

SMART™ Lesson

Text Features

Text features are the elements in a nonfiction text that help the reader understand the information presented. These elements can be both visual and structural, and they serve to highlight important information or to help organize the text for easier reading.

Visual Text Features

Visual text features are those that are seen in the layout of the text. They can include:

- **Photographs or illustrations:** These can provide visual information, help explain a concept, or provide a concrete example to help the reader better understand the text.
- **Charts or graphs:** These visual displays can help the reader understand data or statistics, and make it more accessible for those who are visual learners.
- **Maps:** Maps can be used to show locations or illustrate a route taken, making geography or history concepts more tangible.
- **Diagrams:** These can clarify a process or show the relationships between different parts of a system, such as the digestive system.
- **Captions:** Captions can provide additional information about a photograph or illustration, expanding on the information presented in the text.

Structural Text Features

Structural text features are those that help the reader navigate the text. They can include:

- **Table of contents:** This provides an overview of the text and allows the reader to quickly find specific sections or information.
- **Index:** An index lists specific topics or keywords and their page numbers, allowing the reader to easily find information within the text.
- **Headings or subheadings:** These help the reader identify the main ideas and organize the information.
- **Bold or italicized text:** This is often used to emphasize important information or vocabulary words.
- **Bullets or numbered lists:** These can be used to break up information into manageable chunks and to make it easier to read.
- **Boxes or sidebars:** These can contain additional information, definitions, or real-life examples to help further explain the text.

Questions:

1. What are text features?
2. What are the visual text features?
3. What is the purpose of an index in a nonfiction text?
4. How do headings and subheadings help the reader?
5. What is the difference between bullets and numbered lists?

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