



# Study Guide

## Grade Level: 4



**UNIT DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this unit is to explore how nonfiction literature is organized and how the writer, through the purposeful use of historical facts and nonfiction structure, assists the reader in comprehending nonfiction literature.

The structures and features to be explored in this unit will include: Chronology, Comparison, Cause/Effect, Problem/Solution, Main Idea/Details, Charts, Graphs, Diagrams, Timelines, Photographs, Indexes, Glossaries, and Vocabulary.

**SUGGESTED TIMELINE:** Approximately 2 to 3 weeks

**CLASS PERIOD:** 45 to 60 minutes daily

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. How does nonfiction literature differ from fiction?
2. How do authors organize and present information in nonfiction text to aid the reader in understanding the text?
3. How does understanding the author's choices in the use of certain text features and structures assist me as a reader?

### TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES:

#### Reading Nonfiction

<http://www.brainpopjr.com/readingandwriting/readingskills/readingnonfiction>

#### Understanding Main Idea

<http://brainpop.com/english/writing/mainidea/>

#### Compare/Contrast Graphic Organizers

[http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/GO/compare\\_contrast.htm](http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/GO/compare_contrast.htm)

#### Cause/Effect Graphic Organizers

[http://educationoasis.com/curriculum/GO/cause\\_effect.htm](http://educationoasis.com/curriculum/GO/cause_effect.htm)

#### Chain Graphic Organizers: Sequence, Cycle, Time Line, and Chain of Events

<http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/GO/sequence.htm>



# UNIT TITLE: NOTABLE MISSOURIANS

Ella Ewing: The Missouri Giantess

GRADE LEVEL: 4

## UNIT TEACHING ACTIVITY IDEAS:

1. K-W-L Charts
2. World Maps
3. Prediction Charts as they read
4. Descriptive Writing
5. Class Debates
6. Reader's Theatre
7. Newspaper Articles
8. Scrapbooks
9. Character Maps
10. Postcard
11. Diary or journal entries

ESSENTIAL MEASURABLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES	COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARD LEARNING GOALS*	GLEs/CLEs	PS	CCSS	DOK
The learner will interpret and explain information provided through the graphic features in nonfiction text.	CCRA.R.5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g. a section or chapter) relate to each other and the whole.	R.3.A.4	1.5 1.6 2.4 3.5	RI.4.7	2
The learner will describe the organizational structures of nonfiction text.	CCRA.R.5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g. section or chapter) relate to each other and the whole.	R.3.A.4 R.3.C.4.A R.3.C.4.B R.3.C.4.C R.3.C.4.D R.3.C.4.E R.3.C.4.F R.3.C.4.J R.3.C.4.K	1.5 1.6 2.4 3.1 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8	RI.4.5	2
The learner will explain how the organizational structures and graphic features aid in the comprehension of nonfiction text.	CCRA.R.10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.	R.1.D.4.a R.1.D.4.b R.1.H.4.a		RI.4.10	1 3

GLEs/CLEs: meaning; PS: meaning; DOK: \* On the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website (dese.gov), these standards are known as the Missouri Learning Standards.

**TITLE SUMMARY:** “In many ways, Ella Kate Ewing was an ordinary girl. While growing up on a farm in the 1880s, she learned to sew and cook, help take care of the livestock, hunt rabbits, and tend the garden. But in one way, Ella was anything but ordinary. She was extraordinarily tall. By the time she was finished growing, Ella was 8’4” tall.

Ella toured the country as “The Missouri Giantess,” exhibiting at museums and fairs and appearing in the Barnum & Bailey Circus, Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, The Ringling Brothers Circus, and two World’s Fairs. She traveled farther than any of her friends and neighbors, but she always returned home, where she was known for her kindness and good nature. Ella Ewing showed how to turn a problem into an advantage and showed that fame doesn’t have to change who you are.”



# UNIT TITLE: NOTABLE MISSOURIANS

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## Ella Ewing: The Missouri Giantess

**GRADE LEVEL:** 4

**TITLE THEMES:** treatment of individuals with disabilities/abnormalities, women's rights, family, diversity, circuses, fame, World's Fair, and rural living

**HISTORICAL RELEVANCE:** Ella Ewing lived from 1872-1913. In that time a lot of important historical events occurred. Ella lived through the Women's Rights Movement. She was involved in the temperance movement, trying to convince people not to drink alcohol. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872. Additionally, Ella saw the Civil Rights Act passed in 1879. Ella Ewing participated in the Chicago World's Fair and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis. Most of the Western States were admitted to the Union during her lifetime as well.

**KEY VOCABULARY:** saloon, temperance, rural, circus, torso, incredible, monstrosity, frail, pituitary gland, exhibit, giantess, phenomenal, gawk, preserved, notoriety, exposition, recoil, socialized, streetcar, marvel, disreputable, spangles, chariots, reputation, pneumonia, and tuberculosis

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the idea of diversity being a good thing help everyone?
2. How did the authors of this text organize the material in order to make it interesting?
3. If Ella lived today, how would her life be the same or different?
4. How does rural and urban life compare?
5. If you could talk to Ella today, what would you talk about?

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Ella so tall? (She was so tall because her pituitary gland stopped working correctly.)
2. What were some of the "normal" things that Ella did? (Ella hunted, fished, sewed, cleaned, cooked, attended school, shopped, and went to church.)
3. Why did Ella build her house? (Ella built her house because she had enough money to support herself and have a house that fit her.)
4. What made her house different from other houses? (The front door was eight feet, eight inches tall. The ceilings were ten feet tall, and the windows were taller, too. The furniture was "normal" for when her friends visited her, but a few pieces were made just for Ella, including a rocking chair.)
5. List the inventions at the Chicago World's Fair. (Ferris Wheel, Cream of Wheat cereal, Shredded Wheat cereal, Juicy Fruit gum, fluorescent light bulbs, and the automatic dishwasher.)
6. When was Ella born and when did she die? (March 9, 1872; January 10, 1913)
7. How did she die? (She died of tuberculosis.)
8. What was she like as a child? Did it differ from other children? (She was small and frail. She helped around the farm. She learned how to clean, sew, cook, and preserve food. No, she was not different. )
9. When did she start growing uncontrollably? (When she was seven years old, 1879)
10. Where did Ella go to school and how far away was it? (Price School, 2 miles away)
11. What happened to Ella on July 4th, 1885? (She was picked to read the Declaration of Independence. She was made fun of while reading it.)
12. How tall was Ella when she was 14? (6 foot 2 inches)
13. How tall was she when she stopped growing? (8 foot 4 inches)
14. What phrase convinced Ella's father, Ben, to allow her to be on exhibit? ("If people are going to gawk, make them pay.")
15. How much money did Ella make the first time she was on exhibit? (\$1,000, \$26,000 today)



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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS continued:

16. How much money did Ella make in the Barnum and Bailey Circus? (\$3,250, \$80,470 today)
17. Why was she called the "Gentle Giantess"? (She was called this because she was very tall and kind.)
18. What is a temperance group? (It is a group of people who are against the consumption of alcohol. They believed that drinking alcohol caused crime, unemployment, and violence.)
19. How much did people pay to see Ella? (10 cents)
20. Why did Ella break her contract with the Wild West Show? (The Wild West Show was wild and went against her morals: no drinking and swearing.)

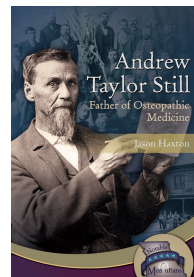
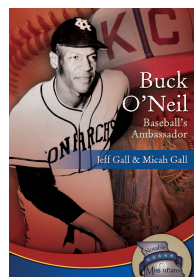
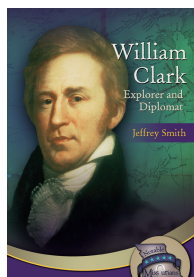
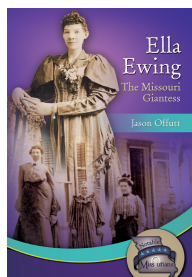
### MISSOURI CONNECTIONS:

The State Historical Site of Missouri - Historical Missourians. This website has additional resources about Ella and her life.

<http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/e/ewing/>

The Downing House Museum in Scotland County. The museum has an exhibit about Ella, which includes a life size model of her. 311 South Main Street, Memphis, Missouri 63555: Phone: (660)-465-2275 <http://www.downinghousemuseum.org/downing-house.html>

Ella Kate Ewing website. The website has information about Ella, including newspaper articles, pictures, and memories. Pictures and descriptions of Ella's house give readers a visual of the Ella's house, which burned down in 1965. <http://www.ellaewing.freeseervers.com>



## Notable Missourians

2016 Study Guides Available: Grade Level 4

Ella Ewing: The Missouri Giantess; William Clark: Explorer and Diplomat;  
Buck O'Neil: Baseball's Ambassador; Andrew Taylor Still: Father of  
Osteopathic Medicine

*Also available:* Jean Jennings Bartik, Olive Boone, Jeffery Deroine, Marie Meyer Fower, Emmett Kelly, Joseph Kinney, Albert Bond Lambert, Stan Musial, Sam Nightingale, Helen Stephens, Great Walker, and Alphonso Wetmore