Informational Text Features

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Informational Text Features

Informational text features help the reader more easily navigate the text and often provide additional information to help students comprehend the content.

Print Features
Guide readers through the patterns of organization

Feature	Helps the Reader…
Table of Contents	Identify key topics in the book and the order they are presented in
Index	See everything in the text listed alphabetically, with page numbers
Glossary	Define words contained in the text
Preface	Set a purpose for reading, get an overview of the content
Pronunciation Guide	Say the words
Appendix	By offering additional information

Illustrations
Expand the meaning of the text

Feature	Helps the Reader…
Photos	Understand exactly what something looks like
Drawings	Understand what something could or might have looked like
Magnification	See details in something small

Organizational Aids
Help readers find important information

Feature	Helps the Reader…
Bold Print	By signaling the word is important and/or found in the glossary
Colored Print	Understand the word is important
Italics	Understand the word is important
Bullets	Emphasize key points/concepts
Titles	Locate different categories in the text
Headings	Identify topics throughout the book as they skim and scan
Subheadings	Navigate through sections of text
Captions	Understand a picture or photograph
Labels	Identify a picture or photograph and/or its parts
Sidebars	Gather additional or explanatory information.

Graphic Aids
Represent information in some specific way

Feature	Helps the Reader…
Diagrams	Understand a more detailed or simplified view of information.
Flow Diagram	Understand a complex sequence of movements or actions
Sketches	Visualize an important concept
Comparisons	Understand the size of one thing by comparing it to the size of something familiar
Graphs	Understand relativity between elements
Figures	Combine text information with graphical aids
Maps	Understand where things are in the world
Charts/Tables	Summarize/Compare information
Cross-Sections	Understand something by looking at it from the inside
Overlays	Understand additional information
Time-lines	Understand the sequence of time

Teaching Text Features

- Model, Model, Model
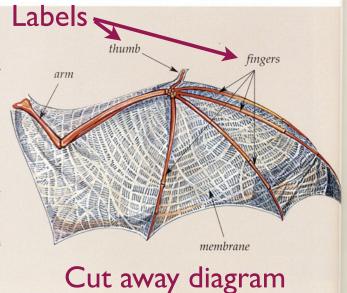 - Shared/Guided Reading, Interactive/Shared writing

Flying high

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Bats fly to find food and to find safe **roosts**, or shelters. They also fly to escape **predators**. Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals. Bats can travel long distances by flying high in the sky, where the wind helps carry them along.

These spotted bats are flying in opposite directions.

Hand-wing

All bats belong to a group of animals called *Chiroptera*. The word "Chiroptera" means "hand-wing." A bat's wings are made of **membrane**, or a thin layer of skin. The membrane is connected to the bat's fingers, arms, legs, and to the sides of its body. The bat moves its wings using its arms and long, thin fingers. Different bats have differently shaped wings.

Labels

thumb

fingers

arm

membrane

Cut away diagram

Teaching Text Features

- ## Model, Model, Model

  - ### Shared/Guided Reading, Interactive/Shared writing

- ## Text Feature Scavenger Hunt

  - ### Students search through informational text with a partner looking for as many features as they can find. They record the feature and its purpose.

Text Feature Scavenger Hunt

Reader_____   Date_____

Your job is to investigate text features and try to find examples of as many different features as you can.

Text Feature	Purpose	Found in	Page
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Teaching Text Features

- ❖ Model, Model, Model
  - ❖ Shared/Guided Reading, Interactive/Shared writing

- ❖ Text Feature Scavenger Hunt
  - ❖ Students search through informational text with a partner looking for as many features as they can find. They record the feature and its purpose.

- ❖ Investigations
  - ❖ Synthesize learning and use informational text features to teach the craft writing expository text.