

Date: _____

LO: Identify the features of an explanation text

- To explore the different features of an explanation text.
- To create a key to classify the different features of an explanation text.



What is an explanation?

explanation

noun [C or U]

UK /,ek.splə'nei.jən/ US /,ek.splə'nei.jən/



B1

the details or reasons that someone gives to make something clear or easy to understand:

- Could you **give** me a quick explanation **of** how it works?
- What was her explanation **for** why she was late?



Think of a time when you have explained something or when somebody has explained something to you to make something easier to understand.

In school and at home we are always explaining how to do different things to help make it easier to understand.

I would like you to find a member of your family and explain to them something they have no idea how to do. Have a chat and compare your hobbies and talents and see what different things you can explain.

Timed Pair Share



Whilst they
are
explaining
listen out
for
similarities
in the
vocabulary
they use.

Now we all know what an explanation is *So What is an explanation text?*

An explanation text is a piece of writing that's purpose is to tell the reader *how* something works or *why* something happens.



Let's look at the features of an explanation text?

A clear title to show what is being explained?

An opening statement to introduce the process?

Clear steps to show how or why something occurs?

The events in order?

Conjunctions of time (e.g. before, after)?

Causal conjunctions (e.g. because, so, this causes, therefore, thus, consequently)?

Illustrations/diagrams/flow charts to make explanation clearer?

*Let's look at the features of
an explanation text?*

Let's check out an explanation text together.

A clear title to show what is being explained?

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Illustrations/diagrams/flow charts to make explanation clearer?

Let's check out an
explanation text
together.

How rocket shoes work. 

 We invented rocket shoes to make walking safer and more fun.

Each shoe has six rockets on the bottom. They switch on when you put them on because your big toe touches the switch.

The rockets are solar-powered so leave the shoes outside the front door to recharge.

When the rockets are fully charged you can jump over cars and houses. A charge lasts about 3 hours.

Rocket shoes make crossing roads much safer. They are great for kids and elderly people. They save energy.

Let's check out an explanation text together.

A clear title to show what is being explained?

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The events in order?

Conjunctions of time (e.g. before, after)?

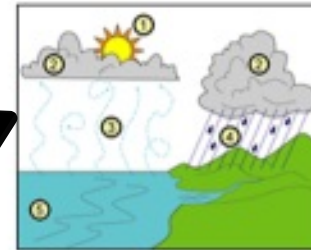
Causal conjunctions (e.g. because, so, this causes, therefore, thus, consequently)?

Illustrations/diagrams/flow charts to make explanation clearer?

The water cycle

The water cycle is also known as the hydrological cycle. There is the same amount of water on the Earth now as there was when the Earth began. The water cycle is how the earth's water recycles itself.

The cycle includes [precipitation](#), [evaporation](#), [condensation](#), and [transpiration](#). Earth's water keeps changing from liquid water to vapour and then back again. This cycle happens because of the sun's heat and gravity.



How does the Water Cycle work?

1. First of all, water [molecules](#) from lakes, rivers, streams, reservoirs, and the sea get heated up by the sun and then turn into vapour that rises into the air.
2. Next, these water molecules form into clouds, this is because a process called condensation occurs.
3. When the air and the water cool, they form drops of water which then fall to the earth as rain. If they are frozen, they become snow or sleet.
4. Once the water reaches the ground, it can flow across the land until it reaches rivers, lakes, streams, or the sea. It can also sink into the ground and flow because of gravity through gaps in rock, gravel and sand. Because of this, it reaches these bodies of water too.
5. Now the cycle begins again, when water is evaporated once more.

Why is water important?

Many of us think water will always be there for us when we want it. Without water, living things would die. You will die if you go without water for more than a week. Plants will die without water and that would kill all of the animals that eat the plants.

Let's check out an
explanation text
together.

We are going to be spending the rest of this lesson exploring explanation texts. We will be using a key to identify the different explanation text features that we find today.

A clear title to show what is being explained?	A
An opening statement to introduce the process?	B
Clear steps to show how or why something occurs?	C
The events in order?	D
Conjunctions of time (e.g. before, after)?	E
Causal conjunctions (e.g. because, so, this causes, therefore, thus, consequently)?	F
Illustrations/diagrams/flow charts to make explanation clearer?	G

A key works by using a colour to highlight in the text where you identify a certain feature. If you do not have colouring pens or pencils anotate the features using the letter instead.

If you are working online and cannot print the resoures, please see the next slide

If you are working online and have not printed the resources. Then what you need to write down the following subheadings in your book. leave 4 lines inbetween each.

Titles

Introduction

Steps to explain

Time conjunctions

Causal conjunctions

Your task is to write down 2 examples of each for every subheading.

Work through the examples on the following slides to find the information you need.

How Kites Fly



A kite is an object made from a light material stretched over a frame. When a kite is tilted into the wind it will lift off the ground and fly.

A kite uses wind to make it fly because it is heavier than air.

Wind traveling over the surface of the kite is split into two streams of air. One stream of air goes over the kite while the second stream of air goes under the kite.

The upper stream creates an area of low pressure above the kite. The lower stream hits the kite at a shallow angle and creates an area of high pressure.

The high pressure area has a pushing effect while the low pressure area has a pulling effect. The combination of push and pull creates enough force to lift the kite into the air.

Kites have been around for thousands of years and are used for military or scientific purposes and for leisure.

How to become a knight

A knight is a fighting man with special privileges. To become a knight a boy usually had to be of noble birth. Boys were selected for knighthood at an early age. They were then sent to a castle to be trained.



During the first stage of training until age fourteen, the young boy was called a page. A page had to learn about horses, armour, weapons, battles and hunting. He had to practise fighting with a sword and learn to shoot with a bow and arrow. Because a page was also expected to wait on meals, he had to learn how to carve and serve food. He also received religious training and was often taught to read and write. Furthermore he had to learn good manners and social graces.

At the age of fourteen the page became a squire. Squires had to fight on the battlefield beside their knight and protect him if he fell. A squire was the knight's assistant. He was responsible for dressing the knight for battles or tournaments. He also took care of the knight's armour and weapons. A squire had to spend much time becoming skilled in all forms of battle.

Finally, around the age of twenty and if successfully trained the young squire was dubbed a knight. This was performed in a special ceremony where he was tapped on each shoulder with a sword and conferred with the title of Sir before his name.

The King could also confer knighthoods, often as recognition of courage in battle. The tradition continues today with knighthoods for special services to the country being announced by the Queen of England in an Honours List.



Why tsunamis occur



A tsunami or tidal wave is a wave that is larger than normal waves. A tsunami can get as tall as 30 metres high when it reaches land.



Tsunamis are often caused by earthquakes beneath the sea. They may also be caused by underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions or other movements in the earth's crust.

These movements push some areas of water upwards while other areas of water sink. This triggers a series of waves rushing outwards from the centre of the disturbance.

The waves travel very quickly over long distances without losing any of their energy. The waves are not very high out at sea in the deep water but when they reach the shallows near land they squeeze closer together, slow down and their height increases rapidly.

Tsunamis can devastate coastal areas. In 1703 a powerful tsunami killed over 100 000 people in Awa, Japan.



Why tadpoles change.

by 2R



Frogs are amphibians. Amphibians spend part of their lives under water. Young frogs start their life in water as tadpoles.

First, the female frog lays lots of eggs so some will survive being eaten by fish and other animals. The eggs are very small and often laid inside white foam.

Next, the eggs hatch into tadpoles. Tadpoles have gills so they can breathe under water and a strong tail to help them swim.

As the tadpoles grow bigger, they start to change because they need to become a frog. Their tail becomes smaller and they begin growing legs. The back legs grow first followed by the front legs.

Tadpoles also start to develop lungs because they have to be ready to breathe on land when they become a frog.

Tadpoles may be found in billabongs, lakes, swamps or even in puddles after heavy rain.

How to Fly a Hot Air Balloon

A hot air balloon consists of a basket, four big gas tanks, a burner and the balloon or 'envelope'.

First, the pilot puts four nylon poles into sockets on top of the basket. Then she puts the burner on top of the poles. Next, she connects the cables to the burner frame. The cables also go under the basket in order to hold everything together.

After this, she connects the hoses from the full gas tanks to the burner so that she can test it.

Next, two people hold the mouth of the balloon open while it is filled with cold air from the fan until it is quite fat and tight.

Now for the difficult bit. The pilot lies on the ground, half in the basket. She turns on the gas burner and points the flame into the 'mouth' of the balloon. This is so that the balloon slowly stands up.

When the pilot is ready to go, she heats up the air in the balloon a bit more. This results in the air in the balloon to be hot enough to get the balloon to rise off the ground.

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