

## Trend Task: City Mountains

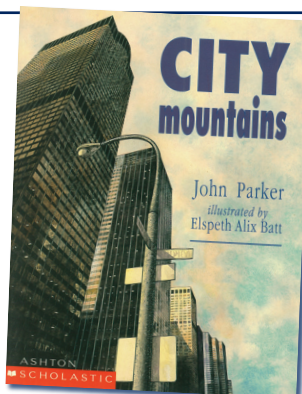
Approach: One to one  
Focus: Understanding reference features in books  
Resources: Book: *City Mountains*

Year: 8

### Questions / instructions:

We're going to have a look at some of the information printed in this non-fiction book called *City Mountains*. As well as having information about making buildings in cities and giving the name of the author, the book also has other helpful information.

Show the book to the student, but don't allow them to handle it yet.



Published by Ashton Scholastic, 1995  
Ashton Scholastic Ltd  
Private Bag 94407, Greenmount, Auckland, New Zealand.  
Ashton Scholastic Pty Ltd  
PO Box 579, Gosford, NSW 2250, Australia.  
Scholastic Inc  
555 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999, USA.  
Scholastic Canada Ltd  
123 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3G5, Canada.  
Scholastic Publications Ltd  
7-9 Pratt Street, London, NW1 0AE, England.  
Text © John Parker, 1995  
Illustrations © Elspeth Alix Batt, 1995  
ISBN 1 86943 147 2

Now let's have a look inside the book.

Show the student the relevant pages when asking the following questions.

1. In the book it will have the date when it was published. Where in the book would you expect to find that date?

front, after title page  
front (other)  
any other response

This book has a table of contents, and an index.

2. Where in the book would you expect to find the table of contents?

front, after title page  
front (other)  
any other response

3. Where in the book would you expect to find the index? back  
4. What is the difference between a Table of Contents and an Index?

#### Order:

[Table of Contents in page number order (shows order of topics); Index has its entries in alphabetical order.]

both differences mentioned  
only 1 difference mentioned  
no differences mentioned

#### Content:

[Table of Contents identifies chapters and sometimes major sections; Index usually has lots more detail; more entries (eg. words, subsections, people referred to).]

both differences mentioned  
only 1 difference mentioned  
no differences mentioned

5. This book also has a bibliography. Can you tell me what a bibliography is?

other sources of similar information  
where information came from (like reference list)

6. It shows that the book was published in 1995. Why can it be helpful to have the date when a book was published?

know how old or recent information is  
to help to find/purchase same book/edition

At the back of the book is a bibliography. Let's look at one of the entries in the bibliography.

Point to **Duncan, Michael. How it is made — Skyscrapers, Faber & Faber 1987.**

Try to explain to me what each part of this reference refers to.

7. What does **Duncan, Michael** tell us? author 39 (41)  
8. What does **How it is made — Skyscrapers** tell us? title / topic 36 (36)  
9. What does **Faber & Faber** tell us? publisher 37 (37)  
10. What does **1987** tell us? year of publication 31 (34)  
when it was made, written 31 (28)  
any other response 38 (38)

11. It can be helpful to have a bibliography. When might someone want to use the information that is in a bibliography?

if they want to find out more information about subject 49 (48)  
if they want to know where the information came from 16 (18)

Total score: 15–20 3 (2)  
12–14 16 (14)  
9–11 25 (24)  
6–8 30 (31)  
3–5 23 (25)  
0–2 3 (4)

### Commentary:

The results do not show strong understanding of the reference features in non-fiction books. Only 44 percent of the year 8 students scored more than eight out of 20. There was little change between 2001 and 2005.