

Year 4 Assessment: The Mechanics of Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the structural features, language devices, and purpose of non-fiction explanation texts.

Read the provided text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use technical terminology where appropriate. Write in full sentences for all extended responses.

How a Honeycomb is Constructed

Bees are nature's master architects. To build a honeycomb, thousands of worker bees must collaborate to transform nectar into wax. First, the worker bees consume honey, which their bodies convert into tiny, translucent wax scales. Next, the bees chew these scales until they are soft and malleable. Once the wax is prepared, the bees press the material into a precise hexagonal shape. This specific geometry is used because it is the most efficient way to store the maximum amount of honey while using the minimum amount of wax. Finally, the honeycomb is sealed with a wax cap to keep the honey fresh and protected from moisture.

Word bank: Chronological · Causal conjunction · Technical vocabulary · Present tense · Sub-headings · Diagram · Process · Passive voice

1. Identify two linguistic features used in the text that are typical of an explanation text. Explain why these are important. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one causal conjunction from the text. Explain how it helps the reader understand the relationship between the bees' actions. (2 marks)

3. Why has the author chosen to write this text in the present tense? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author included the specific fact about the 'hexagonal shape'. How does this detail enhance the reader's understanding of the process? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the structure of an explanation text with a narrative story. What makes an explanation text different in its purpose? (4 marks)

6. If the bees were unable to produce wax, what might happen to the hive's ability to store food? Predict the outcome using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining the process of how a plant drinks water from the soil. You must use at least two causal conjunctions and appropriate technical vocabulary. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram that illustrates one stage of the honeycomb construction process described in the text, ensuring you include a caption that uses a technical term.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Bea the Honeybee. Write a formal 'Request for Building Materials' to the Queen Bee, justifying why the hive requires more nectar to sustain the wax production process. Total: /25