

Investigating the Great Oak: A Report Writing Task

Learning objective: To identify the features of a non-chronological report and use formal language to describe a natural habitat.

Read the report below written by Nova the owl. Then, answer the questions to show you understand how reports are organised and why they are useful.

The Great Oak: A Study of a Woodland Habitat. By Nova the Owl. Introduction: The Great Oak is a magnificent, ancient tree located in the heart of the Whispering Woods. It serves as a vital home for many creatures.

Physical Features: This tree stands over twenty metres tall with a wide, gnarled trunk. Its leaves are lobed and turn a deep bronze colour in autumn. It produces thousands of acorns every year, which provide food for squirrels and jays.

Inhabitants: Many animals depend on the Great Oak. During the day, squirrels scamper through the branches. At night, I use the hollows to rest before my evening flight. Insects, such as beetles and ants, live in the bark, creating a busy ecosystem.

Importance: The Great Oak is essential for the health of our forest. It produces oxygen, provides shelter, and creates a safe space for young animals to grow. Protecting trees like this ensures the future of our woodland friends.

Word bank: habitat · nocturnal · observation · classification · ecosystem · formal · subheading

1. Identify two features used in Nova's report that help the reader find information quickly. (2 marks)

2. Look at the section 'Physical Features'. How does the author describe the Great Oak's appearance? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author use formal language instead of informal chatty language in this report? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one sentence from the text that explains why the tree is important to the forest ecosystem. (1 mark)

5. Nova mentions that she lives in the tree. Based on her species, what time of day is she most active? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a detailed diagram of a tree you have seen. Label at least three parts, such as the roots, the canopy, or a hollow where an animal might live.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about a different habitat, such as a pond or a garden, using at least two words from the word bank.