

Investigating the Great Oak: A Report Writing Challenge

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

Read the report below, written by Nova the owl, about the ancient Great Oak tree in the Whispering Woods. Use your knowledge of report writing to answer the questions that follow, paying close attention to formal tone and technical vocabulary.

The Great Oak is a magnificent example of a *Quercus robur*, commonly known as the English Oak. This deciduous tree serves as a vital anchor for the Whispering Woods ecosystem. Rising to a height of over 30 metres, the Great Oak provides a complex habitat for countless species, ranging from microscopic fungi to larger mammals. Its broad, lobed leaves are essential for photosynthesis, a process which converts sunlight into energy, providing oxygen for the surrounding environment. During the autumn months, the tree produces acorns, which are a primary food source for local wildlife. Due to its dense canopy and deep root system, the Great Oak plays a significant role in maintaining the biodiversity of the forest, offering shelter and protection from the elements.

Word bank: Habitat · Ecosystem · Deciduous · Biodiversity · Classification · Photosynthesis

1. Identify two formal features Nova has used in this report that distinguish it from a narrative story. (2 marks)

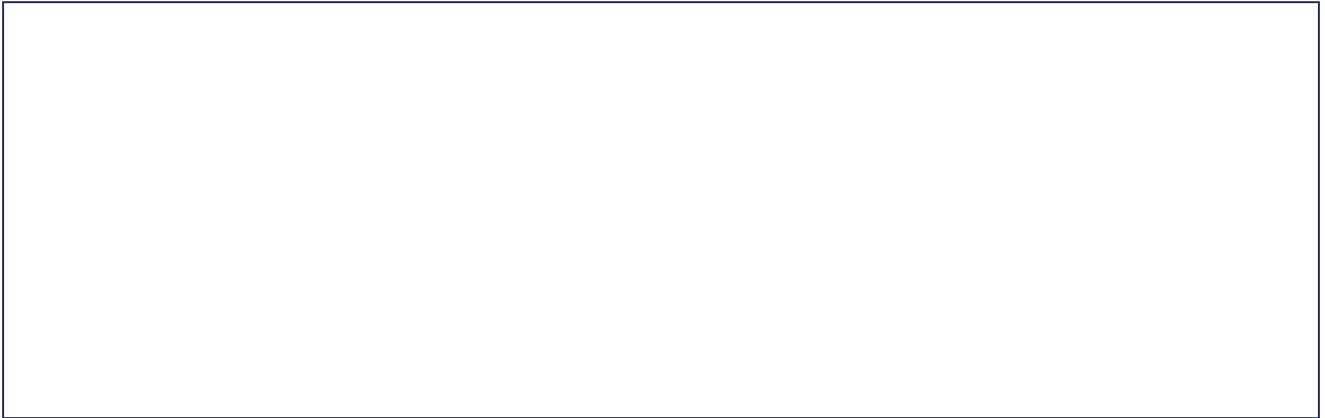
2. Explain why the author has chosen to include the scientific name 'Quercus robur' within the opening paragraph. (2 marks)

3. Using information from the text, summarise the importance of the Great Oak to its local ecosystem. (3 marks)

4. Justify why a non-chronological report is the most appropriate format for Nova to present these scientific facts. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the biodiversity of the Whispering Woods if the Great Oak were removed? Use evidence from the text to support your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the Great Oak, including labels for its different features (e.g., canopy, roots, acorns) to accompany a formal report.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to add a sub-heading about the 'Threats to the Great Oak'. Conduct brief research or use your imagination to write a new paragraph for the report that maintains the formal tone, includes at least two technical terms from the word bank, and explains potential risks to the tree.