

Investigating the Wonders of the Great Oak Forest

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the structural and linguistic features of a non-chronological report.

Read the report below, written by Nova the owl, and answer the questions. Look carefully at how the information is organised into clear, thematic sections.

The Great Oak Forest is a vast, ancient woodland ecosystem. It serves as a vital home for thousands of species, providing shelter, food, and protection.

Habitat and Climate: The forest floor is characterised by damp, nutrient-rich soil, which supports an array of fungi and mosses. Above, the dense canopy of oak leaves creates a shaded environment, regulating the temperature throughout the seasons.

Inhabitants: A diverse range of creatures dwells here. Mammals such as the red squirrel are frequently observed foraging for acorns, while nocturnal birds like Nova the owl rely on the high branches for nesting. These creatures have adapted uniquely to the forest's specific conditions, ensuring they can thrive in their environment.

Conservation: Human interaction has changed the forest over time. Today, local groups work diligently to preserve the biodiversity of the woodland, ensuring that paths are maintained and that wildlife is protected from disturbance.

Word bank: sub-headings · factual · third-person · technical vocabulary · classification · habitat · present tense

1. Identify two structural features Nova has used to help the reader navigate this report. Explain why these are important for the reader. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy one example of technical vocabulary used in the passage. Why has the author chosen to include this specific word? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the forest floor with the canopy. Use evidence from the text to justify your description. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses the third-person perspective instead of the first-person ('I' or 'me') in this report. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the inhabitants if the forest canopy were significantly thinned? Justify your prediction using the information provided. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of the Great Oak Forest. Label the forest floor and the canopy, adding one animal to each level to show how they have adapted to their specific section of the habitat.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to add a new section about the 'Life Cycle of an Oak Tree'. Write a short paragraph for this section using formal, objective language. Ensure you include at least one sub-heading and two facts about how an acorn develops into a sapling.