

Mapping the Narrative Mountain

Learning objective: To understand and visually represent the structure of a story (the narrative arc) using a mountain metaphor.

Use your imagination to sketch a story mountain. Follow the steps below to map out the key parts of a narrative, just like Ellie the elephant does when she remembers her favorite tales.

Draw: Draw a large, symmetrical mountain shape that takes up most of your page. At the bottom left, draw the 'Introduction' (setting the scene). Draw a path that leads up the side of the mountain to the peak, representing the 'Rising Action'. At the very peak, draw a sun or a star to represent the 'Climax'. On the right side, draw the path leading down towards the 'Resolution'. Use labels from the word bank to point to each section of your mountain.



Label words: Introduction · Inciting Incident · Rising Action · Climax · Falling Action · Resolution

Steps:

1. Label the very top of your mountain. Why is this point the most intense part of the story?
2. Where does the story start? Write a sentence explaining what should be included at the foot of the mountain.
3. If a story ended exactly at the climax, how would the reader feel? Explain your answer.
4. Why do we call the middle section 'Rising Action'? Explain how the tension changes here.

5. Add a small drawing of a 'problem' icon (like a lightning bolt) near the start of your mountain to show the Inciting Incident. Why is this necessary for a story?