

LEAP's Guide to Reading Informational Texts

Elements of Informational Texts

Informational texts teach facts about every topic! Whether you like animals, engines, or cooking, you can find an informational text that will help you learn something new.

Informational texts include text features to help you understand the topic. You may see a table of contents, a glossary, headings, captions, bold and/or italic print, graphs, photographs, or diagrams.

Comprehension Tips

Informational texts often include educational photos, illustrations, and/or diagrams. Use these images to help you learn even more about the topic.

Scan the text: Scan the table of contents to jump to the section or subtopic that you may be interested in. For example, if you're researching where giraffes live, jump to "Habitats."

Helpful Information

While most informational books will contain a table of contents, headers, and a glossary, they may not always include captions, diagrams, or graphs regularly. Use the text features that are provided as you read to help you understand the book.

What are some text features I might see in informational books?

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GLOSSARY

Light
Light comes from the Sun, electric lights, or fire. Light helps you to see. Your pupils let light in or keep light out.

Eyes
Your eyes are shaped like small, round balls. You can see only the front part of your eyes.

Magnifying glass
A magnifying glass has a curved glass or plastic lens. It makes things look bigger.

Iris
The colored part of your eye is called the iris. People have different colored irises, such as green, blue, and brown.

Pupil
The black circle in your eye is called the pupil. Your pupils are gray in your irises which open and close to let light in or keep light out.

Lens
The lens in your eye helps you to see things. Lenses in glasses can help make things look bigger or smaller.

Telescope
A telescope uses curved glass or plastic lens to make things that are far away look closer.

glossary



heading



The walrus has blubber, a special type of fat, beneath its skin that keeps it warm despite the extremely cold temperature of the arctic.

caption

Informational books we recommend:

- The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb
- Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War
- Meltdown: Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima