitted that he had created this photo as a hoax during the Belgium sightings.*

## Has E.T. Gone Home?

Global UFO sightings recorded from 1990 to 2018



## California Coast (2004)

On November 14, 2004, U.S. Navy Pilot Commander David Fravor and his squadron were flying off the coast of San Diego, California. An order came in to look around for an unidentified flying object. The Navy had been tracking several of them for two weeks. They would reach 80,000 feet then drop to 20,000 feet and disappear.

When the pilots arrived, they saw an object flying near a white patch of water in the ocean. Fravor described it as "a white Tic Tac, about the size of a Hornet (fighter plane), 40 feet long with no wings. Just hanging close to the water." The object created no wind. It began to copy the movements of Fravor's F/A-18 Hornet fighter plane. As Fravor moved closer, the object sped up and vanished. When they looked back at the water, there was nothing in the water, either.

A separate crew took off and was able to track the object on video for about a minute and a half. Navy officials were told of the event, but it was never investigated. The video was released in December of 2017, also revealing that the U.S. government had kept secret information regarding UFOs for some time.

## Finding Text Evidence

*Find each piece of text evidence in the evidence bank provided and highlight OR underline it with the color specified.*

*For items 1-4, you'll be citing textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly.*

1. Find the sentence that tells the name of the secret government investigation that was revealed in 2017. Highlight it in **blue**.
2. Find the sentence that reveals the reported altitude of the UFO spotted off the California coast. Highlight it in **green**.
3. Find the sentence that tells who was sent to locate the UFOs in Belgium. Highlight it in **purple**.
4. Find the sentence that describes the lights seen in Lubbock, Texas. Highlight it in **gray**.

*For items 5-8, you'll be citing one piece or multiple pieces of textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text.*

5. Find one piece of evidence that supports the claim that the professors are certain that they saw UFOs in Texas. Highlight it in **orange**.
6. Find one piece of evidence from the article that supports the idea that there were no pilots in the UFO in Belgium. Highlight it in **yellow**.
7. Find two pieces of text evidence from the article that support the idea that there was no UFO in Belgium. Highlight them in **pink**.
8. Find three pieces of text evidence from the article that support this statement:  
*The UFO behaved in a way that puzzled Captain David Fravor and his crew.*  
Highlight them in **red**.

**Text Evidence Bank**

*Find each piece of text evidence in the evidence bank provided and highlight OR underline it with the color specified.*

On a clear night in Lubbock, Texas, three science professors claimed that they saw 15 to 30 bluish-green V-shaped lights in the night sky traveling at a high rate of speed.	They would reach 80,000 feet then drop to 20,000 feet and disappear.
When they looked back at the water, there was nothing in the water, either.	The man who took the photograph came forward in 2011 and admitted that it was a hoax. He had created a replica of what was described to stage the photos.
The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was a \$22 million dollar program.	As Fravor moved closer, the object sped up and vanished.
It was reported that it fled faster than the speed of sound, a speed that a human pilot could not survive.	Immediately, two Air Force F-16s were sent to locate the unidentified object.
The object created no wind.	Skeptics claim that the large number of UFO sightings in this case is due to widespread rumors of the UFOs existence. They believe many people may have claimed they saw something they did not.
The professors even tracked the lights over the following weeks during twelve additional sightings.	



**A. Analyze Arguments Using Reasons and Evidence**

*Read each claim in the left column. Draw a line to match the claim to the subsection that best supports it.*

**Claim****Subsection**

Even very educated, credible citizens have strong beliefs that they have seen and studied UFOs.

**Introduction**

The U.S. government has proven its belief in UFOs by supporting costly investigations.

**Lubbock, Texas (1951)**

Even the most baffling events including UFO sightings sometimes go uninvestigated.

**Belgium (1989-90)**

A whole community can be fooled into believing false evidence.

**California Coast (2004)**

### B. Analyzing Evidence of Main Argument

Use the article to answer the questions and complete the graphic organizer.

1. What is the **main idea** of the entire article? Write it in the box below.
2. Based on the article, identify 4 arguments to support UFO existence. Write them in the space provided.
3. Based on the article, identify 4 arguments to support the idea that UFOs do not exist. Write them in the space provided.

#### UFOs

- (1) There have been many reports of UFO sightings over the last several decades.

#### UFOs do exist

(2)

1. Some UFOs have been reported by credible witnesses.
2. They have been reported by multiple people in the same areas.
3. One UFO reportedly flew at speeds that are not humanly possible.
4. The government has supported investigations into sightings.

#### UFOs do not exist

(3)

1. There is no real definite/conclusive evidence has been studied to explain the UFOs.
2. One photograph was a hoax believed by many.
3. Some people may report something they did not really see.
4. Some credible sightings were never investigated.

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<https://www.statista.com/chart/8452/ufo-sightings-are-at-record-heights/>