

The Explorer's Field Journal: Describing Creatures and Landscapes

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases with prepositional phrases and adjectives to add detail and precision to descriptive writing.

Imagine you are an explorer travelling with Finn the dolphin or Nova the owl. Use this journal to document the incredible things you discover. To achieve Greater Depth, aim to use at least two adjectives before your noun and a prepositional phrase after it (e.g., 'The shimmering, silver scales on the creature's back').

Word bank: shimmering · colossal · mysterious · ancient · vibrant · beneath · amidst · surrounded by · towering · intricate

1. Describe the creature you have encountered. Include an expanded noun phrase using two adjectives and a prepositional phrase. (3 marks)

2. Describe the setting or environment where you found this creature. How does the atmosphere feel? (3 marks)

3. Explain why your chosen adjectives help the reader visualise the scene more clearly than simple adjectives would. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast your creature with a common animal. Justify why your expanded noun phrases make your creature seem more unique. (4 marks)

5. What might happen if the environment you described suddenly changed? Describe the impact on your creature using expanded noun phrases. (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: Write a short paragraph describing a hidden treasure you found, ensuring every noun has at least one adjective and one prepositional phrase attached. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Can you re-write one of your sentences by moving the prepositional phrase to the beginning of the sentence? Does this change the emphasis of your writing? Explain your findings.