

Text Features

RI.7.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

THE NEWS

**Understanding
Nonfiction
Text**

• 50 cents

Text Features



**Text Features Help Students
Understand Nonfiction Text**

INSIDE

**Examples of Text
Features
With Definitions**

**Explanations for
How Text Features
Help Readers**

"Maybe it's not too late!"

What are text features?

- **Authors include text features to help the reader better understand what they have read.**
- **Text features provide information that may not be written in the text itself.**
- **Text features can be found in textbooks, magazine articles, newspapers, reports, web pages, and other forms of nonfiction text.**

The information about where animals live would be found on page 3 in Animal Habitats.



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: All About Animals

Animal Adaptations	Page 1
Animal Food.....	Page 2
Animal Habitats	Page 3
Animal Homes	Page 4

Chapter 2: All About Plants

Photosynthesis	Page 5
Types of Plants	Page 6

Where would a reader find information about where an animal lives?

- **Lists the major parts of a book along with their page numbers.**
- **It outlines the main topics or main points.**
- **Readers can use the table of contents to help locate information in the book and see how everything is organized.**

The reader could find information about acid rain on pages 396 – 397.



Index

A

Abu Simbel, temple of, *p*73
Acadia, Canada, 212-213
Acid rain, 396, *c*396-*c*397, 396-397
Animal Adaptations *p*1
Animal Food *p*2
Animal Habitats *p*3
Animal Homes *p*5

Where would a reader find information in the text about acid rain?

- **Is an alphabetical listing of the key names, terms, events, and topics with page numbers.**
- **Readers use the index to help find pages that contain information they are looking for.**

The reader would understand animal adaptations better because the glossary tells them what it means to adapt.



Glossary

A

Acid rain (AS ihd rayn) rain that carries certain kind of pollution.

Adapt (uh DAPT) to change in order to survive in new environments

How would the glossary help the reader understand text about animal adaptations?

- **A list of key terms in alphabetical order.**
- **Each key word is defined.**
- **Sometimes a glossary also tells you how to pronounce a word.**
- **Readers use the glossary to look up key terms to find out their meaning. This helps the reader better learn and understand the subject.**

The titles all talk about space so the articles are all about space.



Titles



What do the titles of the articles in these newspapers tell you?

- Titles tell the reader the topic of the text.
- Titles show the main idea of the text.
- Titles help the reader by letting them know what they are about to read.
- Titles focus the reader on a topic so they can make connections between what they already know and the text.



Where would the reader look to find out about a fire ant?

A fire ant is a kind of ant so the reader would look in Types of Ants.

Subheadings

Helpful Ants

Although ants are frustrating when they get in homes, ants do help the environment. They help control the population of damaging pests such as termites.

Types of Ants

Types of ants include fire ants, which cause a painful sting, and carpenter ants, which damage wood structures while nest building. Other types of ants include honey, pharaoh, house, Argentine, and the thief ant.

- **Subheadings divide the text into sections.**
- **Subheadings tell the main idea of each section of text.**
- **They are printed in large or bold type to make them stand out.**
- **Subheadings help the reader to locate information in the text by telling them where to look.**



The words in italics help the reader by focusing the reader on the answer to a question.

Text (Bold, Color, & Italics)

The Wetlands of the South

Why are the South's wetlands so important?

The Okefenokee (oh kuh fuh NOH kee) Swamp is a large wetland in the South. A **wetland** is a place where the ground is soaked with water for at least part of the year.

How do the words in italics help the reader understand the text?

- The style and color of the text sends the reader signals about how to read the content.
- Key words to notice are in bold or in color.
- Text in *italics* is used in picture captions, book titles, and any other element that needs to stand out.
- Text in bold, color, or *italics* draw the readers attention to important information.

The pictures would help me understand what the animals look like and where they live.



Photographs Illustrations



How might these photos help the reader understand the text?

- Photos and illustrations give information in a visual way.
- They help tell the story.
- They work with the words and headings to help teach material.
- They help the reader understand an idea from the text that was unclear.

The caption explains that the coins are from the bottom of the ocean.

The caption would help me understand where the treasure was found.



Captions



Photo by MARCIN SZCZEPANSKI

These gold coins were found on the ocean floor!

How does this caption help the reader understand the picture? If this article was about finding treasure, how would this caption help the reader understand the text?

- A caption explains what is shown in a picture or illustration.
- Captions help the reader understand information that may or may not be in the text.

The textbox contains the mystery to help create interest for the reader.



Textbox

A page from a book titled "Habitats of AUSTRALIA". The page is divided into sections. At the top left is a photo of a Tasmanian Devil. To its right is a table of contents with four boxes: N-P (30-38), Q-R (40), S-U (44-50), and V-X (60). Below the photo is a section titled "The Tasmania Region" with a map of Australia. The text describes the island of Tasmania and its habitats. A "Solve This!" box contains a mystery about a Tasmanian Devil's behavior. A "Caption" box describes the Tasmanian Devil's diet. A "Photo Match" box asks a question about the animal's teeth. A photo of a Tasmanian Devil is at the bottom right.

One of the textboxes above asks the reader to solve a mystery about a Tasmanian Devil. Why would he include this mystery?

- A textbox provides more information than is in the text about a topic.
- A textbox can include interesting facts or important information the author wants the reader to know.
- Textboxes help readers understand by creating interest or emphasizing important information.

The map could help the reader understand where Texas is located and how the location relates to the text.



Maps



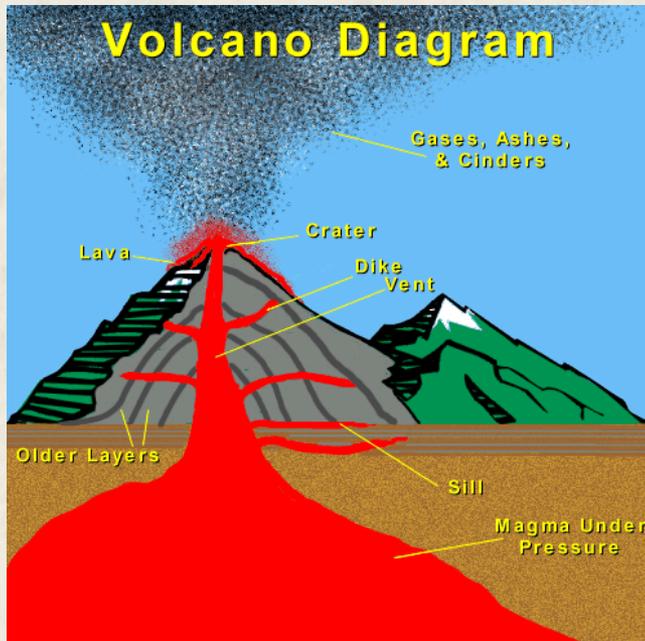
How would a map of the United States help the reader understand an article about Texas?

- Maps are drawings that show the basic shape of the land and other geographical, political, or historical features.
- They present information in a visual form.
- They help the reader understand where an event happens.
- They help the reader understand how far away an event took place.

The diagram helps the reader understand the parts of a volcano and how they erupt.



Diagrams



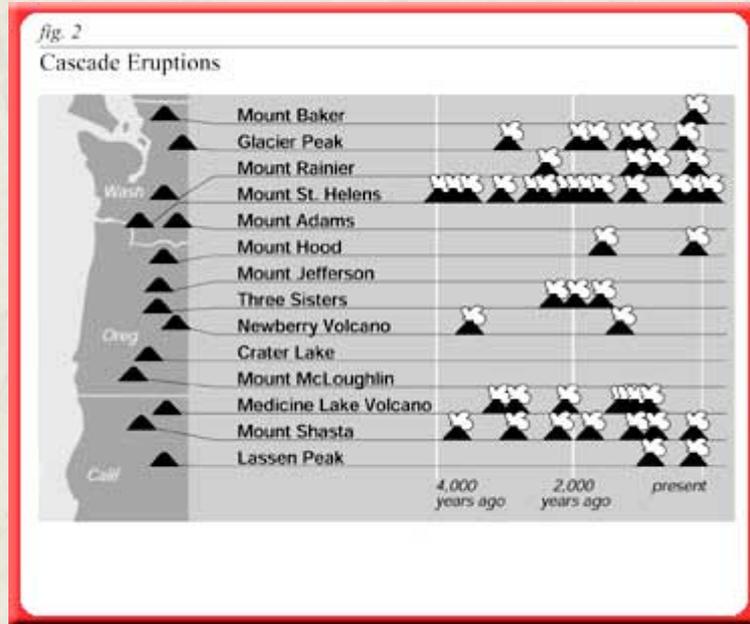
How could this diagram help the reader understand volcanoes?

- A diagram is a drawing that shows or explains something.
- To understand a diagram the reader should read the titles, labels, captions, and numbered parts.
- Diagrams help the reader understand steps, how objects are made, or information in the text.

The table would help the reader understand where and how often volcanoes erupt.



Tables



How would a table about volcano eruptions help the reader understand volcanoes?

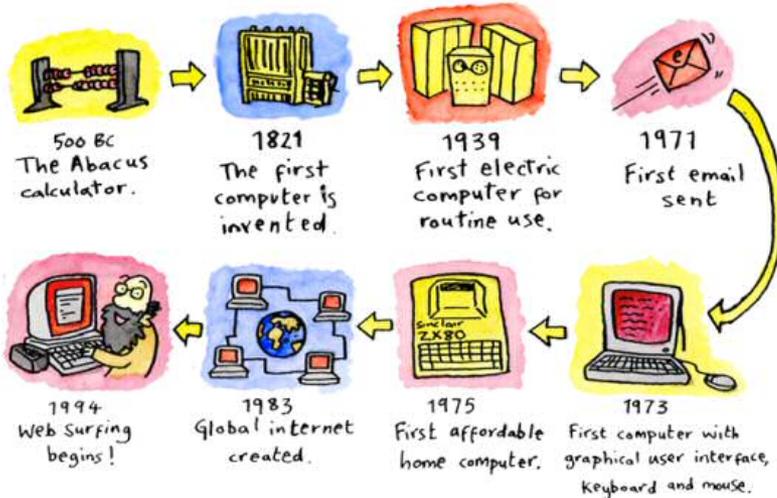
- Tables organize large amounts of information in a small space.
- Tables present all kinds of data, from numbers and amounts, to calendars and menus.
- Tables help the reader compare information in the text.

The timeline would show that computers may not have been affordable until late in an older persons life.



Timelines

⚡ Techie Timeline ⚡



- Timelines show important events in chronological order or time order.
- Timelines help the reader better understand the order of events and how one event may have lead to another.

How would a timeline help a reader understand an article about why some older people aren't knowledgeable about computers?

PRINT FEATURES

Guide readers through the patterns of organization

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Table of Contents	identify key topics in the book and the order they are presented in
Index	see everything in the text listed alphabetically with page numbers
Glossary	define words contained in the text
Preface	set a purpose for reading, get an overview of the content
Pronunciation Guide	say the words
Appendix	by offering additional information

CONTENTS	
Foreword	iii
Organization, Department of Water Resources	v
Membership, California Water Commission	vi
1. WATER USE IN CALIFORNIA	1
Urban Water Use	1
The State's Population — 1990, 1995, and 2010	3
Population Highlights	4
Other Factors Affecting Urban Water Use	7
Agricultural Water Use	9
Historical Irrigated Agriculture	12
Future Agricultural Water Use	15
Irrigated Land in San Joaquin Valley	20
2. SURFACE WATER SUPPLIES	30
Storage Reservoirs	30
Local and Regional Supplies	32
State Water Project Supplies	36
Higher Risk v. Firm Yield Operation	39
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1. Urban Water Deliveries, Applied Water	2
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1. California's Population—1990, 1995, 2010	3
2. Acreages of California's Crops	13
3. Regional Use of California's Developed Water Supplies	18
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B. Annual Delta Inflow and its Uses, 1980	123
C. Sources of Repayment of Project Costs to 2050	125

EXAMPLE: CONTENTS (PARTIAL)

ORGANIZATIONAL AIDS

Help readers find important information

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Bold Print	by signaling the word is important and/or found in the glossary
Italics	understand the word is important
Bullets	emphasize key points/ concepts
Titles	locate different categories in the text
Headings	identify topics throughout the book as they skim and scan
Subheadings	navigate through sections of text
Labels	identify a picture and/or its parts
Captions	understand pictures and photographs

GRAPHIC AIDS

Represent information in some specific way

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Bold Print	by signaling the word is important and/or found in the glossary
Italics	understand the word is important
Bullets	emphasize key points/ concepts
Titles	locate different categories in the text
Headings	identify topics throughout the book as they skim and scan
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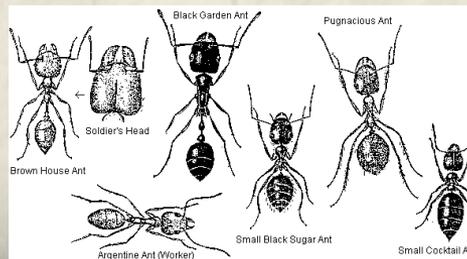
ILLUSTRATIONS

Expand the meaning of the text

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Photographs	understand exactly what something looks like
Drawings	understand what something could or might have looked like
Magnification	see details in something



A worker female fire ant in the act of stinging a human thumb.



Drawings of different types of ants



A magnified ant head.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT TEXT FEATURES

FEATURES

I CHALLENGE YOU TO USE THEM TO COMPLETE A SCAVENGER HUNT

Read the article, *Flying High*. Your goal is to identify as many informational text features as possible. Write the types you find on a separate sheet of paper and then check your work by viewing the next slide.



Flying high

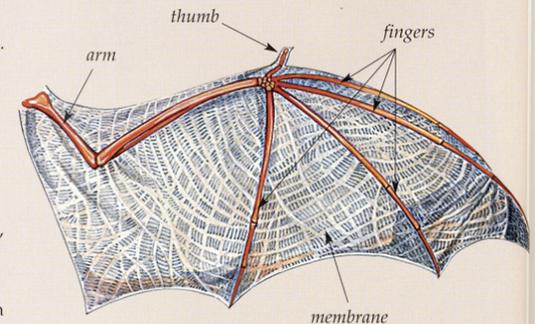


These spotted bats are flying in opposite directions.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Bats fly to find food and to find safe **roosts**, or shelters. They also fly to escape **predators**. Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals. Bats can travel long distances by flying high in the sky, where the wind helps carry them along.

Hand-wing

All bats belong to a group of animals called *Chiroptera*. The word “Chiroptera” means “hand-wing.” A bat’s wings are made of **membrane**, or a thin layer of skin. The membrane is connected to the bat’s fingers, arms, legs, and to the sides of its body. The bat moves its wings using its arms and long, thin fingers. Different bats have differently shaped wings.



SCAVENGER HUNT

ANSWERS

THE TEXT FEATURES YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND:

- ✓ Title (Flying High)
- ✓ Subheading (Hand-wing)
- ✓ Labels
- ✓ A Caption
- ✓ A Photograph
- ✓ A Diagram
- ✓ Bold Print
- ✓ Italics

NEXT TIME YOU READ

Pay attention to the text features as you read. See if you can put them to use to increase your comprehension and maybe you will even finish your assignment in less time!



Bibliography

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