

Explanation Text Features

Non-fiction books are always full of interesting facts!

So when we're writing non-fiction, we need to make sure we remember the key features of an explanation text.



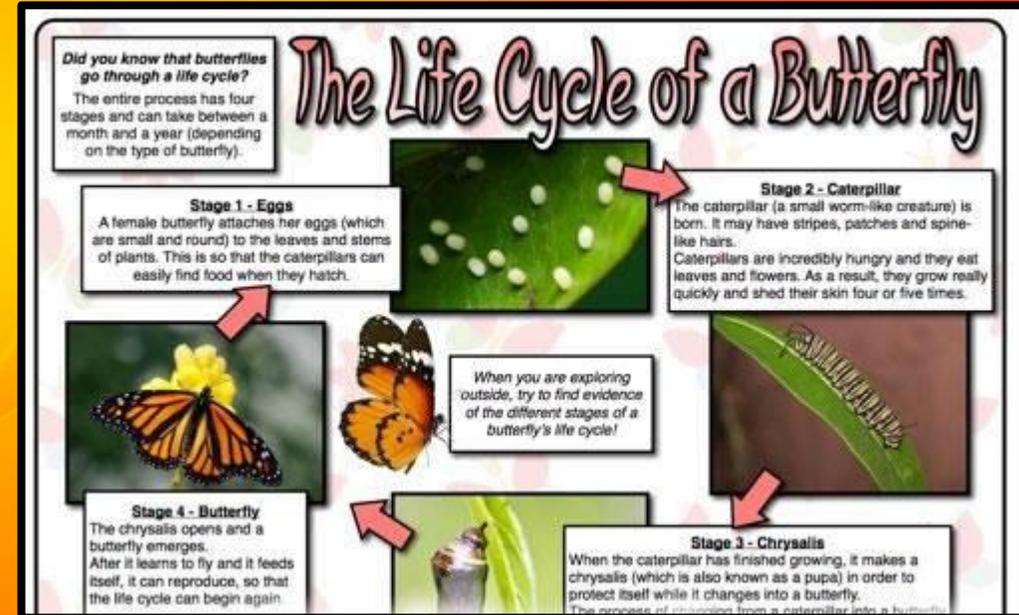
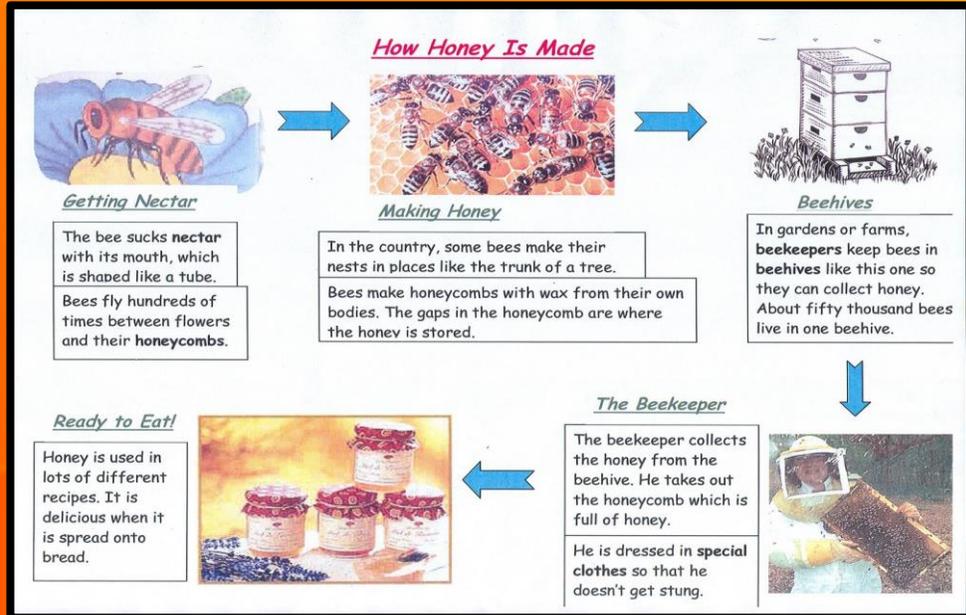
Explanation Text Features

Please read through today's slides for this lesson. Feel free to watch this video to help for visual learning.

Don't forget to practice features on the last slide!

What is an explanation text?

An explanation text is a non-fiction text which describes how and why something is happening.



It's a piece of non-fiction (factual) writing that explains something specific. From making honey to the life cycle of a butterfly.

But don't get confused!

Although they may look similar; an explanation text is **not** an instructive text.

The History of Sandwiches



Where it all began

Would you believe that Americans eat more than 300 million sandwiches a day? That's right, every day we consume about as many sandwiches as we have people to eat them. And why not? It's hard to imagine, but the sandwich was once thought of as a symbol of a colonial past that most patriotic Americans wanted to forget.

The British Lunch

The sandwich as we know it was popularized in England in 1762 by John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. Legend has it, and most food historians agree, that Montagu had a substantial gambling problem that led him to spend hours on end at the card table. Montagu enjoyed his meat and bread so much that he ate it constantly, and as the concoction grew popular in London society circles it also took on the Earl's name.

What do you put in it?

Of course, John Montagu (or rather, his nameless cook) was hardly the first person to think of putting fillings between slices of bread. In fact, we know exactly where Montagu first got the idea for his creation. Dips, cheeses, and meats were all "sandwiched" between and on layers of bread. In all likelihood Montagu took inspiration from these when he sat at that card table.

This explanation text gives us **information** about how and why sandwiches were made using facts.

This instructive text tells us to make a sandwich using a recipe and **instructions**.

How to make a jam sandwich

You need: Bread  Butter 
Jam  Plate 

1. First pick up the knife.
2. Spread the butter across the bread.
3. Next spread the jam across the butter.
4. Put the second piece of bread on top.
5. Cut the sandwich in half with the knife.
6. Place the sandwich on a plate.
7. Serve the sandwich.

Features are specific parts of something.

For example - a feature of a tabby cat is it's orange fur. Without it's orange fur it is not a tabby cat.

Without the right features in an explanation text, it is not an explanation text. An explanation text will often have...

1. A title

Well not just a title, it's normally an exciting and enticing title to make you want to read the text.

Brave Beowulf and his Bloody Battles

2. Subheadings

These can also be known as subtitles. They are used to introduce a paragraph of information.

Who he fought
Beowulf had many a battle...

What he received
King Hrothgar gave him...

3. Technical vocabulary

You need to use the correct terms when explaining something to make sure it comes across clearly.

The **thanes** and **Geats** all worked together to conquer the monster Grendel. Beowulf had a **hilted sword** and **chain-mail suit**.

What else?

A explanation text can also feature...

4. Action verbs

An **action verb** is a verb that describes an **action**, like run, jump, kick, eat, break, cry, smile, or think.

He **kicked** through the men and **ran** towards him.

5. Cause and effect conjunctions

Giving reason why something has happened to add more information.

Beowulf held onto Grendel's arm **because** he knew it needed to end there and then.

6. Images and diagram

Adding image and diagrams to an explanation text gives more detail to the facts and information you give.



Give it a go!

Can you name the features of this explanation text?

