

## **Lesson: Organization and Structure of Text**

### **Lesson Topic: Recognize texts written in chronological order**

#### **Question 1:**

Adapted from **The Good Work of Jane Adams**

Written by America's Story from America's Library

In late 1887, Jane Addams sailed to Europe without a group of friends. After visiting Madrid, Addams journeyed onward to London, England. There, she visited a settlement house called Toynbee Hall. Settlement houses were created to provide community services to ease urban problems such as poverty. Inspired by Toynbee Hall, Addams and her friend, Ellen Gates Starr, opened Hull House in a neighborhood of slums in Chicago in 1889. Many who lived there were immigrants from countries such as Italy, Russia, Poland, Germany, Ireland, and Greece.

#### **Which words or phrases signal that this text is probably organized in chronological order?**

Check all that are true.

- late 1887
- 1889
- First
- There
- Inspired by

#### **Question 2:**

## **6 Major Text Structures**

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- ▶ Chronological order
- ▶ Compare and contrast
- ▶ Cause and effect
- ▶ Problem and solution
- ▶ Description
- ▶ Main Idea and supporting details

#### **Which of the following is not a structure that authors use to organize texts?**

- cause and effect
- chronological order
- book
- compare and contrast
- description

**Question 3:**

First, make sure that you have all of your ingredients. Then, preheat the oven to 450 degrees and grease your baking sheet. (Alternately, you can sprinkle cornmeal on it.) Once these steps are complete, you can prepare the dough. After that you will be able to add toppings and personalize the pizza to your liking.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that this text is probably organized in chronological order?**

Check all that are true.

- First
- After that
- Alternately
- make sure
- Then

**Question 4:**

The Spanish Civil War began in 1936. For three years, the country was divided as the Republicans and the Nationalists fought for control of the country. The war finally ended in 1939. The Nationalists won, and their leader, General Francisco Franco, became the nation's dictator. His rule would last more than thirty-five years.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that this text is probably organized in chronological order?**

Check all that are true.

- became
- was divided
- 1936
- finally
- 1939

**Question 5:**

From **America's Story from America's Library**

The Ozark Mountains of Arkansas are the largest mountain range between the Appalachian Mountains in the East and the Rocky Mountains in the West. The limestone that is found there wears away easily and is responsible for many unusual geographic features, such as caves, sinkholes, and underground streams. The Ozarks region is also known for its folk crafts and outdoor recreation.

**Is this text organized in chronological order?**

- yes
- no

## Lesson Topic: Recognize texts that use a compare and contrast structure

### Question 1:

Which text is organized using a compare and contrast structure?

**Text One**

The United States Congress is made up of two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Members of both houses are elected by citizens of the United States of America. The Senate is made up of 100 senators, two from each state. The House of Representatives, on the other hand, has 435 representatives. The number of representatives from each state is based on the state's population.

**Text Two**

Lincoln was born on a small farm in Kentucky. His mother died when he was nine, and his father remarried and moved the family to Indiana. Lincoln's family was very poor. The children spent most of their time doing farm chores, which Lincoln did not like at all. When he could, Lincoln went to the local school, called an ABC school, where children learned how to read, write, and do arithmetic.

**Text Three**

Rainbows are created by light passing through the water droplets in the air. The raindrops act like tiny prisms. They bend the light and separate it into different colors. When sunlight enters the water droplets, the light slows down and bends a little. Then, when the light leaves the water droplets it bends again.

none of the above

### Question 2:

Old Maid and Go Fish are two of the most popular card games for kids. To play Go Fish, players use a standard deck of cards. Players take turns asking each other for cards and drawing from a collective pile as they attempt to form sets of four alike cards (for example, four aces or four eights). At the end of the game, the player with the most sets wins.

Similarly, Old Maid uses a standard deck of cards. Unlike Go Fish, however, Old Maid requires players to remove one card from the deck before play. Players then attempt to match cards in pairs. At the end of the game, the player who is left with the only unmatched card is declared the loser.

Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a compare and contrast structure?

Check all that are true.

- Unlike
- At the end
- Similarly
- take turns
- To play

### Question 3:

This weekend, the film version of *Lightning Girl*, based on the comic book series by Herb Tuscani, premiered in theaters nationwide. The special effects were impressive, and they did a fantastic job of conveying the dreamlike quality of Tuscani's artwork. Like the book, the movie version was action-packed and exciting. Unlike the books, however, the movie did not go into as great of detail to explain the character's history.

Although the movie was enjoyable, it simply can't replace the original.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a compare and contrast structure?**

Check all that are true.

- Unlike
- This weekend
- Like
- simply
- premiered

**Question 4:**

Because Spanish is spoken in so many different countries, it has evolved to include different dialects. Generally speaking, the biggest division is between Castilian Spanish (spoken in central and northern Spain) and Latin American Spanish (spoken in the New World). In Castilian Spanish, the letter *z* and the letter *c* are often pronounced like *th*, whereas in Latin American Spanish they are pronounced like the letter *s*. Pronouns are also used differently, with Castilian Spanish using *vosotros* while Latin American Spanish uses *ustedes*. Even the vocabulary varies between these two dialects (and even between different countries and communities). However, if you have a solid grasp of one variety of Spanish, you will still be able to communicate with Spanish-speakers wherever you travel.

**Is this text organized using a compare and contrast structure?**

- yes, because it explains how two varieties of Spanish are similar and different
- yes, because it provides lots of details about Spanish
- no, because it does not compare two or more topics
- no, because it does not explain why the differences in the language occur

**Question 5:**

From **America's Story from America's Library**

On April 18, 1906, an earthquake woke up the citizens of San Francisco at 5:12 am. This 8.3 magnitude earthquake collapsed many buildings, but it wasn't just the shaking ground that nearly destroyed the city. Fires that started as a result of the quake raged through San Francisco for three days. Closely-built wooden homes and broken water mains made it difficult to fight the fires. More than 3,000 people are estimated to have died. For a few weeks, survivors slept in tents and parks. They cooked outdoors to avoid the chance that any more buildings would be burned. Then they got busy rebuilding their city and homes and hoped never to be awakened by a devastating earthquake again.

**Is this text organized using a compare and contrast structure?**

- yes, because it moves forward in time from the first event to the last
- yes, because it explains how this earthquake is related to other natural disasters
- no, because it does not show how two topics are similar and different
- no, because it is not detailed enough

## Lesson Topic: Recognize texts that use a cause and effect structure

### Question 1:

Based on the titles below, which of these texts is likely organized using a cause and effect structure?

- Hurricanes and Tornadoes
- Who Was Mahatma Gandhi?
- Why Do Cats Purr?
- The History of Transportation

### Question 2:

A good night's sleep is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. Sleep deprivation (the lack of adequate sleep) can lead to serious problems. Sleep-deprived people are less alert, and as a result they are more likely to make mistakes or cause accidents. Over time, consistent sleep-deprivation can also cause health problems such as heart disease and high blood pressure.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a cause and effect structure?**

Check all that are true.

- such as
- essential
- cause
- as a result
- Over time

### Question 3:

Can't sleep? There are many different factors that lead to sleeplessness. For example, if you are worried about something, it might make it hard for you to "shut down" at bedtime. Consequently, you might struggle to get to sleep. If you have had too much to eat shortly before bed, or if you've consumed caffeine during the day, you may also have trouble falling asleep. Additionally, some illnesses and medications can also cause sleeplessness.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a cause and effect structure?**

Check all that are true.

- For example
- Consequently
- it might
- cause
- Additionally

### Question 4:

From **America's Story from America's Library**

During the mid-1800s, conflict over issues of how much control the federal government should have over the states, industrialization, trade, and slavery had increased tension between Northern and Southern states. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, 11 Southern states seceded (or withdrew) from the Union and set up an independent government—the Confederate States of America. These events led to the outbreak of the Civil War—a brutal, bloody, four-year conflict that left the South defeated and ended slavery at the cost of more than half a million lives.

**Is this text organized using a cause and effect structure?**

- yes
- no

**Question 5:**

From **America's Story from America's Library**

The United States has many monuments and sacred sites to honor people, ideas, things, and events that have left their mark on American history. Arlington National Cemetery is one of those sites. On May 13, 1864, a Confederate prisoner of war, who had died at a local hospital, was the first soldier buried at Arlington. The cemetery now contains the graves of soldiers from every war in which the United States has participated, including the American Revolution.

**Is this text organized using a cause and effect structure?**

- yes
- no

## Lesson Topic: Recognize texts that use a problem and solution structure

### Question 1:

Sleep is extremely important. When you sleep, your brain recharges, your cells repair themselves, and your body produces crucial hormones. Unfortunately, over 40 percent of Americans report that they do not get enough sleep each night. How can we change this statistic? First of all, it is important to keep a regular sleep schedule. You should set a regular bedtime and go to sleep at the same time every night. You should also keep the time you wake up in the morning consistent—even on the weekend.

Is this text organized using a problem and solution structure?

- yes, because it identifies a problem and offers possible solutions
- yes, because it shows the similarities and differences between two or more things
- no, because it does not show the similarities and differences between two or more things
- no, because it does not identify a problem and offer possible solutions

### Question 2:

Many young people are dissatisfied by the allowance they receive from their parents... if they receive one at all. But until you reach the legal age of employment (14 in many states), it's hard to earn your own money. One way to solve this issue is to seek work around your neighborhood. Ask your neighbors if they need help with yard work, such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, and mowing the lawn, and offer your services for a small fee. Picking up a few of these chores here and there can really add up.

Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a problem and solution structure?

Check all that are true.

- seek
- solve
- legal
- offer
- issue

### Question 3:

A common problem for students is staying organized. For many, desks, backpacks, and lockers are a messy stack of mixed-up papers. What can be done? One way to solve this issue is to use a simple folder system. Assign one folder to each subject area, and keep all of your documents for that class in its correct folder. Within the folder, try to keep documents organized by date. When it comes time to find a particular paper, you should have no trouble locating it.

Which words or phrases in this text signal that it was probably written using a problem and solution structure?

Check all that are true.

- keeping organized
- problem
- solve

issue

Assign

**Question 4:**

Siblings often fight over seemingly small issues. Whether it's control of the TV remote or a chance to play the new video game, it can be hard to get along. But with some simple planning, many of these issues can be avoided. Set up a schedule to decide whose "turn" it is for any activity. For example, use a timer to give each sibling thirty minutes of game time. Pick alternating days for control of the remote or the preferred seat in the car. With a system in place, there's less to argue about and a better environment for bonding.

**Is this text organized using a problem and solution structure?**

yes

no

**Question 5:**

From **America's Story from America's Library**

Yellowstone National Park, part of which is in Wyoming, is home to more geysers than any other place in the world. The most famous geyser is Old Faithful, which got its name because its eruptions can be so reliably predicted. A geyser is a spring that sprays out blasts of heated water and steam. The park has plenty of hot springs. In a geyser, steam and water build pressure beneath a narrow passageway in the ground. Steam forces the water up, and sudden changes in underground water temperature create violent explosions of water and steam on the surface. Some geysers erupt in bursts, some at angles, and some from cone-shaped rock formations, such as Castle Geyser, pictured here. Yellowstone's hot springs also form steam vents, mudpots, and vividly colored pools. The park's geysers, like Steamboat and Old Faithful, however, are far more famous.

**Is this text organized using a problem and solution structure?**

yes

no



## Lesson Topic: Recognize texts that describe

### Question 1:

Adapted from **Mountains That Look Like a Saw?**

Written by America's Story from America's Library

Idaho is well known for its natural beauty and rugged landscape. The state's impressive Sawtooth Mountains are a part of the Rocky Mountains, and several peaks in these mountains exceed an elevation of 10,000 feet. Another of Idaho's natural wonders is the Snake River. This river flows in a great arc and has created extensive valleys throughout its run.

The flowing Snake River has also made gorges, such as Hell's Canyon, which, at 7,900 feet, is North America's deepest gorge. Various wildlife inhabit the rugged landscape of Idaho, including elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose, black bear, cougar, and antelope. Smaller animals include beaver, river otter, red-tailed hawks, and golden and bald eagles.

**What kind of passage is this?**

- a description of Idaho's popular hiking trails
- instructions for identifying wildlife in the state of Idaho
- a description of Idaho's natural wonders
- directions for traveling around the state of Idaho

### Question 2:

A family lives in a small house located in a quiet neighborhood. The street is shaded and has very little traffic. The house is painted pale green with white trimming. The backyard is filled with maple trees and also includes a charming garden. Inside, the house has one bathroom and two bedrooms.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that it is a descriptive text?**

Check all that are true.

- house
- charming
- pale green
- has
- shaded

### Question 3:

Cyprus is an island nation located in the Mediterranean Sea, close to the countries of Turkey and Lebanon. Although the island is technically one country, the northern half is occupied by Turkey. There, the residents speak Turkish and make purchases using the Turkish lira. In the southern half of the country, Greek is the primary language, and the euro is the common currency. The island has a warm climate, with summers lasting about eight months. Tourists travel from around the world to visit its sunny beaches.

**Which words or phrases in this text signal that it is a descriptive text?**

Check all that are true.

- from around

- with
- sunny
- warm
- large

**Question 4:**

Maple syrup is a thick, sweet syrup made from the sap of maple trees. The color of the syrup can range from a light golden color to a deeper amber shade. These differences in color correspond with different tastes, with darker shades having a richer maple flavor. Most maple syrup is produced in the northeastern region of the United States, as well as Canada. It is enjoyed all over the world, especially as a topping for waffles and pancakes.

**What does this text describe?**

- maple syrup
- amber
- waffles
- Canada

**Question 5:**

From **America's Story from America's Library**

The process used to make maple syrup is essentially the same one that Native Americans first used hundreds of years ago. For four to six weeks in the winter or early spring, farmers collect the sweet-water sap of dormant sugar maple or black maple trees. The sap is extracted through tap holes, which are carefully drilled into the trees and fitted with spouts and buckets or the more modern and common method, plastic tubing. The sweet-water sap is then boiled in pans to evaporate the liquid. The sap only yields one-thirtieth to one-fiftieth the amount of syrup as the original quantity of sap.

**What kind of passage is this?**

- a description of maple syrup
- a description of Native American food
- a process in steps to make maple syrup
- instructions for cutting down trees