

Explanations

Introduction

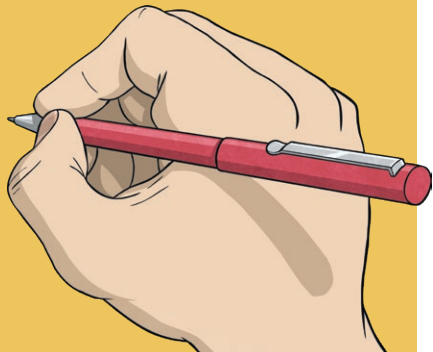
Explanations tell us how something happens or why something works.

Often about science or technology.

An explanation is **non-fiction**.

Structure of Explanation Texts:

- Title
- Introduction
- Paragraphs with different subheadings
- Diagrams or graphs
- Conclusion



Title Ideas

You could use a question to draw your audience in....

- How Do Flowering Plants Grow?
- Why Do Volcanoes Erupt?

Or, keep it simple:

- The Lifecycle of a Frog
- The Water Cycle

Top Tips:

- Use the present tense, third person (**it is** or **they are**)
- Use conjunctions
- Make your title a question
- Start a sentence with 'Did you know...'

Chronological or non-chronological?

a report on how bees are helpful pollinators



an explanation of what happens when a volcano erupts

Think!

P - What's the purpose?

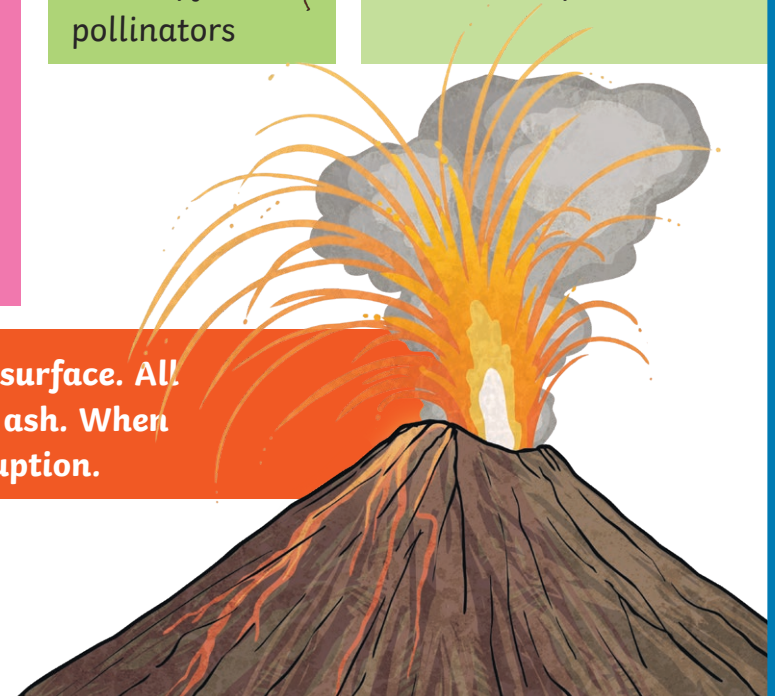
Share information with my reader about a topic.

A - Who is my audience?

Who do I need to tell?

Which language should I use?

Volcanoes are openings on the Earth's surface. All volcanoes can eject lava, rocks, gas or ash. When this happens, it is called a volcanic eruption.



Explanations Content

The main content should explain how or why something works



Stop! Reread your work to check it makes sense!

Features

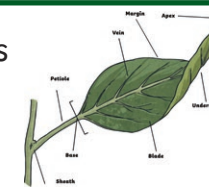
- subheadings
- text organised around several different points
- labelled diagrams
- tables or graphs
- glossary (put the words in the text in bold)

Subheadings

- Pollination
- Seed Dispersal
- What is Evaporation?
- Did You Know...?



Use diagrams with labels:



Content

Facts:

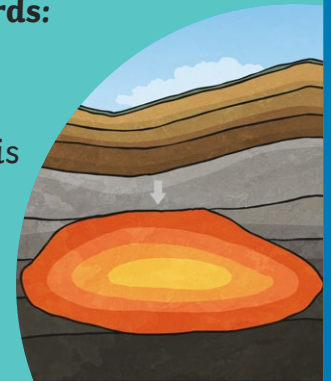
Water is an essential part of life.

Figures:

A female frog can lay 4000 eggs.

Technical words:

- precipitation
- metamorphosis
- igneous rock



Think!

P - What's the purpose?

Think about the best way to explain your ideas. Could I include a diagram or graph?

A - Who is my audience?

Which facts and figures would my audience understand?

Which words should I add in the glossary?

Use cause and effect (causal) conjunctions

if..., then...

as a result

consequently

therefore

since

thus



If the air is warmer, then evaporation happens quicker.

Use conjunctions of time

- soon after
- before
- finally
- subsequently



Describe, using **is/are, can, have**

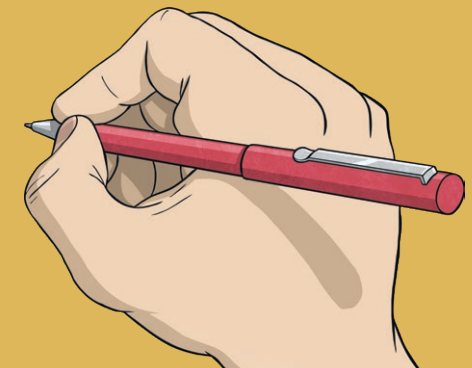
Frogs **are** amphibians. They **can** walk on land and swim on water. They **have** webbed toes and smooth skin.



Organise Your Ideas!

Use numbered points to make text clearer or to show chronological order.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



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Explanations Conclusion

The conclusion is a final sentence or paragraph to summarise the text.



Stop! Reread your work to check it makes sense!

Think!

P - What's the purpose?

Help your reader to understand the main idea of your explanation.

A- Who is my audience?

How can I make my conclusion easy to understand?

Finally, the frogs are fully grown. They spend the winter hibernating before emerging in the spring to lay eggs. Thus, the life cycle continues.



Glossary

- Add a glossary after the conclusion to explain the technical words (think about your audience).
- Put the technical words in alphabetical order.
- Write a short definition (what the word means).

Glossary

Precipitation – Rain, snow, sleet or hail which falls to the ground.



Check!

- Did you use...
- Questions?
- Facts?
- Diagrams?
- Descriptions?

Don't use:

I ✗

you ✗

So now you know... ✗

Eruptions are happening around the world all the time. These volcanic eruptions are part of a continual process called the rock cycle, which produces new rock every day.



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