



Summary

Fighting Forces On Land: M109 Paladin explains the history and development of the Paladin howitzer. It also describes the vehicle's mechanical specifications and performance advantages during times of war.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
accuracy battery caliber formidable nuclear ordnance satellite toxic	azimuth biological diesel motorized opposition portability surveyor	Summarizing main idea, Inference, Using prior knowledge to understand text	Text structure: Description, Compare/contrast, Use of supporting details and description	table of contents photographs index bold glossary words	headings captions glossary

Standards: Science and Social Studies

- Knows various settings in which scientists and engineers may work
 - Knows ways in which technology has influenced the course of history
 - Understands the people, events, problems, and ideas that were significant in creating history
 - Understands the use of technology to solve problems
- Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover. Activate prior knowledge through discussion of the cover photograph. Introduce students to the vocabulary words by having them look at the glossary on pages 30 and 31.

Discussion questions:

- Read the definition for *biological*. How are *biological* weapons different from more traditional weapons such as guns?
- If you have a *formidable* opponent what does that mean?
- Why is *portability* an important feature of military equipment?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Fighting Forces On Land: M109 Paladin** is an informational text written to describe how this vehicle was developed.

Ask students to browse the pages and note what text features are found. Point out that each chapter starts with a main idea paragraph and then provides further information in the photos and captions. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the table of contents. What are some things you might learn from reading this book?
- An important aspect of this book is its placement of the Paladin into a historical context. Scan the book to find photos that show how the author helped us to understand the history of artillery.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Fighting Forces On Land: M109 Paladin**, gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- What is the main purpose of big gun artillery during wartime?
- Explain the role of American car companies in the making of the M109.
- What does the author mean when he describes the M109 as a "shoot and scoot" assault gun?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to create a timeline to show the development of mobile artillery through the wars noted in the book.



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EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Fighting Forces on Land: M109 Paladin

Name: _____

Date: _____

Development of Mobile Artillery

Directions: Complete the timeline to show the development of mobile artillery through the wars noted in the book.

Civil War 1861-1865	WW I 1914-1918	WW II 1939-1945	Korean 1950-1953	Iraq 2003- _____
<i>Type of artillery and method of movement</i>				
<i>(ex: horse-drawn)</i>				