

# NONFICTION TEXT STRUCTURE

task cards



3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

**10 Nonfiction Text Structure**  
The United States Postal Service (USPS) was established in 1775. Its original purpose was to communicate between the thirteen colonies. In 1792, the USPS was made a part of the government under George Washington. The Pony Express began in 1860. It allowed mail to travel longer distances by a system of horseback riders. The postage stamp came on the scene in 1846. The airmail became a reality in 1917. The USPS got its own airplane in 1918.

**What structure does this text use?**

- Describe a process
- Compare and contrast
- Chronological
- Cause and effect

**17 Nonfiction Text Structure**  
The life cycle of a wolf has several stages. First, a wolf pup is born. It is dependent on its mother to survive. Next, a wolf enters the juvenile phase. It learns important skills such as hunting in this stage. At about 1-2 years old, wolves are called adolescents. They might stray from their pack at this age. Then wolves become adults when they reach 2-3 years old. They are fully grown now. They may stay with their pack or form one of their own. Older wolves slow down and are less active. The final part of the life cycle is death.

**How do readers learn about the life cycle of wolves in this text?**

- Through the stating of a problem and a solution
- Through a chronology of stages
- Through a description of the process
- Through comparing and contrasting

**25 Nonfiction Text Structure**  
Most objects have a balance of positive and negative charges. The negative charges are called electrons. They build up in an object. This often occurs when two objects are rubbed together. When you scuff your feet along a carpet, you pick up extra electrons. You become negatively charged. Touching a metal doorknob, which is a conductor, will cause the electrons to jump from you to the doorknob. As a result, you will feel a tiny shock. This is because of the quick movement of the electrons. This static electricity happens more often in colder seasons because the air is drier.

**What causes you to pick up extra electrons?**

- Feeling a tiny shock
- Scuffing your feet along a carpet
- Making a doorknob positively charged
- Touching a doorknob

**Text Structure**

**3 Nonfiction Text Structure**  
Fruits and vegetables keep you healthy. They are both natural foods. They are grown from plants. Fruits and vegetables are similar because they are low in calories. They are also high in nutrients and vitamins. Fruits, however, are often eaten raw as a snack or dessert. Vegetables, on the other hand, are usually cooked and enjoyed as or with the main dish. Fruits contain seeds, while vegetables are roots, stems, and leaves. In terms of taste, fruit is sweeter than vegetables. Both of these foods should be included in your diet.

**What clues show this text is written in a comparison text structure?**

- It includes dates and times that events happen.
- It shows how one event causes another.
- It uses the words both, similar, however, on the other hand, and while.
- It describes how to do something.



# Ways to Use Task Cards

1. **Centers**
2. **Scoot:** Pass out one card for each student. Set a timer and say, “Scoot!” when the timer goes off. Students move seats to the next card. They continue to rotate until they are back at their original seats.
3. **Scavenger Hunt:** Hide cards around the room. Students search for cards and answer them.
4. **Jenga:** Number Jenga blocks. Students stack the blocks and then take turns pulling them. Students answer the corresponding number card.
5. **Whole-Class Practice:** Teacher displays card on the projector. Students answer on mini whiteboards.
6. **Exit Tickets:** Give each student a task card at the end of the lesson. Have them answer on a sticky note.

## 1 Nonfiction Text Structure

French toast is an easy breakfast to make. First, beat one egg, one teaspoon of vanilla extract, and a half teaspoon of cinnamon with a wire whisk. Next, stir in a quarter cup of milk. Then, dip four slices of bread in the milk mixture. Be sure to coat all sides. Cook the bread on a greased, nonstick griddle until browned on both sides. Flip the bread slices as needed. Finally, drizzle with pure maple syrup and enjoy!

What text structure is used to present this text?

- a. Comparison
- b. Problem and solution
- c. Cause and effect
- d. Chronology

## 2 Nonfiction Text Structure

German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois are two popular dog breeds. They both are loyal and smart. These dogs are easy to train. They are similar in fur color and have ears that usually stand up. Both breeds like to live an active lifestyle. On the other hand, German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois have differences, too. German Shepherds are larger than Belgian Malinois and are a little calmer. Belgian Malinois have a more intense personality. Belgian Malinois also have higher energy levels than German Shepherds.

What is the text structure of this paragraph?

- a. Chronology
- b. Comparison
- c. Cause and effect
- d. Description

## 3 Nonfiction Text Structure

Fruits and vegetables keep you healthy. They are both natural foods. They are grown from plants. Fruits and vegetables are similar because they are low in calories. They are also high in nutrients and vitamins. Fruits, however, are often eaten raw as a snack or dessert. Vegetables, on the other hand, are usually cooked and enjoyed as or with the main dish. Fruits contain seeds, while vegetables are roots, stems, and leaves. In terms of taste, fruit is sweeter than vegetables. Both foods should be included in your diet.

What clues show this text is written in a comparison text structure?

- a. It includes dates and times that events happen.
- b. It shows how one event causes another.
- c. It uses the words both, similar, however, on the other hand, and while.
- d. It describes how to do something.

## 4 Nonfiction Text Structure

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm. Warm ocean water causes the air to rise. Low air pressure is created at the surface. More air rushes in to fill the area of low pressure. As a result, storm clouds form, and strong winds gain power. The winds circle around the storm. The spiral shape of a hurricane forms due to these winds. Heavy rainfall combines with the winds to cause damage to the land, the wildlife, and the people in a hurricane's path. Waves, storm surges, and flooding are all possible events due to a hurricane.

What is the text structure of this paragraph?

- a. Chronology
- b. Cause and effect
- c. Fact and opinion
- d. Comparison

# Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #	Answer	Card #	Answer
1.		16.	
2.		17.	
3.		18.	
4.		19.	
5.		20.	
6.		21.	
7.		22.	
8.		23.	
9.		24.	
10.		25.	
11.		26.	
12.		27.	
13.		28.	
14.		29.	
15.		30.	

# Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #	Answer	Card #	Answer
1.		16.	
2.		17.	
3.		18.	
4.		19.	
5.		20.	
6.		21.	
7.		22.	
8.		23.	
9.		24.	
10.		25.	
11.		26.	
12.		27.	
13.		28.	
14.		29.	
15.		30.	

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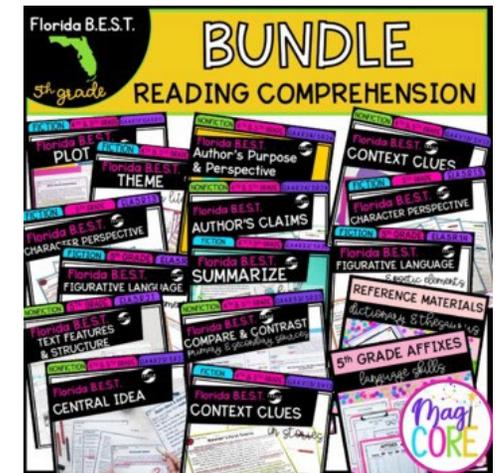
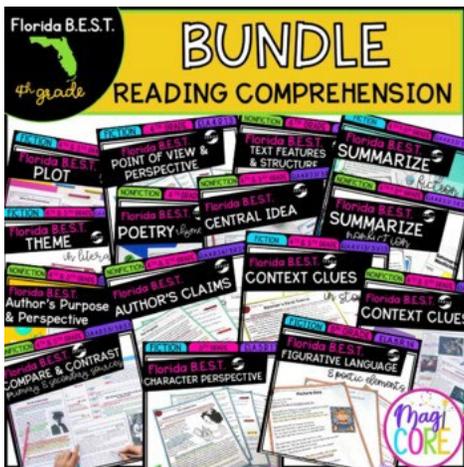


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