

Summarizing

REM 4006

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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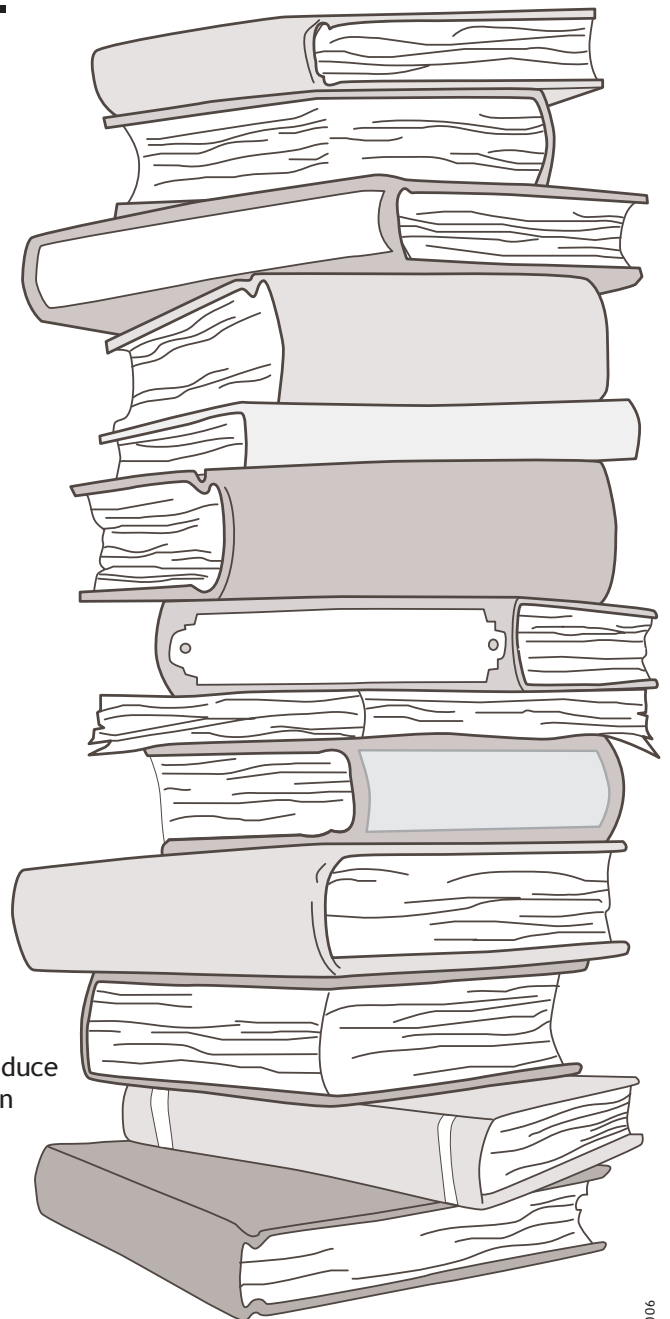
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INTRODUCTION

The guided writing activities in this book have been designed to help students develop better organization and summarizing skills. The ability to summarize information is an essential reading comprehension skill that is used throughout all areas of the curriculum.

Beginning exercises feature short stories, each followed by a story web which requires the student to identify the main idea and find details that support the main idea. Additional activities continue to build on these skills. Finally, the student is asked to write a summary of what has been read.

Because each passage holds several details that support the main idea, answers will vary. It is suggested that you accept any answers that a student can support with facts from the passage. This will encourage learners to pay attention to details and build reading comprehension.

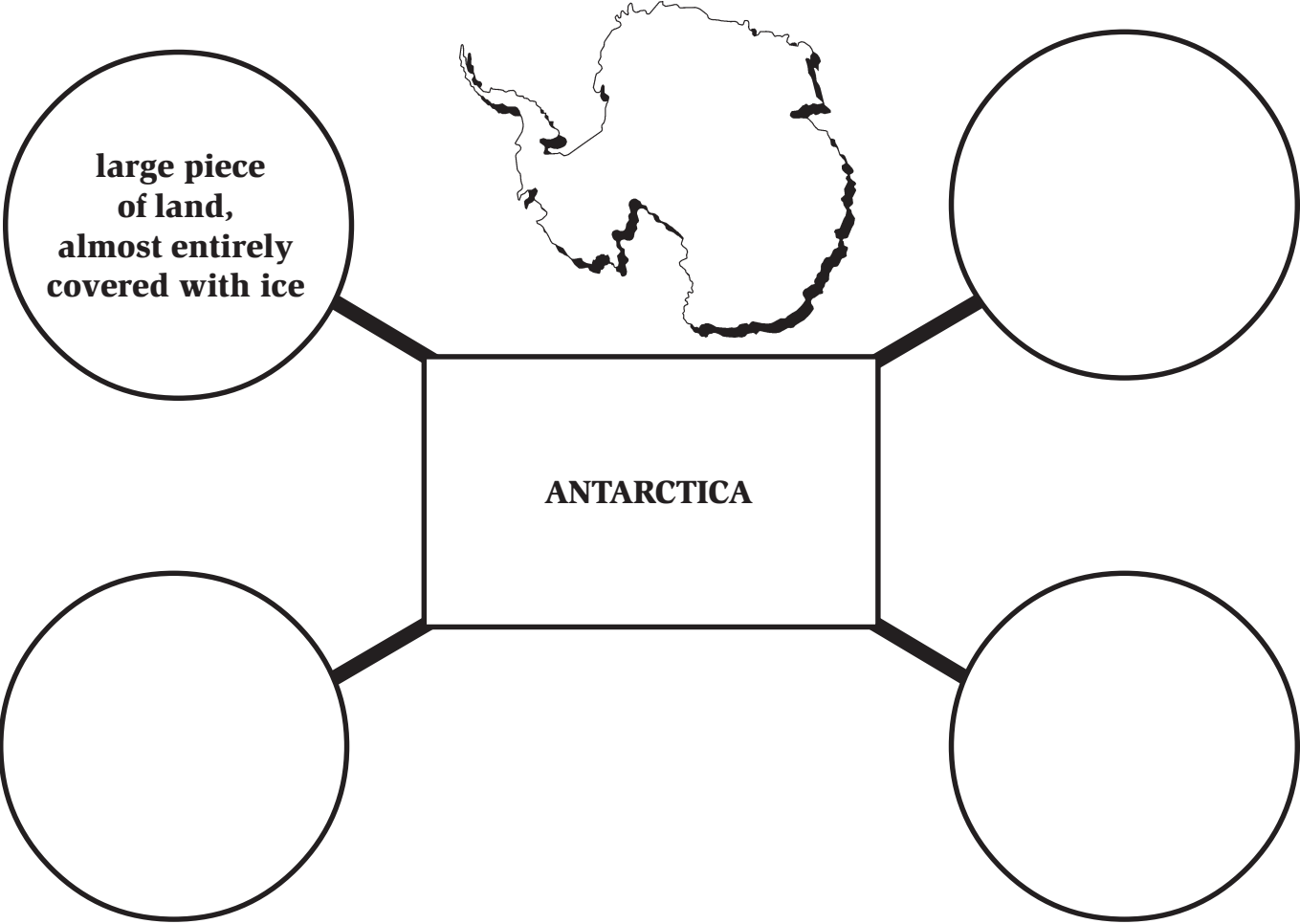
Summarizing was designed for use in grades 4-8. Readability is on the 3rd-4th-grade level. An answer key with suggested answers has been included.

Name _____

A **story web** can help summarize a story. The **main idea** is written in the box. **Details** about the main idea are written in the circles around the main idea.

Read the story. Then complete the story web. The main idea and one detail have been written for you.

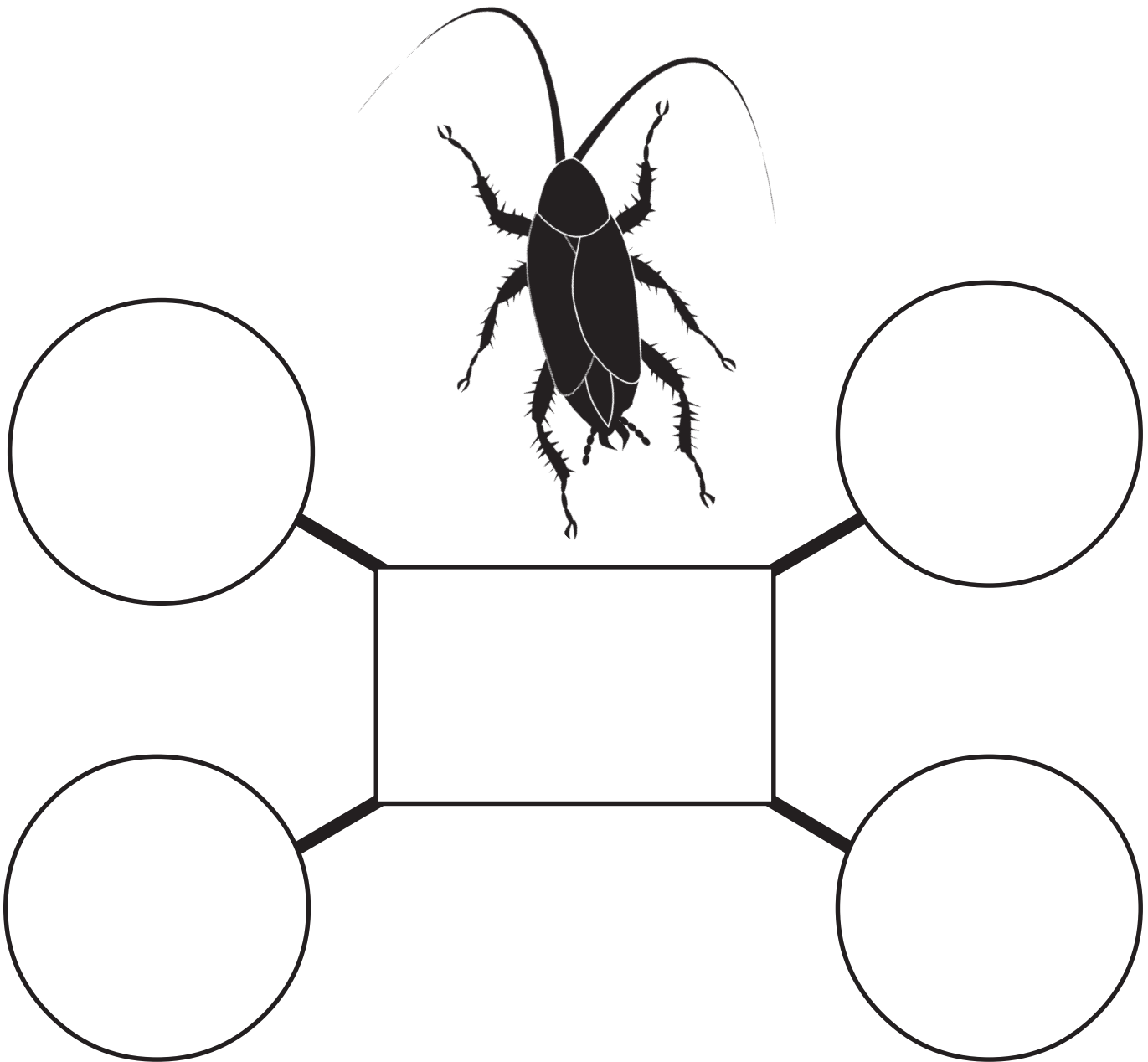
Antarctica is a very large piece of land located at the southern tip of the world, or South Pole. Antarctica is one of our seven continents. It is as large as the United States and Europe put together. It is almost entirely covered with ice. There are no cities or towns in Antarctica. It is much too cold for people to live there. The only people in Antarctica are scientists trying to learn more about weather, wildlife, and rocks. On many winter days, the sun never rises. That means twenty-four hours of darkness. The winter temperature may fall to minus one hundred degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer, the opposite is true, and there is sunlight twenty-four hours a day. However, this does not result in warm temperatures. Even with the sun shining twenty-four hours a day it is still too cold for animals and plants to live. The only animals that can survive on Antarctica are insects, spiders, and a few other small creatures.



Name _____

Read the story. Then complete the story web.

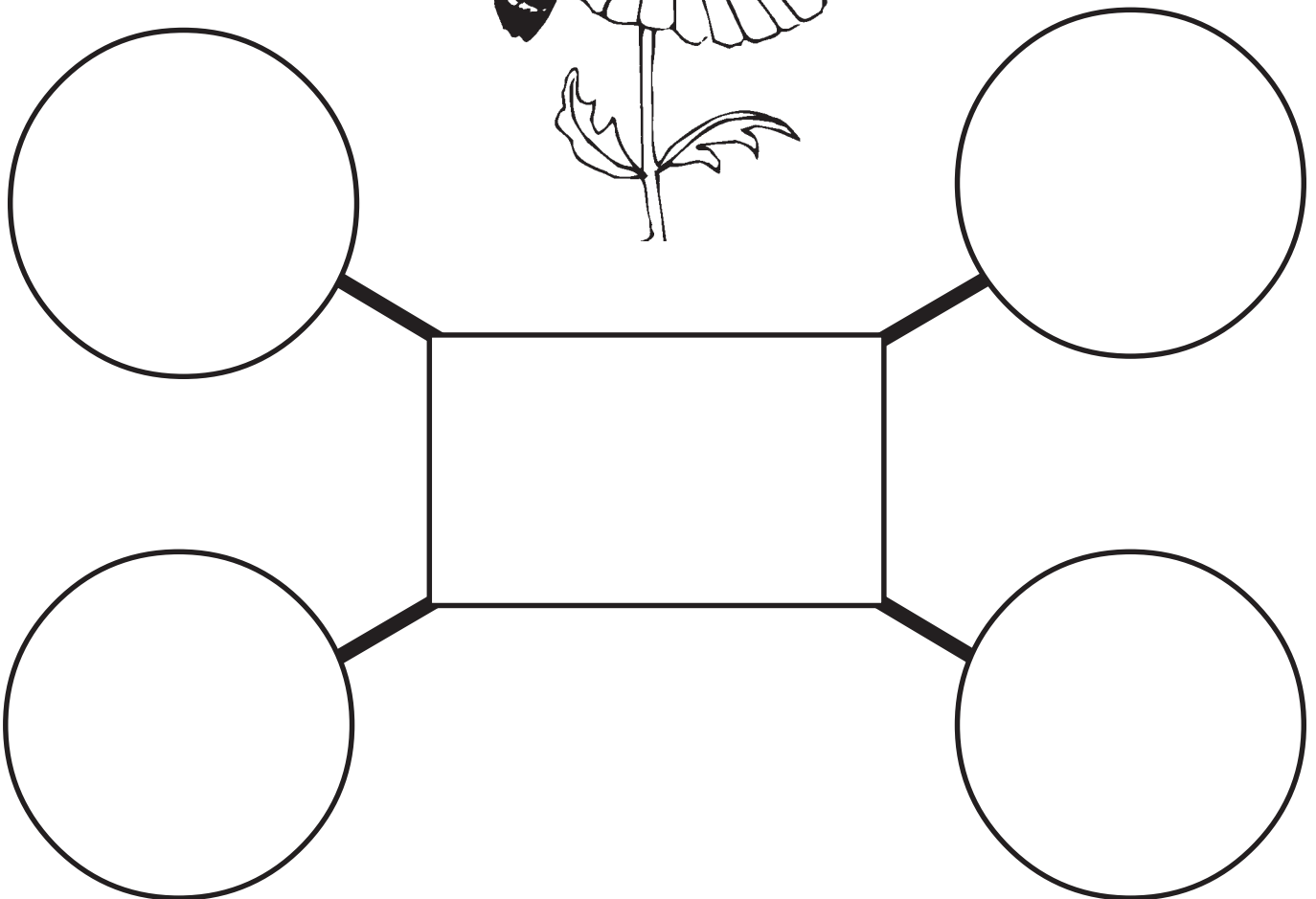
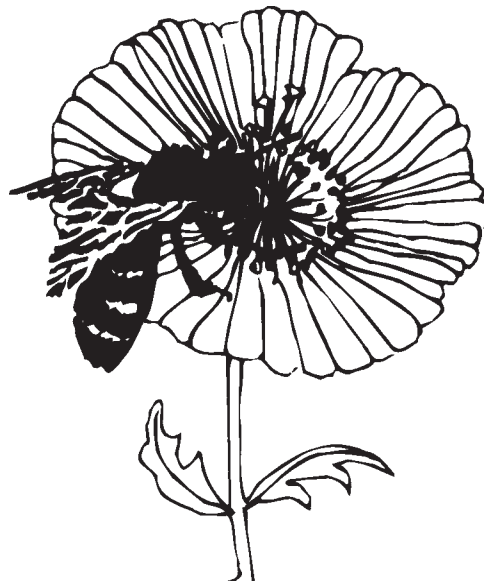
Have you ever seen a **cockroach**? Cockroaches come out at night to look for food. They eat the same things people eat. There are over 3,500 different types of cockroaches. There are sixty different types of cockroaches in the United States. Most cockroaches have long antennae, three pairs of legs, and a pair of wings. Many cockroaches also have sticky pads on their legs. These sticky pads help them climb straight up smooth surfaces. Cockroaches can be found in lots of different places: homes, restaurants, garbage dumps, and outside. Most people don't like cockroaches. They can spread diseases.



Name _____

Read the story. Then complete the story web.

Many people are afraid of **bees**, but bees are actually helpful creatures. They help gardens and flowers grow. Bees are attracted to flowers because of the bright colors of their petals. Bees collect pollen and nectar from flowers. As they fly between flowers, they drop some of the pollen they have collected back inside the flower. The part of the flower where they drop the pollen is called the stigma. When the pollen is dropped into the stigma, it helps the flower produce seeds. This process is called pollination. Bees then use the nectar they bring back to the hive to feed themselves.



Name _____

Read the story. Then complete the story web.

Would you want to touch a slithering **snake**? Even though snakes may look shiny, most people would not want to touch a snake because of fear that the snake might be poisonous. Many types of snakes are not poisonous. However, there are about four hundred types of poisonous snakes in the world. Only a few types of these poisonous snakes can actually kill people. Most snakebites are treatable. In the United States, the most common type of poisonous snakebite is from the copperhead snake. Usually people are able to recover from a copperhead snakebite, especially if they seek proper medical attention.

