



Name _____ Date _____

Learn How to Skim

Skimming is a technique you can use in your preliminary research as you are deciding which sources you want to use for your report.

When you skim you read quickly through an article or chapter and try to understand the main idea and key points without slowing down for details.

Skimming is an especially helpful reading technique when you are exploring a lengthy article or chapter on your topic.

By skimming—reading much faster than you would at a normal speed—you can get an overall feel for what is important in the material quickly so that you can move on to investigation of your next source.

► **Skim paragraph 1 below. Then record five important points (on the next page) that you remember from skimming the paragraph. Then skim paragraph 2 and record five key points that you remember from this paragraph.**

Paragraph 1

How do you bake cookies? First, put all the ingredients out on the table. This makes it easy to begin. Second, read the recipe carefully. Do you have all the ingredients that you need? Now set the oven to the temperature for which the recipe calls. It is important to have the oven hot for the cookies to bake well. Next mix the ingredients as the recipe tells you. Shape the cookies and put them on a flat sheet. Bake. Then cool the cookies. That's how you bake cookies.

Paragraph 2

How do you choose a book for your report? First, learn exactly what the assignment will be. If you do this it will help you to know what to look for. Next, ask yourself how long the book must be. Often, your teachers will give you an idea of how many pages you must read. Also, ask yourself what type of book you need to choose. Do you need a mystery book, a biography, or a science fiction book? Now you can check the shelves. When you find a book that interests you, do three things. Read the dust jacket. This will give you an idea of the book's contents. Skim the table of contents. This will give you information about the book. Check the author. Is it an author whose other books you have read and liked? Now check out your book!



Name _____ Date _____

Skim to Get the Main Idea

► Use with the article on page ⁷⁰

1. Skim the title and the first three paragraphs. What is the main idea or purpose of this article? _____

2. Skim the article again from the beginning to the end. Write down at least four details. These can be words or phrases that you notice.

3. Now read the whole article and write a summary that is no more than four sentences long. Did your skimming help? Were you right about the main idea?
