Just a Second

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Time, Measurement, Inventions

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: What can happen in a second?

A minute? An hour? Discover new and exciting ways to think about time.

Author and Illustrator:Steve Jenkins

Content

Connections: Math, Science





TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

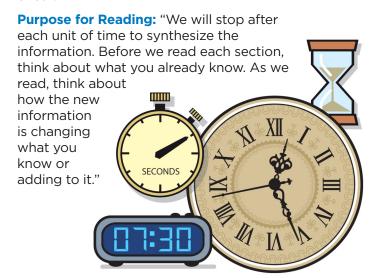
The Cover: Show students the front cover and ask them about the title. What

does the term "just a second" mean? What does it mean *literally?*

The Pictures: Briefly flip through the pictures and explain that this text is full of facts that will help students understand different ways to measure time.

Prior Knowledge: What do you already know about a second? A minute, a day, a week, a month? Why do we divide time this way? Explain that our units of measurement are taken from a variety of different peoples throughout time. Some are *arbitrary* (like 60 minutes in an hour), while others (like months) are based on natural cycles.

Vocabulary: cycle, interval, Babylonian, Egyptians, circuit



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- What is the oldest measure of time?
- ◆ What does the term "natural cycle" mean?
- Which fact is most surprising to you?

- How do you think the Babylonians came up with the idea of time?
- How is time related to the earth? The sun? The moon?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "How did your thinking change throughout the text? Did you learn anything that changed how you think about time?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: "How is time related to measurement?" "How would life be different if we had no way to measure time?" "Name some everyday events that take a second, minute, or hour."

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

Extension Activities for Educators also available.

