Lesson Name : 2

Lesson Title : Reading Informational Texts

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

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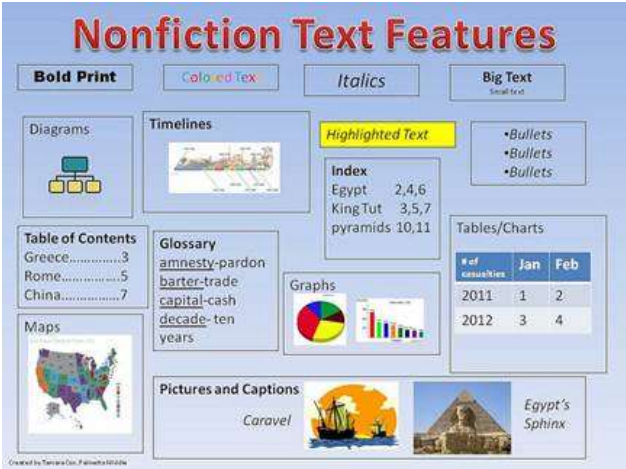
Course Id : 15021

 **Essential Instruction**

Today you will learn how to evaluate informational texts for meaning by using text structures and text features. As you work on this lesson, it is a good idea to use your digital notebook to take notes on the concepts and vocabulary.

**Text Structures and Features**

A **text structure** is the way information in a text is organized. Some examples of text structures are problem and solution, cause and effect, order or sequence, and compare and contrast. When you compose an essay, you should always write a topic sentence that gives the reader a clue about the type of text you are writing. For example, if you were following the structure of a cause-and-effect essay, you would want to inform the reader of this in your topic sentence. You could say, "The effects of global warming are a serious worldwide problem." This topic sentence indicates to the reader that you will be discussing the effects of global warming and that the reader should expect several examples of the problems presented by global warming. If you were writing about a historical event, you would want to follow the order, or sequence, structure by discussing your points in the order in which they took place. For example, if you were writing an essay about World War II, you would want to start by explaining how and why the war began. All essay types have a text structure that alerts the reader about what type of essay they are reading.

**Text features** are used in nonfiction texts to help readers make sense of what they are reading. A few examples of text features are headings, subheadings, pictures, captions, boldface or italic text, underlining, glossaries, and footnotes. Authors use text features to bring attention to important concepts and details. They can be found in magazines, textbooks, newspapers, and other nonfiction texts. Text features stand out from the rest of the text. Some text features, such as pictures and captions, provide information that is not written in the actual text of the article. The image below is an example of a text feature. The image presents all of the types of text features that you might find within a nonfiction text and gives visual representations of each type of feature.



Text features may draw attention to certain words or provide information that is not easily communicated in words alone.

| Text Feature | Use |
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|---|---|
| Text formatting (bold, italic, color) | Bold print is used to make important text stand out. Important vocabulary terms are usually indicated with bold print. Bold print is also used to create headings and subheadings, which indicate the specific information that can be found in a paragraph or section. Italics are used to emphasize important information. |
| Pictures, illustrations, diagrams, charts, tables, maps, and captions | Pictures and illustrations give the reader a visual representation of the topic. Diagrams are labeled drawings that explain the parts of something. Charts organize large amounts of information in a small space. Tables can be useful for summarizing information or comparing the features of different things. Maps show the reader the geographical features and size of a region. Captions appear underneath visual representations and explain what the image shows. |
| Large text | Large text is used to create headings, subheadings, and titles to inform the reader about the information that can be found in the paragraphs below. These features break the text into sections so that the reader can see the main idea of the paragraphs that follow. Boldface type is often used along with large text. |
| Text box | Text boxes are found outside of the main body of text. They enclose additional information about a topic or provide information that the author wants to stand out from the rest of the text. Often text boxes are used to provide interesting facts or information. |
| Table of contents | The table of contents helps the reader locate information in the text by listing the chapter topics and page numbers. |
| Index | The index is an alphabetical list of names, events, terms, and topics and the page numbers where information about these topics can be found. The index is more specific than the table of contents, listing all pages in all chapters where a term is mentioned. |
| Glossary | In the glossary, the reader can find definitions for important vocabulary words mentioned within a text. The glossary contains the definitions of the words in boldface text that can be found throughout the text. Readers can refer to the glossary to help them understand unfamiliar words that are important to understanding the meaning of the text. |

Have you noticed these text features while reading informational texts? Which are the most useful? How do they improve your comprehension of the text? How do different authors use different text features? The next time that you read an informational text, think about how the author uses text features to help you understand the text.