

Investigating the Wonders of the Natural World: Report Writing

Learning objective: To identify and use the structural and linguistic features of a non-chronological report to inform an audience.

Read the following questions carefully. Use your knowledge of report writing—including formal tone, subheadings, and technical vocabulary—to construct your responses. Ensure you use the third person throughout.

This task requires you to apply your knowledge of report structure. Imagine you are writing a report for Pip the caterpillar's nature journal about an animal of your choice. You must use headings, technical vocabulary, and clear, factual sentences.

Word bank: classification · habitat · characteristics · subheading · formal · objective · facts · caption

1. Explain why it is important to use subheadings in a non-chronological report. How do they assist the reader when they are researching specific information? (2 marks)

2. Nova the owl is writing a report about nocturnal animals. Rewrite this informal sentence into formal, report-style language: 'Owls have super cool eyes that help them spot snacks in the dark.' (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the language used in a storybook compared to a non-chronological report. Why should we avoid using 'I' or 'my' in a report? (3 marks)

4. Create a suitable 'Did You Know?' fact box for a report about a honeybee, ensuring you include one piece of scientific terminology. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you were writing a report about the life cycle of a plant, would you include a glossary? Explain the benefits for your reader. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific diagram of an animal or plant you have researched. Include a clear label and a brief, formal caption below your drawing that explains one key characteristic.



Extension challenge: What might happen if a report contained only opinions instead of facts? Write a short paragraph explaining why objectivity is essential for scientific writing, and then draft an introductory paragraph for a report on an imaginary creature you have invented, using at least two subheadings.