

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 6, Lesson 17

Teacher Packet

How does an author “hook” a reader?

- Anecdote/Story
- Statement
- Question

Independent Activity – Lesson 16

For your independent activity for lesson 16:

- Write two new hooks for the beginning of the article “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish.”
 - Write a statement hook and a question hook.
 - Use one of the vocabulary words that is listed in your notes for each hook that you write. (staple, gastronomic, cuisine, culinary heritage)
- After you have written the two hooks, write a brief explanation on which hook strategy—anecdote, statement, or question—you think is most effective for getting readers interested in the text we read today.

Where in the world is Laos?





Notes Template

TRAVEL NARRATIVE	INFORMATIONAL TEXT

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• includes characters, or real life people• has dialogue• describes setting or character actions• has to deal with travel	

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(6) What explains the national love of sticky rice? Many Laotians laughed when I asked them. Sticky rice is what their grandparents and great-grandparents ate, they said. Perhaps they were caught off guard by my question: like baguettes in France and sushi in Japan, sticky rice is so ingrained in Laos’ culinary heritage that most Laotians don’t think about it in isolation.

Paragraph Headings

6. “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage” or “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage”
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(7) Sticky, or “glutinous,” rice has been growing in mainland Southeast Asia for at least 4,000 years. Historians debate whether ancient farmers grew sticky rice because it was suited to local growing conditions or because they liked its taste and chewy texture. What’s clear is that, by the 18th century, sticky rice had been largely replaced across the region by varieties of nonglutinous rice, a.k.a. “white rice.”

Paragraph Headings

6. “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage” or “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage”
7. “History of Sticky Rice in Southeast Asia” or “Sticky Rice’s History”
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(8) But sticky rice is still the primary staple in Laos and parts of the five countries bordering it: China, Myanmar (mee-in-marí), Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In Laos, slightly larger in area than Utah, per-capita sticky rice consumption is the highest on earth at more than 345 pounds per year. The average American, by contrast, eats less than 20 pounds of rice annually, according to the United States Drug Administration.

Paragraph Headings

6. “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage” or “Sticky Rice is an Important Part of Laos’ Culinary Heritage”
7. “History of Sticky Rice in Southeast Asia” or “Sticky Rice’s History”
8. “Sticky Rice is an Important Food for the countries of Southeast Asia” or “Laotians Eat a Lot of Sticky Rice!”
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(9) Urbanization, migration, and other forces are altering rice-consumption habits across Laos, says historian Grant Evans, to the point where some urban dwellers now associate sticky rice with “country bumpkin ways of eating.” But Evans, the author of several books about Laos, also says he doesn’t know a single Laotian person who never eats sticky rice. From a cultural perspective, he explained, sticky rice is still “the way the Lao identify themselves.” Case in point: as of the mid-1990s, a popular Laotian band in the United States was calling itself Khao niaw (cow-now)— the Laotian words for, sure enough, sticky rice.

Paragraph Headings

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7. “History of Sticky Rice in Southeast Asia” or “Sticky Rice’s History”
8. “Sticky Rice is an Important Food for the countries of Southeast Asia” or “Laotians Eat a Lot of Sticky Rice!”
9. “Rice-Consumption is Changing in Laos” or “Even though Laos is Changing, Most People Still Eat Sticky Rice”
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(10) The dish comes in various shapes and sizes — a recent agricultural research project on rice in Laos involved more than 13,000 rice samples, more than 11,000 of them glutinous — but the basic method of consuming khao niaw (cow-now) is the same countrywide. Harvested sticky rice grains, which are typically shorter and fatter than non-glutinous ones, are soaked overnight, steamed in the morning, and eaten all day.

Sticky rice still tastes great after two steamings, said Luck, but steaming it thrice (three times) makes it “too sticky.” Because sticky rice lacks the starch *amylose*, it congeals — and breaks off into fist-sized pieces — more easily than white rice under similar cooking conditions.

Paragraph Headings

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8. “Sticky Rice is an Important Food for the countries of Southeast Asia” or “Laotians Eat a Lot of Sticky Rice!”
9. “Rice-Consumption is Changing in Laos” or “Even though Laos is Changing, Most People Still Eat Sticky Rice”
10. “How Sticky Rice is Prepared” or “How Sticky Rice is Made”
- 11.
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(11) A hunk of sticky rice is a delicious, bread-like dipping implement. Laotians prefer to eat sticky rice with non-soupy dishes, rather than with just curries and sauces, said Caroline Gaylard, co-founder of Tamarind, a café and cooking school in Luang Prabang (luh-wahng prah-bahng), the former Laotian royal capital. According to Gaylard, an Australian who moved to the country, sticky rice complements the popular Laotian dish jeow (jeé-ow), a dry paste made from chili peppers and herbs, as well as the royal dish mok pa fork (maok-paw-fauk), which features steamed fish, dill, shallots and coconut milk.

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8. “Sticky Rice is an Important Food for the countries of Southeast Asia” or “Laotians Eat a Lot of Sticky Rice!”
9. “Rice-Consumption is Changing in Laos” or “Even though Laos is Changing, Most People Still Eat Sticky Rice”
10. “How Sticky Rice is Prepared” or “How Sticky Rice is Made”
11. “How Laotians Eat Sticky Rice” or “Sticky Rice Can Go with Many Laotian Dishes”
- 12.

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(12) Sticky rice figures in religious traditions across Laos, where the predominant faith is Theravada (Terra-vaḥ-nuh) Buddhism. Laotians cook sticky rice dishes — notably khao tom (cow-tóm) , a fusion of sticky rice, coconut, banana and mung bean — for ceremonies related to plantings, rainfall, harvests and death. During the popular baci ceremony, uncooked sticky rice grains are tossed into the air after communal prayers. And when a Laotian is dying, a village elder may rub sticky rice on the person and throw the rice away to banish bad spirits.

Paragraph Headings

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8. “Sticky Rice is an Important Food for the countries of Southeast Asia” or “Laotians Eat a Lot of Sticky Rice!”
9. “Rice-Consumption is Changing in Laos” or “Even though Laos is Changing, Most People Still Eat Sticky Rice”
10. “How Sticky Rice is Prepared” or “How Sticky Rice is Made”
11. “How Laotians Eat Sticky Rice” or “Sticky Rice Can Go with Many Laotian Dishes”
12. “Sticky Rice Plays an Important Role in Religious Practices in Laos” or “Sticky Rice is More than Just Food, It also Plays a Role in Laotian Spirituality”

TRAVEL NARRATIVE	INFORMATIONAL TEXT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• includes characters, or real life people.• has dialogue• describes setting or character actions.• has to deal with travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys factual information• may include numbers or data• may provide historical or geographical facts• explains information• uses quotes from experts

Independent Activity

Write a 1-page journal entry about a time when you traveled to somewhere new. Similar to our article, your journal entry should use characteristics of a travel narrative and also an informational text. That means that you will write a true personal account and also include factual details about the place you traveled to.

You can gather the factual details by using your own background knowledge, by doing some research online, or by asking an adult about the place you are talking about in your journal entry.