

Year 5 Assessment: The Mechanics of Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the structure, linguistic features, and purpose of formal explanation texts.

Read the following passage carefully before answering the questions. Ensure your responses are written in full sentences where required. Pay close attention to the use of technical vocabulary and causal conjunctions.

How a Honeybee Creates Honey: Bea the Bee explains that the process begins when worker bees collect nectar from flowering plants. First, the nectar is stored in a special 'honey stomach'. Once the bee returns to the hive, the nectar is passed to house bees, who chew the liquid to break down complex sugars. Next, the mixture is deposited into hexagonal wax cells. Finally, the bees fan the nectar with their wings to evaporate excess water, thickening the liquid into honey. This process is essential for the colony's survival during winter months.

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

1. Identify two features of an explanation text present in the passage above and explain why they are used. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one causal conjunction used in the passage. How does this word help the reader understand the process? (2 marks)

3. Why is the present tense used throughout this explanation rather than the past tense? (2 marks)

4. Explain why technical vocabulary (such as 'hexagonal' or 'evaporate') is necessary in an explanation text compared to a narrative story. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the function of a subheading with the function of a diagram in an explanation text. Which do you think is more effective for a reader and why? (4 marks)

6. Justify why it is important for the information in an explanation text to be presented in a logical, chronological order. (3 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining how a star is formed, as if you were Nova the owl. You must include at least two causal conjunctions and one piece of technical terminology. (5 marks)

8. What might happen if an explanation text omitted its introductory paragraph? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram that could accompany an explanation text about how a plant grows from a seed. Include at least three technical labels.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Consider this: If you were tasked with writing an explanation text for a child younger than you, how would you adapt your vocabulary and sentence structure while remaining factually accurate?