

Informational Text Features Search

Common Core Standards:
RI 2.5, RI 3.5

Reading Strategies

- Identify text features within informational texts
- Deepen understanding of how various text features aid in reading comprehension

Suggested Texts

Gravity: Forces and Motion
National Geographic Kids Ultimate Dinopedia: The Most Complete Dinosaur Reference Ever

Informational texts are organized differently from literary texts in order to make the information easier to read and understand. These selections often include “features” such as subheadings, maps, sidebars, diagrams, captions, and illustrations to help convey the meaning of the text clearly. Digital text often includes hypertext and other interactive elements. The Informational Text Features Search serves as a place to record those features, and it also helps students identify the author’s purpose for using them. This graphic organizer will help your students explore how text features help their reading comprehension.

Title:		Date:
INFORMATIONAL TEXT FEATURES SEARCH		
Title:		
Page #	Text Feature	How It Helps Comprehension
Title:		
Page #	Text Feature	How It Helps Comprehension
bibliography bold print bullets captions diagrams	glossary graphs headings illustrations index	internet links italic print maps photographs sidebars
subheadings table of contents timelines use of color website interactive elements		

Step by Step:

- 1** Choose one selection from a basal text, news article, or nonfiction book that has a variety of informational text features. Give each student a copy of the graphic organizer on page 88. Ask your students to help you search for the informational text features in the selection.
- 2** As you record those features on the class chart, have students record them on their own charts.
- 3** Ask your students how each feature helps them comprehend the text by imagining what the text would look like without that feature. Sample questions include:
 - Does an image help you visualize the way something looks?
 - Does a diagram or chart help you understand a process?
 - Do boldfaced words help you identify key vocabulary?
- 4** Repeat with additional informational text selections.

Title: _____ Date: _____

INFORMATIONAL TEXT FEATURES SEARCH

Title:		
Page #	Text Feature	How It Helps Comprehension

Title:		
Page #	Text Feature	How It Helps Comprehension

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| bibliography | glossary | Internet link | subheading |
| bold print | graph | italic print | table of contents |
| bullet points | heading | map | timeline |
| caption | illustration | photograph | use of color |
| diagram | index | sidebar | website interactive element |