

Text Structure Practice

Identify the text structure of the following passages. Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each structure.

_____ 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

_____ 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

_____ 3. Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

_____ 4. A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks on to the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of tree.

_____ 5. It is fun to read about chimpanzees. All wild chimpanzees live in Africa. They live mostly in thick rain forests and in woodlands. There are two types, or species, of chimpanzees—the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, also known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

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Problem & Solution 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Comparison & Contrast 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

Cause and Effect 3. Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

Sequence 4. A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks on to the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of tree.

Description 5. It is fun to read about chimpanzees. All wild chimpanzees live in Africa. They live mostly in thick rain forests and in woodlands. There are two types, or species, of chimpanzees—the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, also known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Label the *main* text structure of each of the following paragraphs. Underline signal words and clues that helped to determine the structure.

1. All crocodilians are reptiles with long snouts, long tails, four short legs, tough skin, and sharp teeth. Members of the crocodilian family include alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials. Crocodilians live in warm weather throughout the year and they spend part of their time in the water and part of their time on land. Almost all crocodilians grow to be very large, with the largest more than twenty feet long. There are two kinds of alligators, 14 kinds of crocodiles, eight kinds of caimans, and one kind of gavial.

Main Text Structure: _____.

2. Recently, scientists have gained an understanding of a crocodile's reproductive activity. Crocodiles mate in the water, where the buoyancy keeps them from crushing each other. Prior to mating, there are stylized postures, jumping, submerged bubble blowing, and snout contact. After mating, hard-shelled eggs are laid in a nest, in a hole scooped in the sand. When it is time to hatch, the infant crocodiles begin a loud chirping sound that leads the female to the nest, which she excavates. Finally, when all the babies are accounted for, the mother crocodile transports them to the shallow water where they will remain under adult protection for weeks or months.

Main Text Structure: _____.

3. On the river banks of the Nile River, home to some crocodiles, there are many kinds of birds, sometimes called crocodile birds because they are always hopping around crocodiles. The big crocodiles and the birds are useful to each other for several reasons. The birds eat flies and leeches that they find on the crocodiles' skin and mouths. In this way, the birds get a good meal and the crocodiles get rid of the leeches and flies. Sometimes an enemy frightens the birds who scream and fly away. As a result of the noise, the birds give the crocodiles a warning of danger.

Main Text Structure: _____.

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Label the *main* text structure of each of the following paragraphs. Underline signal words and clues that helped to determine the structure.

4. In most parts of the world there are not as many crocodiles as there used to be. This is a problem because crocodiles are becoming endangered and also crocodile are necessary to the balance of nature. Many crocodiles have died because people dried up the swamps and marshes where the crocodiles live. Poachers have also contributed to the dilemma as crocodiles have been desired for their strong, smooth, leathery skins. In order to preserve these mighty creatures, people must take care of the crocodiles' environment and help put a stop to the needless shooting of these animals.

Main Text Structure: _____.

5. Alligators and crocodiles, along with their relatives the caimans and the gavials, are very much alike. These crocodilians are reptiles with long snouts, long tails, four short legs, tough skin, and sharp teeth. There are some differences, however. Gavials have the longest snout and the most teeth. Some people say that alligators and crocodiles differ in the shape of their snouts and the positioning of their teeth. Zookeepers say that crocodiles move faster than alligators and have nastier dispositions.

Main Text Structure: _____.

6. Choose one of the above paragraphs and create a graphic organizer to go with it. Select a graphic organizer that is appropriate for the text structure. Then use the information from the paragraph to complete the graphic organizer.

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Label the *main* text structure of each of the following paragraphs. Underline signal words and clues that helped to determine the structure.

1. All crocodilians are reptiles with long snouts, long tails, four short legs, tough skin, and sharp teeth. Members of the crocodilian family include alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials. Crocodilians live in warm weather throughout the year and they spend part of their time in the water and part of their time on land. Almost all crocodilians grow to be very large, with the largest more than twenty feet long. There are two kinds of alligators, 14 kinds of crocodiles, eight kinds of caimans, and one kind of gavial.

Main Text Structure: _____ Description _____.

2. Recently, scientists have gained an understanding of a crocodile's reproductive activity. Crocodiles mate in the water, where the buoyancy keeps them from crushing each other. Prior to mating, there are stylized postures, jumping, submerged bubble blowing, and snout contact. After mating, hard-shelled eggs are laid in a nest, in a hole scooped in the sand. When it is time to hatch, the infant crocodiles begin a loud chirping sound that leads the female to the nest, which she excavates. Finally, when all the babies are accounted for, the mother crocodile transports them to the shallow water where they will remain under adult protection for weeks or months.

Main Text Structure: _____ Sequence _____.

3. On the river banks of the Nile River, home to some crocodiles, there are many kinds of birds, sometimes called crocodile birds because they are always hopping around crocodiles. The big crocodiles and the birds are useful to each other for several reasons. The birds eat flies and leeches that they find on the crocodiles' skin and mouths. In this way, the birds get a good meal and the crocodiles get rid of the leeches and flies. Sometimes an enemy frightens the birds who scream and fly away. As a result of the noise, the birds give the crocodiles a warning of danger.

Main Text Structure: _____ Cause & Effect _____.

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Label the *main* text structure of each of the following paragraphs. Underline signal words and clues that helped to determine the structure.

4. In most parts of the world there are not as many crocodiles as there used to be. This is a problem because crocodiles are becoming endangered and also crocodile are necessary to the balance of nature. Many crocodiles have died because people dried up the swamps and marshes where the crocodiles live. Poachers have also contributed to the dilemma as crocodiles have been desired for their strong, smooth, leathery skins. In order to preserve these mighty creatures, people must take care of the crocodiles' environment and help put a stop to the needless shooting of these animals.

Main Text Structure: _____ Problem and Solution _____.

5. Alligators and crocodiles, along with their relatives the caimans and the gavials, are very much alike. These crocodilians are reptiles with long snouts, long tails, four short legs, tough skin, and sharp teeth. There are some differences, however. Gavials have the longest snout and the most teeth. Some people say that alligators and crocodiles differ in the shape of their snouts and the positioning of their teeth. Zookeepers say that crocodiles move faster than alligators and have nastier dispositions.

Main Text Structure: _____ Comparison and Contrast _____.

6. Choose one of the above paragraphs and create a graphic organizer to go with it. Select a graphic organizer that is appropriate for the text structure. Then use the information from the paragraph to complete the graphic organizer.

Feeling the Heat

World Report: January 12, 2007 Vol. #12 Iss. #14

–By Kathryn R. Satterfield

Polar bears thrive in environments too harsh for most animals. For much of the year, they live and hunt on the frozen Arctic sea ice. Nature has prepared them for the harsh conditions. But nothing has prepared the bears for the danger that threatens the only home they know.

The polar bears' world is melting. Studies show that the permanent polar ice has declined by 9.8% every 10 years since 1978. Scientists blame global warming for the shrinking polar ice. They say that climate change is harming polar bear populations.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of the Interior said that it was taking steps to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The action came on the heels of a World Conservation Union decision to move polar bears to threatened status on its Red List of Threatened Species. The World Conservation Union warns that polar bear populations could fall by 30% over the next 45 years.

A Bear of a Problem

Scientists estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears live in the Arctic. They are spread across five countries. Approximately 4,700 of the bears live in the U.S., within Alaskan waters.

Polar bears depend on the sea ice for their survival. Seals, their main prey, breed on the ice. "The sea ice is more than just this platform that the bears walk over," says Andrew Derocher, a scientist who studies North American polar bear populations. "Without it, they can't exist."

Some melting and refreezing of the polar ice is natural. But in a warmer world, these cycles speed up, and bears have less time to hunt. Normally, they have three months in the spring when they pack on the pounds. The extra fat is used later, when the bears are not actively hunting. Pregnant females depend on this stored fat to nourish their cubs.

Since the early 1990s, scientists have seen a drop in polar bears' body weight. Fewer cubs are being born, and fewer survive. In Canada's Western Hudson Bay, the polar bear population dropped 22% from 1987 to 2004.

To Protect and Save

The Department of the Interior has a year to make its final decision. If the bears gain threatened status, the department will work with businesses and international officials to set strict rules to protect the bear and spur its recovery.

The polar bear's plight may seem distant to some. But Derocher told TFK that it is up to this generation to stop global warming and its dire consequences. He urges kids to think about what they can do to help the environment. Even simple steps—turning off the lights, walking instead of riding in a car—can really make a difference. “I’m optimistic about humans’ ability to deal with this,” he says.

More Trouble Ahead?

Global warming is pushing many species toward extinction. Here are some animals that especially worry scientists.

Butterflies

Researchers have tracked how the ranges of many butterflies are shifting and, in many cases, shrinking. In the U.S., scientists are studying the movements of the butterfly known as Edith's checkerspot. Though butterflies are sturdier than they look, scientists believe many species will not survive the impact of climate change.

Red-Breasted Goose

More than two dozen bird species—including this goose, which breeds in the Arctic—are officially threatened by global warming. Half are seabirds whose food supplies are smaller because of climate change. Other coastal species are at risk because of rising sea levels.

African Elephant

Global warming threatens to shrink the elephant's range in Africa. Climate change also affects its food supply.