

Grade 4 Assessment: Mastering Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and apply the structural and linguistic features of non-chronological explanation texts.

Read the passage below carefully. Answer all questions using your knowledge of explanation texts. Use full sentences where appropriate and check your spelling and punctuation.

How a Honeybee Makes Honey

Honeybees are remarkable insects that work together to transform nectar into honey. The process begins when a foraging bee visits a flower to collect nectar. The nectar is stored in the bee's 'honey stomach'. Once the bee returns to the hive, it passes the nectar to house bees. These bees chew the nectar to break down complex sugars. Next, the mixture is placed into wax honeycomb cells. Because the water content in the nectar is too high, the bees flap their wings rapidly to create a breeze. This evaporation process thickens the liquid into honey. Finally, the bees seal the cell with a wax lid to store it for the winter.

Word bank: Chronological · Causal conjunctions · Technical vocabulary · Present tense · Subheadings · Diagram · Passive voice

1. Identify two features of an explanation text that are present in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use the present tense throughout this explanation? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

3. Find and copy one example of a causal conjunction or a word indicating cause and effect from the text. (2 marks)

4. Explain why 'technical vocabulary' (such as 'evaporation' or 'nectar') is important when writing an explanation text. (3 marks)

5. Imagine Nova the owl is explaining how the moon orbits the Earth. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) using formal language and a causal conjunction to describe the movement. (5 marks)

6. If you were designing a poster for this text, why would adding a labelled diagram be more effective than just using text alone? (3 marks)

7. Rewrite this sentence to use the passive voice: 'The bees seal the cell with a wax lid.' (2 marks)

8. State the purpose of an explanation text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple diagram showing the steps of how a honeybee makes honey, ensuring you include at least two labels using technical vocabulary from the text.



Extension challenge: Research a simple process (e.g., how a plant grows or how a rainbow forms) and write a 100-word explanation text for it. Ensure you include a title, a subheading, and at least two causal conjunctions. Total: /25