

## Lesson Skill: Nonfiction text structure

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**Strand** Reading — nonfiction

**SOL** 1.10

2.9, 2.10

### Materials

- Copies of a content area nonfiction text that include some or all of the following features: table of contents, pictures/photographs, graphics, captions, charts, dictionaries, glossaries, and indices
- Sticky notes

### Lesson

1. Using a content area book, discuss the table of contents, captions, pictures/photographs, graphics, charts, dictionaries, glossaries, and indices. Go over the table of contents as a class, and ask students to predict what the text is about based on the table of contents.
2. Pair students, and assign each pair two to four pages to read. Ask them to make predictions about the content and to support their predictions based on the table of contents, pictures/photographs, graphics, captions, charts, dictionaries, glossaries, and indices. Give each student two sticky notes to mark places in the book where the various features either taught or clarified something for them. Model an example for them:
  - “I marked the page with the picture of the whale next to an 18-wheeler because it really helped me visualize how large a whale really is. The caption below it explained that a blue whale is three times larger than an 18-wheeler. By looking at the picture and reading the caption I have a better understanding about the size of a blue whale now.”
3. After reading, have students explain why they marked the pages they did.
4. Have students choose a feature in the book to “revise or edit.” Give them the choice of renaming one of the headings in the table of contents, rewriting a caption, or adding a word to the glossary that they found important. This will help them value the various features and improve their comprehension of the content.

### Assessment

- Most of the assessments in this lesson can be informal, simply listening and observing students’ discussions and behaviors, checking to see if what they noted pertained to the text and was accurate.

### Strategies for Differentiation

- Focus on one feature per lesson: table of contents, pictures/photographs, graphics, captions, charts, dictionaries, glossaries, or indices. Be sure to ask students the purpose of each feature and how it helped them understand the book.
- Teach each feature individually using textbooks, reference materials, nonfiction books, or magazines.

- Cut, paste, and match the feature with an example from the book or with a definition.
- Conduct a scavenger hunt to ask students to find different text features in their books.