

Expository Text

Objective

Students will analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about an expository text.

Materials

- Expository text
- Elements and Features of Expository Text handout
- Expository Text Activity handout

Overview

Provide explicit instruction with modeling before having students practice independently or in groups. This activity may be done over several days.

Activity

1. Distribute the text and the handouts.
2. Discuss with students the information and examples on the Elements and Features of Expository Text handout. Students need to know these terms to complete the activity.
3. Explain the directions on the Expository Text Activity handout.
4. Have students complete the handout. Provide scaffolding as needed.

Adapted from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. (2009). *Teacher reading academies*. Austin, TX: Author.

Elements of Expository Text

Element	Description	Examples
Topic	The overall subject of a text—the “who” or “what” the text is about	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friendship• Bravery
Main Idea	A statement that tells the most important point in the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlotte saves Wilbur’s life by convincing the farmer not to slaughter him.• Zachary Raffles overcomes his fears to become a soldier.
Supporting Details	Help the reader better understand the main idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlotte writes letters to the farmer about what a good pig Wilbur is.• Zachary Raffles stands guard all night at lookout rock.
Facts	Pieces of information that are indisputably true	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pigs are omnivores; they eat plants and meat.• A soldier serves in an army.
Inference	A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlotte enjoys having Wilbur around as a friend.• Being a soldier is important to Zachary.
Cause	Why something happened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It started to rain.• I slipped on spilled milk.
Effect	What actually happened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The girl was soaked.• I fell on the floor.
Cause-and-Effect Statement	A sentence that puts a cause and effect together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When it started to rain, the girl was soaked.• I slipped on spilled milk and fell on the floor.

Features of Expository Text

Feature	Description
Heading	A title at the beginning of a page, chapter, or section of text
Subheading	A title at the beginning of a subsection within a main section
Bold text	A word or phrase emphasized through darkened text
Italics text	A word or phrase emphasized through <i>italicized</i> text
Table of contents	A list of the parts in the text and where they are located
Photo or illustration	A picture
Caption	A brief explanation of an illustration
Diagram	Shows information in a graphic organizer
Chart or graph	Shows data
Map	Shows an area, such as land or sea, and its features, such as roads, cities, or states
Glossary	An alphabetical list of vocabulary terms
Index	An alphabetical list of names, places, and topics in a text with the page numbers where they are located; usually at the end of a text

Expository Text Activity

Read the text. Then, identify and fill in the information below.

Title:

Topic:

Main idea:

Supporting details:

1.

2.

Facts:

1.

2.

Inferences:

1.

2.

Cause-and-effect statements:

1.

2.

If the text contains the expository text feature, circle Yes and provide an example. If not, circle No.

Feature	In the text?		If yes, provide an example
Heading	Yes	No	How many headings are in text? Write one heading and provide the page number.
Subheading	Yes	No	Provide an example of a subheading and the page number.
Bold text	Yes	No	How many times is bold text used? Provide an example and the page number.
Italics text	Yes	No	How many times is italicized text used? Provide an example and the page number.
Table of contents	Yes	No	Provide an example of an entry in the table of contents.

Feature	In the text?		If yes, provide an example
Photo or illustration	Yes	No	Describe a photo or illustration. Provide the page number.
Caption	Yes	No	Provide an example of a caption and the page number.
Diagram, Chart, Graph or Map	Yes	No	Is it a diagram, chart, graph, or map? Describe it and provide the page number.
Glossary	Yes	No	How many words are in the glossary? What is the page number range (for example, pages 241 to 247)? Provide an example of a word in the glossary.
Index	Yes	No	What is the page number range?