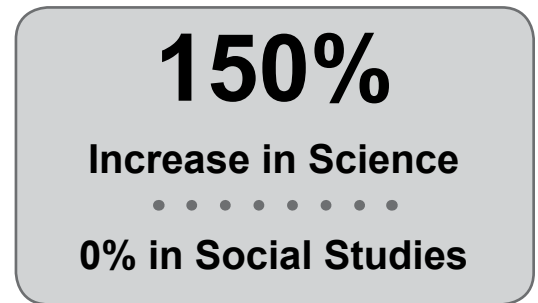


Appendix A: Critical Differences in Grade 2 and Grade 3 Textbooks

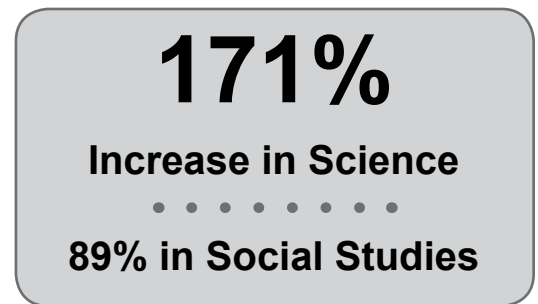
DIFFICULT WORDS:

- Difficult words are defined or pronounced within the text but not identified by the publishers as vocabulary terms, or vocabulary words that appear in the text before they are defined.
- Grade 3 students must grapple with 2.5 times as many of these in their science books. Although the number of words did not increase in social studies, there was a noted increase in word complexity.



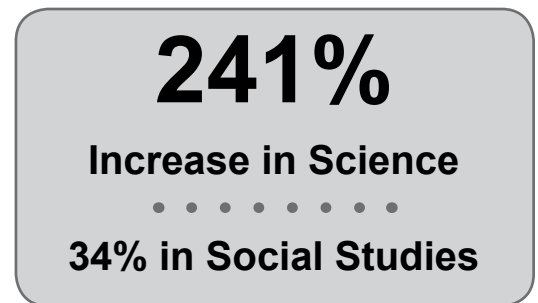
NUMBER OF WORDS PER PAGE

- Grade 3 textbooks have a significantly larger number of words per page than do 2nd grade textbooks.
- Grade 3 students must read an additional 84 words per page on average in science and 56 words per page in social studies.



DIFFICULT SYNTAX

- Difficult syntax is defined by the number of complex and compound sentences.
- Grade 3 students must unravel a far greater number of difficult sentences per page in order to understand their lessons.



LEFT-EMBEDDED SYNTAX

- This category includes sentences that begin with a subordinate clause or a left-embedded syntax structure.
- Grade 3 students must grapple with 3 times as many of these in science. Although the overall number of sentences with difficult syntax did not increase in Grade 3, the left embedded structures tend to be longer and more complex, with more for students to read before they reach the subject of the sentence.

