

NAME _____

DATE _____

Examples of Expository Text Structures

<i>Expository Structure</i>	<i>Example</i>
Description	
Sequence	
Cause-Effect	
Problem-solution, question-answer	
Comparison	

EEEEK—A SPIDER!

Are you scared of spiders? If so, don't feel too bad—lots of people are. There's even a fancy name for it: *arachnophobia* (uh-rak-nuh-FOE-bee-uh).

But what makes spiders so scary? Maybe it's something about the way they look. Let's see now, people have two legs. Most pets have four. Spiders have twice that many—and so many eyes too. YIKES!

A spider can use its hairy legs to skitter across your path. Or it might dangle at you from above on a silk thread. EEEEEK!

That's another thing about spiders—those sticky, icky cobwebs. UGH!

Spiders also are mostly creatures of the night. Plus, they have venomous bites. ARRGHHH!

NOW FOR THE TRUTH

Spiders are pretty harmless creatures. Their cobwebs can't hurt you, of course. And most spiders don't even have jaws strong enough to poke through human skin. Of the ones that do, only a very few have harmful venom. Tarantulas, for example, hardly ever bite. No one's ever died from a tarantula bite either.

Spiders actually help people by keeping insects and other pesky creatures under control. Their venom could be helpful too (see above). In some parts of the world, spiders are symbols of good luck and fortune. So if you can't love 'em, why not at least give 'em a break?

--National Geographic For Kids



Penguin Problems



There's nothing much cuter than a penguin in a sweater. But there's nothing much sadder than a penguin caught in an oil spill. That's what happened to these birds. The sweaters protected them until rescuers could clean them.

OUT TO GETCHA

Little penguins have always had natural enemies such as sharks, seals, and sea-eagles. But new troubles arrived when people moved nearby. The birds now have to watch out for dogs, cats, foxes, cars, and-worst of all-icky, sticky oil.

DANGER: OIL SPILL

In January 2000, a ship spilled oil into the ocean near Phillip Island. Many little penguins were covered with the black stuff. When the birds tried to clean their feathers with their bills, they accidentally swallowed the oil. That made them very sick.

TO THE RESCUE

Lots of people came to help clean the penguins. But there were many more dirty birds than the people could clean all at once. And the rescuers knew that even more would wash ashore in the days and weeks to come.

Soon someone got a great idea: Put little sweaters on the birds as soon as possible. That way the birds wouldn't be able to clean their feathers with their beaks. The sweaters would keep them from swallowing any more oil until they could be cleaned.

Before long, people in many countries heard that the penguins needed sweaters. Quickly, they knitted some and sent them to Phillip Island. Then, day after day, as oily penguins washed ashore, the sweaters were there for them.

People around the world are still knitting sweaters for penguins-just in case there is another oil spill.

--National Geographic For Kids

Left Out in the Cold



Matthew Alexander Henson was born August 8, 1866, in Charles County, MD.

His parents died by the time he was 12, and eventually, the boy survived by working as a waiter and dishwasher.

But Henson hungered for adventure. At age 13, he took a job as a cabin boy on a ship. He learned mathematics, navigation and ship operations. By 18, Henson was an accomplished sailor.

In 1887, Henson met Peary, a U.S. Navy civil engineer, who asked him to be his assistant on a surveying trip to Nicaragua. Impressed by the young man's skills, Peary hired Henson to help him search for the North Pole.

Over the next eighteen years, Peary and Henson attempted to reach the North Pole seven times. With each expedition, they learned more about surviving in the dangerous Arctic climate and about the North Pole itself. They discovered that it was not located on land, but it was actually in the middle of a frozen ocean.

--excerpt from *Boys' Life*, February, 2002

DOGS TO THE RESCUE



Sled dogs were used to deliver the mail and supplies in Alaska for many years. Then, in 1925, the dogs made a special delivery that saved a whole town.

A serious disease called diphtheria had broken out in the town of Nome. People in the town desperately needed a special kind of medicine. The medicine was available in Anchorage—more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) away. But how could they get it to Nome?

First, the medicine was loaded onto dogsleds. There, the drivers loaded the medicine onto dogsleds. They made the run from Nenana to Nome—674 miles (1,078 km)—in less than five and a half days! The medicine was delivered, and many lives were saved.

Today, this event is celebrated each year in a dogsled race called the Iditarod.

--National Geographic For Kids

Crocodile and Alligator

How can you tell crocodiles from alligators? Take a look at their snouts. Alligators have broad, rounded snouts. Most crocodile snouts are more pointed. When a crocodile closes its mouth, you can still see some of its bottom teeth sticking up. When an alligator closes its mouth, however, all its bottom teeth are covered.

Both creatures share two impressive features: tough skin and sharp teeth. Their backs are covered with bony scales that protect the animals from most predators. The adults have few enemies besides other crocodiles, alligators, and humans. The young ones, however, are only a few inches long and make easy meals for birds, large fish, or turtles.

The United States has only one kind of crocodile and one kind of alligator. In the U.S., American crocodiles are found only in southern Florida. American alligators are more common. They range from the coast of Texas to the Carolinas. A lot of what we know about American alligators is true of their relatives all around the world.

--The Unhuggables, National Wildlife Federation



Bad News Bears?



Giant pandas have giant problems. People in China have slowly taken over the pandas' forest homes. They've cleared the land for farms or cut trees for wood. The shy pandas keep getting pushed higher and higher up the mountain slopes. They're running out of room to roam.

Another problem is poachers: people who illegally kill pandas. Too many pandas also may have been captured for zoos.

Panda life is tough enough as it is. For example, pandas raise very few babies compared to other animals. That's one reason they're rare to begin with- and getting rarer every day. Also, pandas can't turn to other kinds of food if their supply of bamboo should suddenly disappear.

To save the endangered panda, many people are working extra hard. It isn't easy, but there's still hope.

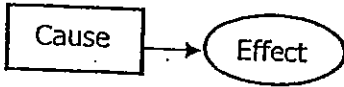
For one thing, the Chinese government has really cracked down on poachers. The government has also set aside more areas of wilderness where pandas can live in peace- away from woodcutters and farmers.

Help also comes from scientists. They spend many hours studying wild pandas. Scientists can give wild pandas a sleeping drug to measure them and check their health. Scientists then follow the pandas and study their behavior. What scientists discover could help them help pandas survive better in the wild. Other scientists are counting China's wild pandas and studying their habitat. If left alone with enough food and space, the bears can keep raising new families. For the pandas' sake, the more, the merrier!

--*National Geographic For Kids*

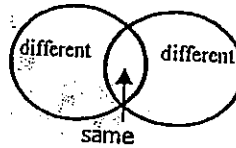
Text Cues and Graphic Organizers

Causation



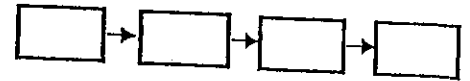
since
because
this led to
on account of
due to
may be due to
for this reason
consequently
then, so
therefore
thus
as a result of
if...then
therefore
makes
causes
leads to
results in
so that

Comparison



in like manner
likewise
similar to
the difference between
as opposed to
after all
however
and
yet
but
nevertheless
different from
same as
on the other hand
while
unlike
resemble
alike
although
whereas
compared with
like

Sequence



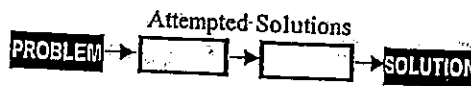
until
before
after
next
finally
lastly
first/last
then
on (date)
at (time)
second

Response

Question/Answer- How

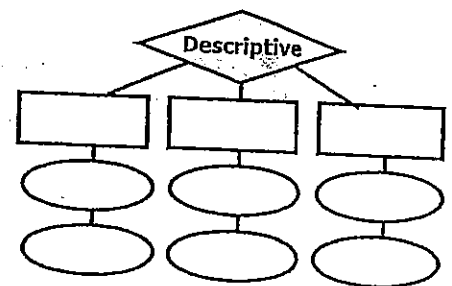
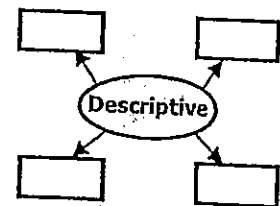
when
what
where
why
who
how many
the best estimate
it could be that
one may conclude

Problem/Solution

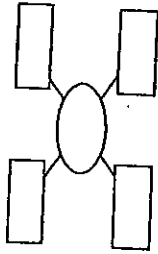
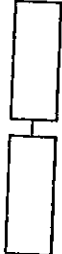
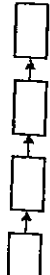
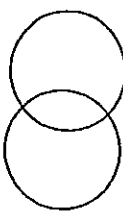



one reason for that
a solution
a problem

Descriptive



Text Structures in Information Texts

Text Pattern	Definition	Key Words	Graphic Organizers	Examples of Texts	Examples of Texts
Description	Descriptive details about characteristics, actions, etc.	Descriptive adjective and words like: <i>on, over, beyond, within</i>		<i>The crocodile is the master of deception in water. It stalks its prey and then swiftly closes in for the kill.</i>	<i>Goose bumps make me shiver. I get little bumps on my skin. They look like sesame seeds.</i>
Problem-Solution	Set up a problem and its solutions	<i>propose, conclude, a solution, the reason for, the problem or question</i>		<i>One problem to resolve in crocodile watching is transportation. How can an observer get close enough...</i>	<i>Goose bumps made me shiver. But they disappear as soon as I cover up with a jacket or sweater.</i>
Sequence	Gives information in order of occurrence	<i>first, second, before, after, finally, then, next, earlier</i>		<i>Archeologists have helped us to understand that the evolution of the crocodile began with...</i>	<i>Goose bumps made me shiver. First I get cold. Then I shake all over.</i>
Comparison	Looking at two or more items to establish similarities/differences	<i>while, yet, but, rather, most, same, either, as well as, like, and unlike, as opposed to</i>		<i>The power of the crocodile is like that of a monstrous machine. With one lunge it can... Compared to the alligator, the crocodile...</i>	<i>Some people get goose bumps from fear. Others get goose bumps when they are touched emotionally.</i>
Cause/Effect	Give reason/explanation for happening	<i>because, since, if/then, due, as a result of, for this reason, on account of, consequently</i>		<i>We observed the crocodile as it stalked a raccoon... As a result of the noise we made, the rabbit bolted...</i>	<i>Goose bumps made me shiver. When the temperature drops below 45 degrees, my skin crinkles into goose bumps.</i>

24