

Paragraphs in the Wild: A Story Mapping Adventure

Learning objective: To understand that a paragraph is a distinct section of writing that introduces a new idea, shift in time, location, or change in speaker.

Today, you are going to draw a 'story map' for a tale about Max the monkey. A paragraph is like a room in a house; each one holds a different piece of the story. Follow the steps below to illustrate three distinct paragraphs for a story about Max finding a lost treasure in the rainforest.

Draw: Create a three-panel comic strip style drawing. Panel 1: Draw Max sitting high in a tree looking at a map (The Introduction). Panel 2: Draw Max discovering the hidden chest behind a large, detailed fern (The Action/Climax). Panel 3: Draw Max reading the note with a look of wonder (The Resolution). Use clear, vibrant colors for the rainforest setting. Label each panel with the appropriate 'Paragraph' stage.



Label words: Introduction · Setting the scene · Action · Climax · Resolution · Paragraph break · Transition · Dialogue

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important for a writer to start a new paragraph when the location changes from the canopy to the waterfall.
2. Compare and contrast the 'Introduction' paragraph with the 'Resolution' paragraph. What is the purpose of

each?

3. Justify why a writer might choose to use a very short paragraph (even just one sentence) during a moment of high tension or excitement.
4. What might happen to the reader's understanding of the story if the author forgot to use any paragraph breaks at all?