

Explaining the World with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand the features of an explanation text and demonstrate how to structure a logical process.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of explanation texts to answer them. Remember to use formal language, causal conjunctions, and present tense verbs.

Max the Monkey is currently writing an explanation text about how a rainforest keeps itself hydrated. To make his writing clear, Max includes a title, an introduction, clear paragraphs with sub-headings, and a concluding summary. He also uses technical vocabulary to describe the water cycle.

Word bank: conjunctions · chronological · diagram · headings · present tense · causal · technical vocabulary

1. Max needs to use causal conjunctions to explain how things happen. Can you finish this sentence? 'The sun heats the water in the river, _____ the water turns into invisible vapour.' (1 mark)

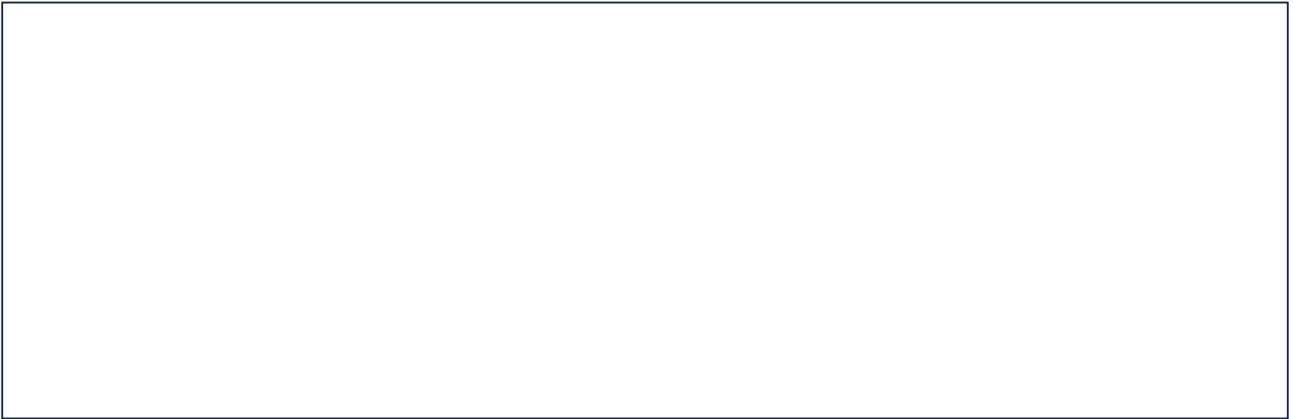
2. Why is it important for an explanation text to be written in chronological order? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

3. Max wants to add a diagram to his text. Why would a diagram be a helpful feature for a reader trying to understand a complex process? (2 marks)

4. Identify two features of an explanation text that help the reader find information quickly. (2 marks)

5. Write a short introductory sentence for an explanation text titled 'How a Honeybee Makes Honey'. Remember to use the present tense. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram that could accompany an explanation text about how a plant grows from a seed. Include arrows to show the direction of growth.



Extension challenge: Choose a simple process you know well (like making a sandwich or how a lightbulb works). Write a short paragraph using at least three causal conjunctions (such as 'consequently', 'therefore', or 'as a result') to explain how it works.