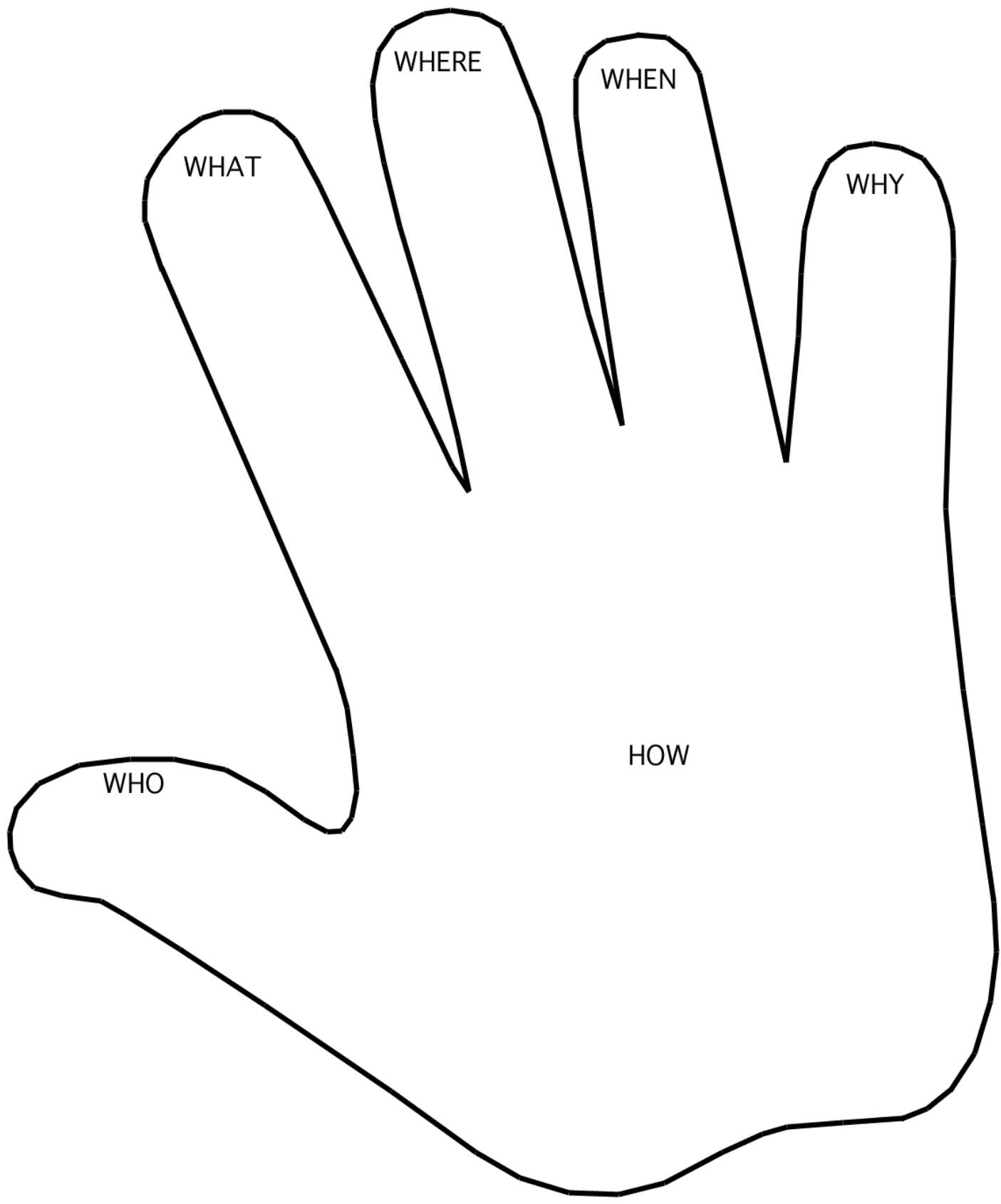


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Additional Ideas

The hand serves as a graphic organizer to help the students with finding the main idea and supporting details of a passage of reading.

I put up a poster of the hand on the wall, with "Who?" on the thumb, "What?" on the first finger, then "Where?", "When?", "Why?" on the next fingers, with "How?" on the palm.

We also do a little song, to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand" that goes:

I've got the who, what, where, when, why and how.
I've got the who, what, where, when, why and how.
I've got the who, what, where, when, why and how.
I've got the main idea in my hand.

As we sing, we point to the appropriate finger on our own hands. (My middle schoolers act like they think it's silly at first, but later on I hear a lot of under-the-breath singing as they fill in the graphic organizers themselves!)

I model using the hand, and questions, to find the main idea of a familiar reading passage, then they learn how to do it.

Then, when we are reading, I hand out blank "hands" for them to use to fill out the who, what, where, when, why and how of the passage. They write just one or two words for each question. The ideas on the hand help them develop a paraphrased summary of what they have read.

Note: There is also a blank version of this hand graphic available at edHelper.com in the Classroom Helpers section.

Submitted by Jean Federico