

How Things Work: An Explanation Text Scaffold

Learning objective: To use the structural and linguistic features of an explanation text to describe a process.

Follow this scaffold to help Max the monkey explain how a complex machine or natural process works. Remember to use causal conjunctions to explain why things happen and include technical vocabulary.

Have you ever wondered how a simple water wheel generates energy for a tiny woodland village?

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · as a result · due to · subsequently · firstly · in addition · therefore · this causes · mechanically · precisely

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the process you are explaining. Start by asking a rhetorical question to hook the reader. (2 marks)

2. What is needed? List the essential components or ingredients required for this process to take place. Start with: 'To begin the process, you will need...' (2 marks)

3. Step-by-Step Explanation: Describe the first two stages of the process using time connectives. Start with: 'Initially, the first stage involves...' (3 marks)

4. The Middle Stages: Explain what happens next and why it is important. Start with: 'Once this is complete, the next phase occurs because...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the final result of the process. Start with: 'Ultimately, this leads to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Can you include a 'Did you know?' box at the bottom of your page containing a fascinating fact about your topic?