

Tuesday 5th January 2021

TBAT identify the features of an explanation text

Can you explain how these things work?



What makes a good explanation?

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TBAT identify the features of an explanation text

Features of explanation texts

- A title that is a rhetorical question

For example:

How Does a Toaster Work?

Tuesday 5th January 2021

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Features of explanation texts

- Uses relative embedded clauses (who, which, that, whose)

For example:

Toasters, which are commonly found in the kitchen, are used to cook bread.

Tuesday 5th January 2021

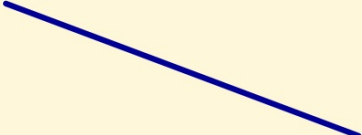
TBAT identify the features of an explanation text

Features of explanation texts

- Uses technical vocabulary

For example:

Toasters use electric heating elements to cook the bread



Technical vocabulary that is specific to the topic

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Features of explanation texts

○ Causal conjunctions

For example:

The heating element becomes hot. This causes the bread to cook.

Causal conjunction to show cause and effect



Tuesday 5th January 2021

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Features of explanation texts

- Brackets (also known as parenthesis) used to include extra information

For example:

Bread (and other baked goods) are placed into the top of the toaster.

Tuesday 5th January 2021

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Features of explanation texts

Other features include:

- Clear paragraphs
- Formal style (facts not opinions)
- Diagrams with labels
- Written in the present tense
- Subheadings to organise the writing

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Task

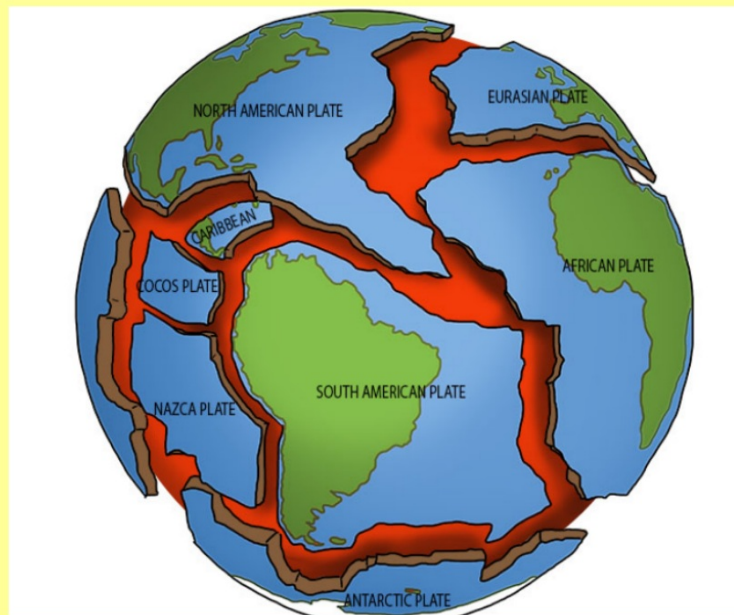
- Label the highlighted features in the explanation text 'How do Materials Change State?'
- Extension - can you find any more examples of these features elsewhere in the text?

Wednesday 6th January 2021

TBAT select appropriate vocabulary



Over the next two weeks, you are going to be writing an explanation text about earthquakes.



Wednesday 6th January 2021

TBAT select appropriate vocabulary



Use the youtube video, the text 'What causes an earthquake' and the internet to help you make a glossary (like a mini dictionary!) for these words:

fault

seismograph

tectonic plates

Richter scale

crust

epicentre

shockwaves

hypocentre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJpIUlrSOFY>

Extension - are there any other technical earthquake words you can include in your glossary?

Thursday 7th January 2021

TBAT select appropriate grammatical structures



Today we are going to write cause and effect sentences for our explanation text.

These are often used to explain how things happen.

For example:

Tectonic plates are constantly moving. Consequently, the plates sometimes collide with each other.

cause

effect

Thursday 7th January 2021

TBAT select appropriate grammatical structures

There are lots of different ways to connect cause and effect phrases. Here are some examples!



As a result,
therefore
consequently
due to
for this reason
this causes
After that,
subsequently
If... then...

Thursday 7th January 2021

TBAT select appropriate grammatical structures

Use the phrase list and causal conjunctions to create cause and effect sentences.



CAUSE	EFFECT
○ Tectonic plates constantly move	○ plates sometimes collide
○ Plates slide against each other	○ pressure builds up
○ Pressure becomes too great	○ sudden release of pressure
○ strong vibrations rise to surface	○ ground shakes

As a result,
Therefore,
Consequently
For this reason,
which causes
After that,
Subsequently,
If... then...

Extension: Can you make more cause and effect sentences to go in your earthquake explanation?

Friday 7th January 2021
TBAT write an introduction



Today you are going to write an introduction paragraph for your explanation text on earthquakes.

First we need an eye-catching title!

Explanation texts often use rhetorical questions as titles, for example:

How do toasters work?

Why does the Earth spin?

Come up with a few different ideas for a title, then pick your favourite to use for your text!

Friday 7th January 2021
TBAT write an introduction



Introduction

Introductions should be general, not specific.

They should give a simple idea of the topic and what the text is going to explain. Use the 5Ws (what, when, where, who, why) to help.

Example:

Earthquakes are events where the ground shakes. They are a natural part of the environment, but earthquakes can be incredibly destructive. Most earthquakes are small, although the most powerful tremors can kill thousands of people and flatten towns and cities in minutes.

Write your own introduction for your explanation text.

