

Year 6 Assessment: The Mechanics of Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the structural and linguistic features of an explanation text.

Read the text below carefully and answer the questions. Ensure your explanations are clear and use formal language where appropriate.

How a Honeybee Makes Honey: A Natural Process

1. Foraging: It begins when a worker honeybee, like our friend Bea, leaves the hive to seek out nectar from flowers. She uses her long, tube-like tongue to sip the sweet liquid.
2. Collection: The nectar is stored in a special 'honey stomach'. As she flies, enzymes in her body begin to break down the complex sugars into simpler ones.
3. Processing: Back at the hive, the nectar is passed from bee to bee. This process reduces the water content. The bees then deposit the mixture into the honeycomb cells.
4. Evaporation: Finally, the bees fan the honeycomb with their wings. This creates a breeze that evaporates the remaining water, turning the nectar into thick, golden honey.

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

1. Identify two linguistic features used in the passage that are typical of an explanation text. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use numbered subheadings in this text? Explain the benefit for the reader. (3 marks)

3. Find and copy one example of a causal conjunction used in the passage. Explain how it helps the reader understand the process. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the present tense is the most appropriate tense for an explanation text about a natural process. (4 marks)

5. The text mentions that bees use their wings to evaporate water. Suggest one way a diagram could enhance this specific part of the explanation. (3 marks)

6. Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (approx. 50-75 words) explaining how a caterpillar (like Pip) builds a chrysalis. Use at least two technical terms and one causal conjunction. (5 marks)

7. Why is it important to define technical vocabulary when writing an explanation for a younger audience? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple, labelled diagram that could accompany the section 'Evaporation' in the text above, showing how the bee uses its wings to move air.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find an explanation text in a non-fiction book and identify how the layout helps you navigate the information.