

WHAT ARE TEXT FEATURES?

SCIENCE IN LOUISIANA

Global Wildlife Center

In this unit you will learn about environments, different types of ecosystems, and how all living things depend on one another. The Global Wildlife Center in Folsom provides special environments for animals.



Folsom

What is the Global Wildlife Center?

The Global Wildlife Center, in Folsom, is home to about 3000 animals on 900 acres. This large area provides a lot of room for animals to roam freely.

The Global Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1991. Its goal was to make a center to help educate people and to provide threatened and endangered animals a place to live.

The center is not like a zoo. The animals are allowed to wander freely and interact with other animals. Workers at the center take care of the animals. However, the workers try to make the environments very much like the animals' natural environments.

Workers take care of the animals at the Global Wildlife Center.



What Is New at the Global Wildlife Center?

When an animal is born, the population of that kind of animal grows. If the population of a threatened or endangered animal keeps growing, someday the animal may no longer be threatened or endangered.



Zira and her mother

Zira, a young giraffe, was born at the Global Wildlife Center. At birth young giraffes weigh about 68 kilograms (150 lb). Zira is learning from her mother how to survive as she roams with other animals at the Global Wildlife Center.

Getting Around the Global Wildlife Center

One of the best ways to experience animal interaction at the Global Wildlife Center is to take the Safari Wagon tour. The tour takes you as close as you can get to the animals. If you are lucky enough to have an animal come up to the wagon, you can even feed the animal. The tour is 1 1/2 hours long, but it is well worth the time.

TEST PREP

1. Which of these is NOT a goal of the Global Wildlife Center?

- A to educate the public about the animals
- B to help threatened and endangered animals
- C to make environments like the ones the animals would find in the wild
- D to provide an environment like a zoo

2. What does the word **roam** mean as used in this feature?

- A to be placed in a cage
- B a city in another country
- C to move around
- D to stay in one area

3. When more animals are born, the population of that kind of animal

- A dies out.
- B goes down.
- C goes up.
- D stays the same.

Safari Wagon Tour



LIFE SCIENCE • UNIT 8

Text features are an important feature to any reading. While you are reading, do you see titles, charts, photos, captions, headlines, bold or italicized print? **THOSE ARE TEXT FEATURES!**

If you learn how to identify text features and use them prior to reading a text, you will improve your comprehension.

During the reading process, you will use the text features to locate essential information from the text. The more times you process the information given, the more likely you are going to retain the information.

This science textbook contains of variety of text features to help the reader understand the content.

TYPES OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT FEATURES

- Print Features
- Organizational Aids
- Graphic Aids
- Illustrations

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

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EXAMPLE: CONTENTS (PARTIAL)

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
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
Labels	identify a picture and/or its parts
Captions	understand pictures and photographs

GRAPHIC AIDS

Represent information in some specific way

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Bold Print	by signaling the word is important and/or found in the glossary
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
Labels	identify a picture and/or its parts
Captions	understand pictures and photographs

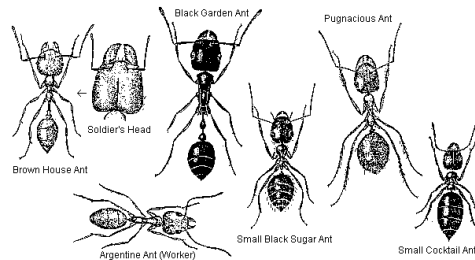
ILLUSTRATIONS

Expand the meaning of the text

Feature	Helps the Reader...
Photographs	understand exactly what something looks like
Drawings	understand what something could or might have looked like
Magnification	see details in something



A worker female fire ant in the act of stinging a human thumb.



Drawings of different types of ants



A magnified ant head.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT TEXT FEATURES

FEATURES

I CHALLENGE YOU TO USE THEM TO COMPLETE A SCAVENGER HUNT

Read the article, *Flying High*. Your goal is to identify as many informational text features as possible. Write the types you find on a separate sheet of paper and then check your work by viewing the next slide.



Flying high

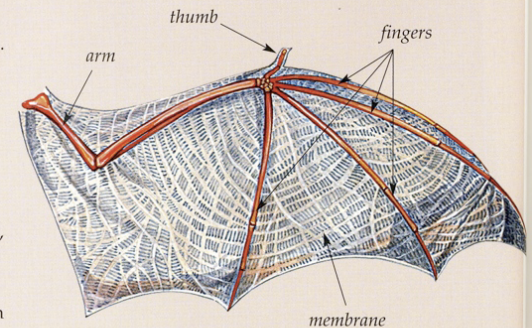


These spotted bats are flying in opposite directions.

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.

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.



SCAVENGER HUNT

ANSWERS

THE TEXT FEATURES YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND:

- ✓ Title (Flying High)
- ✓ Subheading (Hand-wing)
- ✓ Labels
- ✓ A Caption
- ✓ A Photograph
- ✓ A Diagram
- ✓ Bold Print
- ✓ Italics

NEXT TIME YOU READ

Pay attention to the text features as you read. See if you can put them to use to increase your comprehension and maybe you will even finish your assignment in less time!



Bibliography

Blair, J. (n.d.). *Text features: An aid to reading comprehension*. Retrieved October 28, 2008 from <http://www.helium.com/items/152030-text-features-an-aid-to-reading-comprehension>.

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