

Year 4 Assessment: Non-Chronological Reports

Learning objective: To identify the features of a non-chronological report and demonstrate the ability to organise information using formal, impersonal language.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your writing is clear and uses the specific features of report writing.

The Majestic Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) - By Nova the Owl

Habitat: Barn owls are found across the globe, inhabiting open countryside, meadows, and farm buildings. They prefer nesting in hollow trees or quiet, sheltered rafters.

Physical Features: These birds are easily identified by their heart-shaped facial disc and pale, white underparts. Unlike most owls, they do not 'hoot'; instead, they produce a long, rasping screech. Their feathers are specially adapted for silent flight, allowing them to hunt small mammals at night with precision.

Diet and Hunting: The barn owl is a nocturnal predator. Its primary diet consists of field voles, mice, and shrews. Because they have exceptional hearing, they can detect the movement of prey even under thick snow or tall grass.

Word bank: sub-headings · fact file · impersonal · bullet points · caption · classification · present tense · technical vocabulary

1. Identify two organisational features used in the text above that help the reader navigate the information. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author has chosen to use the present tense throughout the report. Give a reason. (2 marks)

3. Why does a non-chronological report use sub-headings? Justify your answer by referring to the text. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author has included the scientific name '*Tyto alba*' in brackets. How does this add to the authority of the report? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast a non-chronological report with a narrative story. What are the key differences in purpose and style? (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the effectiveness of the report if all the information was written in one long paragraph without sub-headings? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (approx. 50 words) for a new section titled 'Conservation Status'. Use formal, objective language and include at least two technical terms. (5 marks)

8. Based on the text, suggest why the barn owl's silent flight is considered a successful evolutionary adaptation. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a barn owl and include three labelled 'captions' that use technical vocabulary to explain its physical features.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research a creature of your choice. Design a layout for a report that includes a fact file box, a map, and a glossary section. Justify why you chose to place these elements where you did.