

# Using *Check Link Connect* questions during reading

## 6 - Using Check Link Connect questions during reading

When reading academic texts with a class, we want to do a number of things:

- make our pupils attentive so they notice fundamental details
- check their understanding of connections within the text, and
- make links to their knowledge outside of the text.

These are all things that skilled readers do effortlessly and automatically. By using '*Check Link Connect*' questioning we can bring these sometimes invisible processes to the surface, make them explicit, and help pupils practise them to develop their comprehension skills.

## Check questions

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'Check' questions help pupils identify and understand *basic factual details* in a text.

They can be peppered across the room, increasing participation of struggling readers and those who are perhaps less attentive. It is likely we will use these questions more so than others, particularly when we are at the beginning of a unit or learning sequence.

It is also important to think carefully about the quantity and place of questions, so as not to destroy the fluency of reading. We should consider the *factual details* to be those that we as teachers would deem most necessary to the pupils' understanding of the text, in and of itself, as well as what is necessary for the topic or subject.



The First World War was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. Also known as the Great War or 'the war to end all wars', it led to the mobilisation of more than 70 million military personnel.

For these first two sentences, we might want to ask the questions 'Where did WWI originate?' and 'How long it did last?'. The location and timeframe of WWI, the basis of Remembrance Day, are important for the article, but also for the discipline of History.