Lesson Plan Summary
Magic Tree House #36: Sunlight on the Snow Leopard

“A Mountain of Writing”
Informational Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EACH STUDENT WILL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Read and discuss new vocabulary words and historical/scientific facts in the #36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard and Snow Leopards and Other Wild Cats Fact Tracker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• View and discuss anticipatory informational video clips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Compose a list of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs related to snow leopards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Draw a diagram, illustration, or map with a caption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Write a one or three paragraph (depending on level) informational writing piece using main idea, three supporting details and a concluding sentence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>READING:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI1.1, RI2.1, RI3.1, RI4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text, (RI2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI2.4, RI3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade specific topic or subject area (RI2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI2.5, RI3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know and use various text features to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently (RI2.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **WRITING:**                                                                     |
| • PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (W2.5, W3.5)                            |
| With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing (W2.5, W3.5) |
| • RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE (W2.7, W3.7)                            |
| Participate in shared research and writing projects(W2.7)                         |
Lesson Plan
Magic Tree House #36: Sunlight on the Snow Leopard

“A Mountain of Writing”

INFORMATIONAL WRITING

- Explore Nepal and the Himalayan Mountains with Jack and Annie
- Set schema for the students with anticipatory activities to anchor their understanding of this journey
- Conclude with a “question technique” writing strategy to teach paragraph writing using main idea, detail sentences and a concluding sentence.

OVERALL PROCEDURE:

This lesson writing activity can be leveled to:

- **Early writing level** – Scaffold “one paragraph informational writing” for a beginning writer.

- **Intermediate level** - Introduce “three paragraph informational writing” by combining the three pre-write paragraphs.

For the purpose of this lesson, the three pre-writes are related so they can be re-written as a three paragraph writing piece.
LESSON ONE

Nepal – On Top of the World

Suggestion: Explore Nepal and the Himalayan Mountains to set the scene for the paragraph pre-write. Use this map which is also on the student pre-write.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- #36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopards and Other Wild Cats Fact Tracker
- Links to you-tube videos (in Directions)
- Classroom maps or books to provide schema (optional)
- Copy of Nepal paragraph pre-write worksheet for each student (In Appendix)
- Copy of paragraph final draft paper for each student (In Appendix)
DIRECTIONS:

1. To give the students some schema (background knowledge) of the Nepal area, show these video clips before reading **#36 Sunlight On The Snow Leopard**

   - The Himalayas from 20,000 ft. – Teton Gravity Research (2:30)
     
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hTVNidxg2s

   - Mount Everest Facts and History – Fun Facts for Kids/Educational Videos by Mocomi (2:30)
     
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqkgKHu1gt0

2. Start reading the **#36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard** and use passages in the *Snow Leopards and Other Wild Cats* Fact Tracker to establish where Nepal is on the map (pages 33-34), use classroom globes, maps, or any other supporting materials to support the lesson.

3. Present the pre-write worksheet to create a paragraph with main idea, details, and concluding sentence.

4. Suggested Teacher Answer Key – answers will vary:

   - **Title:** Nepal – On Top of the World
   - **Main idea:** Nepal is a small country in Asia.
   - **Detail:** India and China share the Himalayan Mountains with Nepal.
   - **Detail:** Mt. Everest is the highest mountain peak in the world.
   - **Detail:** Snow Leopards live in the highest mountains of Nepal.
   - **Concluding sentence:** Nepal has the highest mountains in the world.
LESSON TWO
The Amazing Body of the Snow Leopard

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- #36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopards and Other Wild Cats Fact Tracker
- Links to you-tube videos (in Directions)
- Classroom books, stuffed animals or relics to provide schema (optional)
- Copy of The Amazing Body of the Snow Leopard paragraph pre-write for each student (in Appendix)
- Copy of paragraph final draft for each student (in Appendix)

Suggestion: Create a diagram (use a photograph or a directed draw) as the students learn and discuss and label the body part adaptations.
DIRECTIONS:

1. As you are reading the book **#36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard**, show these two short you-tube videos about Snow Leopards and *Teaching Tool fact cards*:

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTIveCrymV8
   Snow Leopard 101 – National Geographic Wild (4:05)

   https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/5-reasons-why/article/5-reasons-snow-leopards
   Five fun picture/word cards with facts about the snow leopard

2. Next, brainstorm as a class, and jot down on a large classroom chart some of the words and facts that described the snow leopard.

3. Create a diagram of the snow leopard's adaptive body parts for easy reference. (optional)

4. Present the pre-write worksheet to create a paragraph with main idea, details, and concluding sentence.

5. Suggested Teacher Answer Key – answers will vary:

   **Title:** The Amazing Body of the Snow Leopard

   **Main idea:** The snow leopard's body has adapted to cold weather.

   **Detail:** Its nose is like a heater for breathing in the cold air.

   **Detail:** The leopard wraps its very long tail around its body like a blanket to keep warm.

   **Detail:** The paws are like snowshoes, so the leopard can walk on the snow.

   **Concluding sentence:** These amazing body parts help the snow leopard survive in extremely cold weather.
LESSON THREE
The Mystery of the Snow Leopard

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- #36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopards and Other Wild Cats Fact Tracker
- Chart paper for brainstorming with students
- Copy of The Mystery of the Snow Leopard paragraph pre-write for each student (in Appendix)
- Copy of paragraph final draft for each student (in Appendix)

Suggestion: Enlarge this picture and ask students to find the snow leopard.
DIRECTIONS:

1. As you are reading the book #36 Sunlight on the Snow Leopard and Snow Leopards and other Wild Cats Fact Tracker, brainstorm with the students and keep a running class list of nicknames, and descriptive words for the snow leopard. Jot down on a large classroom chart some of these descriptive words. Here is a suggested list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICKNAMES</th>
<th>DESCRIBING WORDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Gray Ghost</td>
<td>elusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Climber</td>
<td>shy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian of the Mountains</td>
<td>disappear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phantom</td>
<td>invisible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>camouflage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>high jumpers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>solitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sacred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Present the pre-write worksheet to create a paragraph with main idea, details, and concluding sentence.

3. Suggested Teacher Answer Key – answers will vary:

   **Title:** The Mystery of the Snow Leopard

   **Main idea:** The snow leopard is camouflaged to hide from people and animals.

   **Detail:** The spotted fur of this animal can blend in with rocks and snow.

   **Detail:** The leopard goes fast, high and long in one jump, seeming to disappear.

   **Detail:** They feel shy and run away from people.

   **Concluding sentence:** Snow leopards are called Cloud Climbers, the Gray Ghost of the Mountains and the Guardian of the Mountains.
Appendix

- Nepal – On Top of the World pre-write worksheet
- The Amazing Body of the Snow Leopard pre-write worksheet
- The Mystery of the Snow Leopard pre-write worksheet
- Blank pre-write template (Optional: to create your own questions)
- Final draft stationary (student can draw a picture)
- Final draft stationary with snow leopard (top page) for three paragraph writing
- Additional page stationary for three paragraph writing
Title: Nepal - On Top of the World

**Question (main idea):** Is Nepal a small or large country and on what continent is it?

**Question (detail):** Which two big countries share the Himalayan Mountain Range with Nepal?

**Question (detail):** What is the highest mountain peak in the world?

**Question (detail):** What big cats live in the high mountains of Nepal?

**Question (concluding sentence):** Why do people say that Nepal is on top of the world?
Title: The Amazing Body of the Snow Leopard

Question (main idea): How can the snow leopard survive in the coldest weather?

Question (detail): How does the snow leopard breathe in extreme cold weather?

Question (detail): How does the tail help the snow leopard to survive?

Question (detail): What is special about the paws?

Question (concluding sentence): What helps the Snow Leopard survive in extreme cold weather?
Title: The Mystery of the Snow Leopard

**Question (main idea):** Why is the snow leopard hard to find?

**Question (detail):** How does the snow leopard camouflage?

**Question (detail):** Why does this big cat seem to just disappear?

**Question (detail):** Why does the snow leopard stay away from people?

**Question (concluding sentence):** What are some nicknames for this mysterious cat?
Directions: Write a paragraph with a main idea, three supporting details, and a concluding sentence by answering these questions. WRITE COMPLETE SENTENCES.

Title:

**Question (main idea):**

**Question (detail):**

**Question (detail):**

**Question (detail):**

**Question (concluding sentence):**