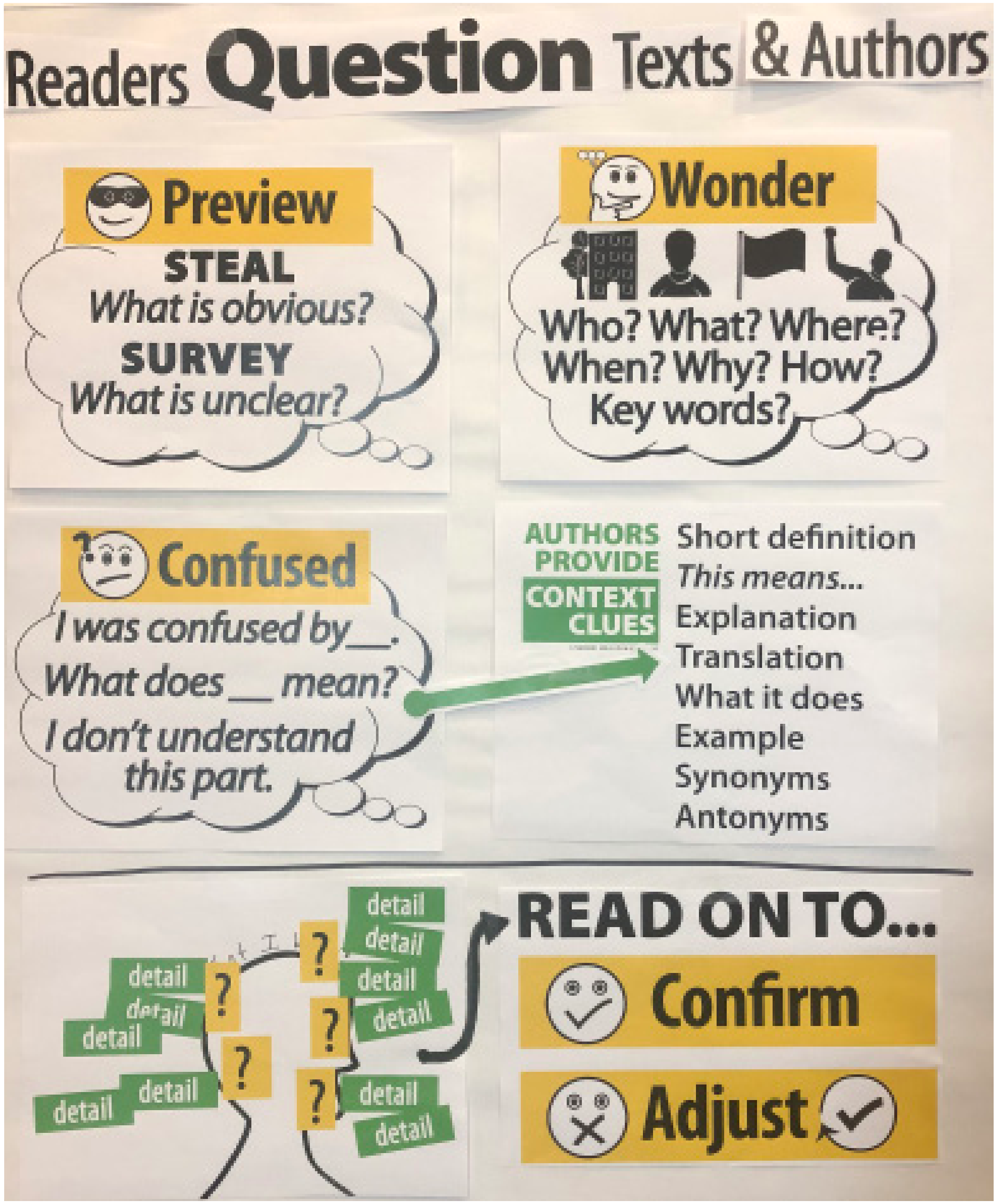
STEAL: Skim all the text features in 2 minutes.

SURVEY: Use the "stolen" information to generate pre-reading questions. *What don't you know? What is unclear? What are your first questions about this topic?*

Write them below the Bitcoin photo.

CONFUSED: Be aware of details that don't fit with the meaning you are making. If necessary, stop reading, reread slowly, and adjust your thinking to match the author details.



ANSWER: Begin reading the article, noting answers to pre-reading questions within the margins.

WONDER: While reading, note additional questions you think of in the margins.

Mark answers to these *new* questions as you discover them.

CONTEXT CLUES: Expect to learn new terms within this article. Look for unfamiliar words and mark the nearby clues the author provides to support your understanding.

A neon sign hanging in the window of Healthy Harvest Indoor Gardening in Hillsboro, Oregon, February 7, 2018. The sign shows that people can pay the store in bitcoin. Digital currencies are still very rare compared to cash and credit cards. Photo by: Gillian Flaccus/AP

Bitcoin and blockchain

Currency is another word for money. Dollars, yuan and euros are all types of currency. Bitcoin is a new type of digital currency. That means it only exists in computers.

Bitcoin is being used to buy everything from couches to cupcakes. Many people have argued about how useful bitcoin is. Lately, they have started talking more about the technology behind bitcoin.

Bitcoin uses a technology called blockchain. This is a public online record that tracks how bitcoins are spent. There are other digital currencies that use blockchain too. They are all called cryptocurrencies. They could change the way many businesses and banks work.

The Situation

Traders buy and sell different currencies to make more money. In other words, they use one currency to buy another. They can do this because the prices of currencies are always changing. For example, say you buy a bitcoin for $10. If the price goes up, you can sell that bitcoin. You could sell it for $11. That means you earned a dollar you didn't have before. You could also lose money, though. If the price goes down instead of up, you might have to sell your bitcoin for $9, which means you lost $1.

The price of bitcoin rocketed in 2017, before going back down again. People argue whether the digital currency should be taken seriously. Digital currencies like bitcoin are not perfect. For example, hackers were able to steal almost $500 million worth of a currency called NEM.

Meanwhile, a software company called R3 is working with more than 100 banks to use blockchain to track things like sending money to someone and purchases. Also, Walmart is using blockchain to track the food it sells to make it safer. Many businesses are exploring what the technology can do for them.

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The Background

Digital currencies aren't new. Online games have used them for a long time. You may have used rupees when playing "Legend of Zelda." Or you collected gold in "World of Warcraft." Sometimes you can even buy or sell digital goods from other players. There are a few things that make bitcoin different, though.

We do not know who invented bitcoin because its creator or creators used a made-up name, Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin is mysterious, but it did solve some problems with digital currencies. Bitcoin has no physical coins or bills, so it's hard to make sure no one spends the same money twice. That is why Satoshi Nakamoto invented blockchain. This is a publicly viewable online record that tracks every single time bitcoins are used. Computers around the world do calculations to check that use. This is how they stop people from spending the same money twice.

The owners of the blockchain computers are called miners. They earn new bitcoins each time their computers make a check. They can't do it forever, though. One day, 21 million bitcoins will have been created and after that no more will be made.

Usually, currency is created by a government, but that's not how bitcoin works. New bitcoins are created by a group of computers around the world, not by a single person or organization.

The Argument

Some do not think bitcoin will last. They say that bitcoins aren't worth anything by themselves. People who like bitcoin say that the price is not the point. They say bitcoins are valuable because they prove that a new type of money can work without counting on governments, big banks or credit card companies. The computers that do blockchain calculations don't belong to any single person or group.

Ethereum is the most popular digital currency after bitcoin. Fans of Ethereum say that its blockchain does more than let people send money to each other. It allows anyone to build applications that run on blockchain. Ethereum fans say it could be used to run entire businesses.

Write a 1-3 sentence summary of this article using the following vocabulary words.

currency **miners** **computers**

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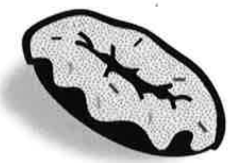
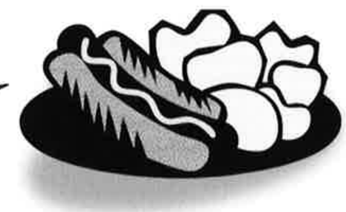
Super-Size Fast-Food Facts



by Sandy Stiefer



Fast foods can be a part of a healthy diet if you choose wisely. Start by avoiding super amounts of fat and calories.

EXAMPLES FROM THE LESSON