

**Graphic  
Text**

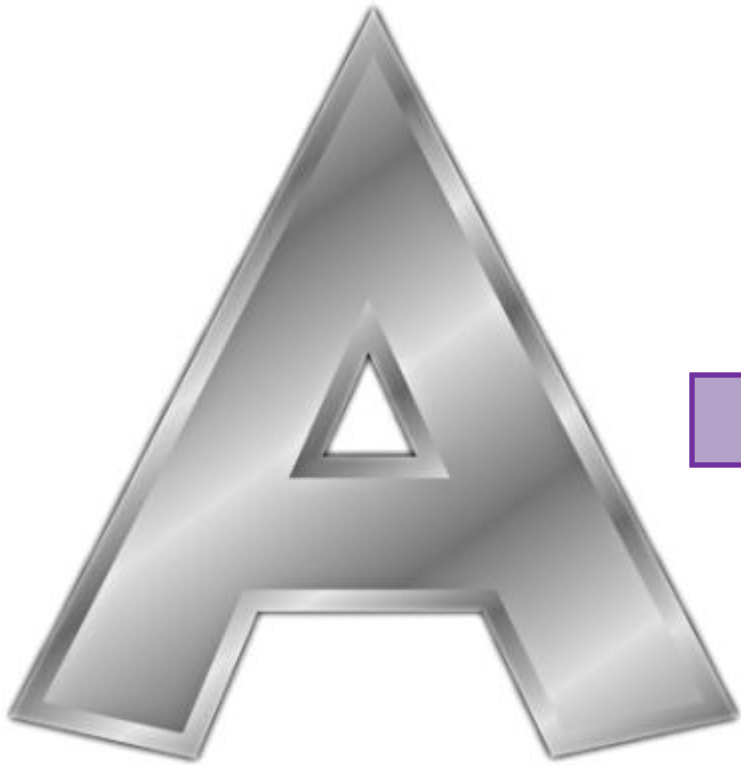
# Let's see if you can read graphic text...

- Arrange yourselves in the classroom according to the instructions.

Teacher's Desk



Teacher's Desk



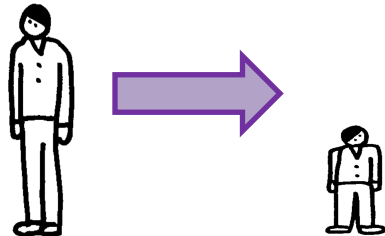
Teacher's Desk



1. What did you do?
2. How did you know what to do?

• Graphic 1  A black square icon containing white symbols for a woman on the left and a man on the right, separated by a vertical line.

• Graphic 2  A large, 3D-style letter 'A' on the left, a purple arrow pointing to the right, and a large, 3D-style letter 'Z' on the right.

• Graphic 3  A tall, thin stick figure on the left, a purple arrow pointing to the right, and a much shorter, wider stick figure on the right.

By moving around the room and arranging yourselves by gender, by alphabet and by height you have been reading graphic texts.

# How to Read Graphic Texts

## Before you read:

- Look over the text to determine what type it is and which elements are used. These elements may include title, images, captions, labels, column and row headings, symbols, legends or keys, and scale or unit of measurement.
- Start with the title. The title tells you what the graphic is about.
- Examine the captions. They may use words and phrases from the text to show how the graphic is related to the information in the written text.
- Consider what you already know about the topic or subject.

# How to Read Graphic Texts

As you read:

- Read all the labels and examine how they are related to the graphic. Each label has a purpose. The most important labels may be in capital letters, bold type, or a larger font.
- Follow the arrows and lines. They may be used to show movement or direction, or connect to the things they name.
- Look for the use of colour or symbols to emphasize important words and information. Some graphical texts have legends or a key to explain the meaning of specific symbols and colours.
- Use the figure number, title and key words to find and read the related information in the text.



# How to Read Graphic Texts

As you read:

- Identify relationships among the visuals and information presented.
- If you are looking at a graph or chart, notice any patterns or trends that are revealed in the data.
- Look at the data that does not follow a trend, or that stands out. For example, if a graph shows a sudden increase at a particular point in time, think about what might have caused that change.
- Ask “What is the most important information in this graphic?”

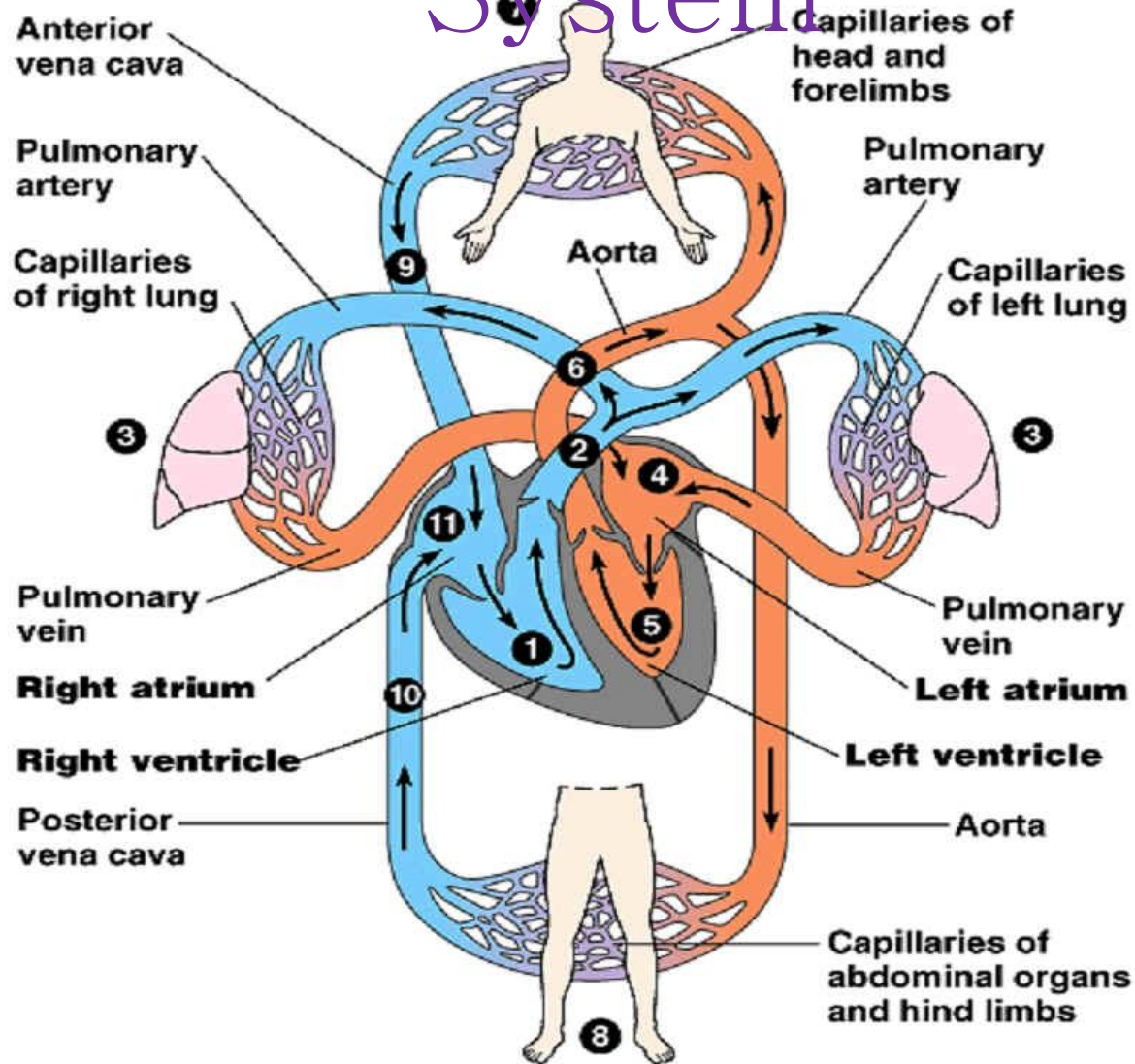
# How to Read Graphic Texts

## After you read:

- Interpret the information conveyed in any of the graphics (e.g. diagrams, charts, graphs, maps). Ask yourself why this might be important.
- Summarize the most important information from the graphic in your own words. Imagine that you are explaining the graphic to someone who has not read it.
- Connect the information to what you already know. For example, if you're looking at a graph that shows automobile insurance rates for different types of automobiles, think about what you know about these different makes of cars and the people who drive them. These thoughts might explain the different rates.

Let's try it...

# The Human Circulatory System



# How to Read Graphic Texts: Template

Title of Selection: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Graphic: \_\_\_\_\_

- This graphic is about...
- One pattern I noticed in this graphic is...
- One part of the data that stood out was...

# How to Read Graphic Texts: Template

- Something that surprised me was...
- The most important information that this graphic showed was...
- A personal connection I can make is...