

SMART™ Lesson

Identifying Text Features in Nonfiction

Nonfiction is writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people. In nonfiction writing, text features help readers understand the information being presented. Text features are the parts of a nonfiction book or article that help a reader find information quickly and efficiently. These text features are often displayed in special ways or are designed to stand out from the other text in the book.

Types of Text Features

There are many types of text features that can be found in nonfiction books. Here are some of the most common ones:

- **Table of contents:** a list of the different sections or chapters of the book in the order they appear.
- **Index:** an alphabetical list of the important words and topics covered in the book, with the page numbers where they can be found.
- **Headings:** titles or subtitles that divide the text into sections, making it easier to read and locate information.
- **Subheadings:** titles or subtitles that help to divide the text further and provide more detailed information.
- **Boldface and italicized text:** words that are printed in bold or italics to draw attention to them and emphasize their importance.
- **Captions:** brief descriptions or explanations of pictures, tables, charts, or other graphics in the book.
- **Graphics:** visual elements such as photographs, maps, charts, graphs, or illustrations that help to explain or support the text.
- **Labels:** words or phrases that identify the different parts or elements of a graphic.
- **Special print:** words printed in a certain way, such as in a different color or font, to distinguish them from other text.
- **Glossary:** a list of important words and their definitions that are used in the book.

Practice Questions

Now it's time to put your new knowledge to the test! Answer the following questions about text features:

1. What is nonfiction writing based on?
2. What are text features?
3. What are some types of text features?

4. What is the purpose of headings and subheadings?
5. What are captions used for in nonfiction writing?

Great job on completing this lesson! You are now ready to identify and use text features in nonfiction writing.

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