

Lesson Skill: Text features of nonfiction text

Strand Reading — Nonfiction

SOL 3.6

4.6

5.6

Materials

- Copies of the attached Nonfiction Text Features handout
- Internet access for each student

Lesson

In order to increase the comprehension of informational text, students should be able to identify the type of text features the author used.

1. Distribute copies of the attached Nonfiction Text Features handout, and review each of the features listed. The last column has been left blank. Require students to fill in the last column with examples of each feature.
2. After the handout has been reviewed, have students complete a nonfiction text feature scavenger hunt. Have students search textbooks and/or articles from various publications for examples of text features.
3. Have students access several current nonfiction articles from a Web site(s) that provides nonfiction articles written for children. After students have accessed several, print the articles. Have students read the articles, underlining or highlighting examples of nonfiction text features. Have students identify the type of feature in each article.
4. Have students repeat this process with other passages for additional practice.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Text feature walk—Post enlarged examples of text features around the room, and have students match them with examples.
- Text features four corners—Post one text feature per corner; provide students with examples of each one, and have them identify the text feature that their example represents. Have students stand underneath their text feature and explain the match.
- Content textbook literacy centers—Have four different types of texts available (books, articles, etc.) for four different centers. Provide directions for finding the selected text features, and have students record responses on a graphic organizer.
- Student interpretation of text features—Have students create their own definitions and illustrations of specific features.

Nonfiction Text Features

Text Feature	Description	Examples
Bold print	Dark letters drawing attention to important information; reader naturally pays attention to these	
Caption	A comment that explains an illustration, usually found beneath the illustration	
Glossary	Alphabetical list of key terms related to a subject	
Heading	A line of text explaining what the text is about	
Subheading	A heading given to a subsection of a piece of writing	
Italicized type	Slanted letters drawing attention to important information; reader naturally pays attention to these	
Sidebar	In informational text, boxed section off to the side containing interesting, related information	
Subtitles	A subordinate title of a published work or article giving additional information about its content	
Graph	A diagram that shows the relationship between two pieces of information	
Map	A visual image of a place on a smaller scale that can be used for information or directions	
Graphic organizer	A visual way of organizing information, like a chart, table, timeline, flow chart, or diagram	
Illustration	A visual such as a drawing, painting, photograph or other art work	
Footnotes	Note of text placed at the bottom of a page in a book or document that cites a reference or defines a word	
Timeline	A sequence of related events arranged in chronological order and displayed along a line	
Diagram	A picture that explains a concept by labeling important information	
Figure	A picture that clarifies or exemplifies text	
Table	Information presented in rows and columns	