

# HOW CAN I ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO READ INFORMATION BOOKS?

1. **Develop an attractive, wide-ranging, up-to-date collection** of information books, which caters for all interests and reading abilities, and which is regularly updated. This is dependent on having an annual budget, as well as access to information about the best publications available: through book awards, lists of recommended books (Books for Topics website), book reviews (The School Librarian), book shops, library showrooms (Heaths, Peters, Madeleine Lindley) & School Library Service loans.
2. **Aim to always have information books on display** around the school – in the library, classrooms, corridors and entrances. Change and update regularly.
3. **Introduce and talk about new non-fiction titles** as they are added to your classroom or library stock. Your enthusiasm about the books will result in waiting lists!
4. Establish a regular session when children are given **time to read** information books.
5. Consider establishing a regular **book-review session** – once a week, during a library lesson, or every half term. There is a wide range of review sheets available online, or you could design your own. These could inform classroom, corridor or library displays.
6. Regularly **read information books aloud**. Reading extracts is a good way to drum up interest in new books or could provide an alternative to reading a novel in instalments – a well-chosen non-fiction title can be just as riveting as a story book.
7. When sharing a novel with a class, make relevant information books available to **fill out the background** and provide more information.
8. Devise **quizzes** based on the books you have or challenge children to create their own. They could be completed individually or in teams, during wet playtime or a book club meeting, for example.
9. Information Book Awards can highlight titles that are worth investing in. In the case of the SLA Information Book Awards, children can get involved in **judging and voting** for the Children's Choices, which will create a sense of ownership.
10. Get involved in **National Non-Fiction November** which is a whole month spent celebrating information books. Organised by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, it is usually based on a theme, with competitions to enter, suggested activities, recommended book lists, blogs and book reviews.
11. Get to know the authors and illustrators of information books. Consider inviting one to visit or video call your school. Make sure you have plenty of copies of their books!
12. Include information books in **book swaps** and book sales.
13. Feature information books in school **assemblies** – works for all ages, ranging from reading narrative non-fiction aloud, to reading from a biography or travel journal.
14. In secondary schools, invite Heads of Department to review the library stock, suggest new titles and help to create and promote wider **reading lists** for the students of their subject.