

Informational Text Features

Unlocking the Tools to Understanding



http://listerlist.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Jurassic_Park_1_1920x1080.jpg

Cut Away



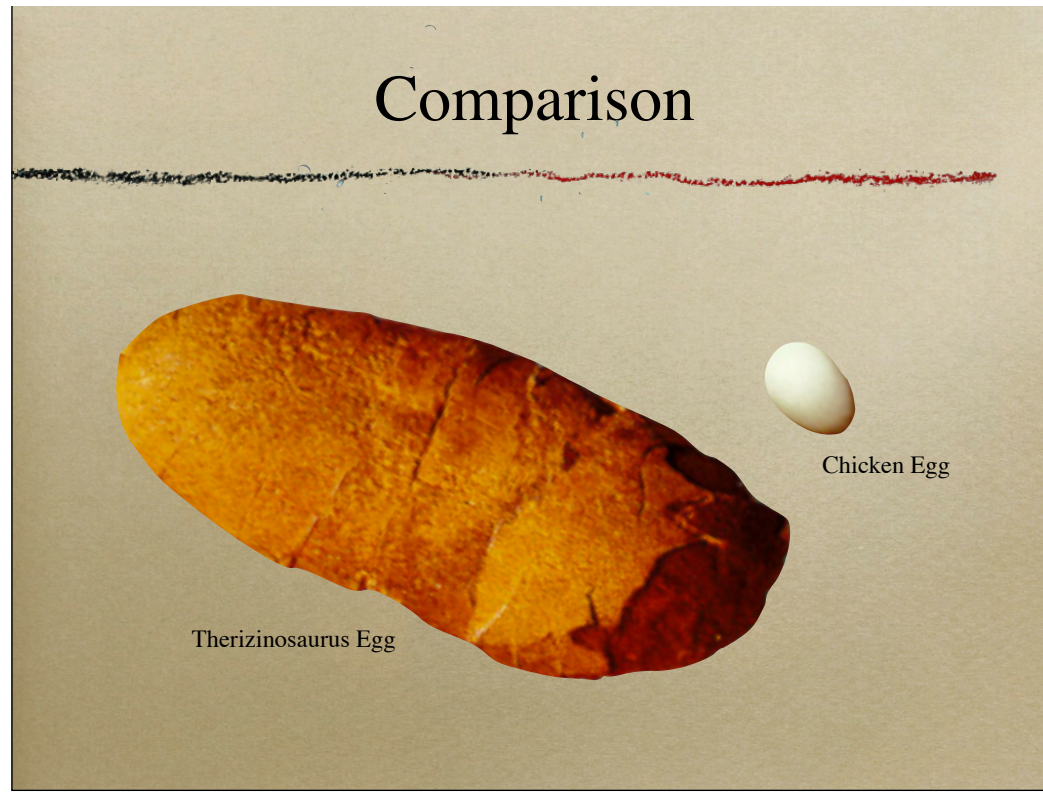
Characteristics:

- Visual or picture representation of an object
- Shows both the outside shape & inside details of an object

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to see the inner workings of something.
- Allows the reader to observe sequenced layers and identify patterns

Comparison



Characteristics:

- Visual or picture representation of more than one object
- Shows a familiar object to an unfamiliar object

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to see differences in measurements - particularly size & distance.
- Allows the reader to make connections to unfamiliar objects by comparing them to familiar objects

Close-up



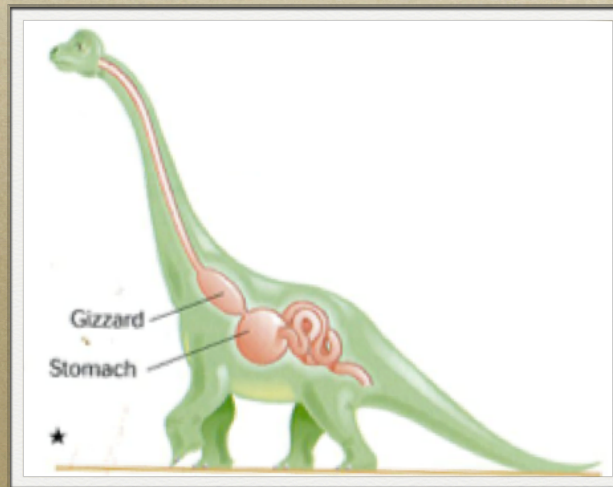
Characteristics:

- Visual or picture representation of an object or area
- A large portion of the object or area is shown as well as the close-up section of the object or area

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to see how the smaller part fits into the whole.
- Allows the reader to see the details in smaller sections and their place in the larger whole.

Labels



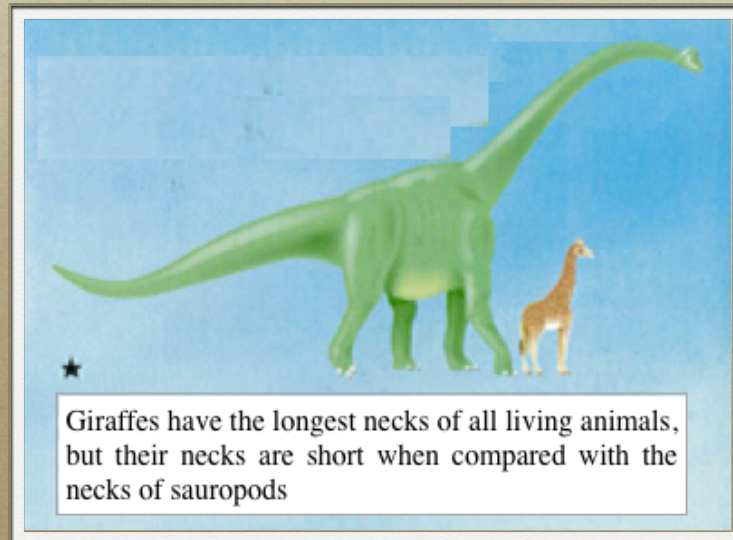
Characteristics:

- Used to identify parts of a visual or picture representation of an object or area.
- Labels are usually limited to a word or two in their identification.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Draws the readers attention to specific parts of an object or area.
- Allows the reader to see locations of specific parts of an object or area.
- Provides domain specific vocabulary related to the object or area.

Caption/Cutline



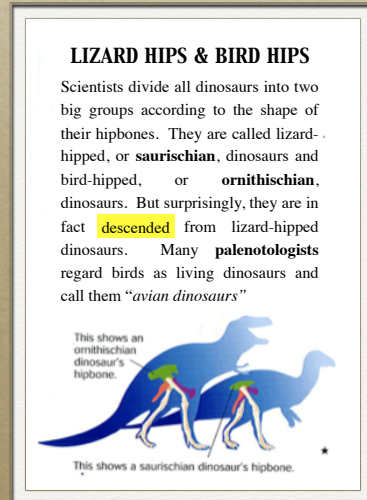
Characteristics:

- Small bit of text appearing near a photo, picture, graph, or other visual display.
- Usually only consist of a few words or several sentences.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Informs the reader of about details that might not be obvious with just the visual alone.
- Allows the reader to understand how the visual is related to the main body of the text.

Print Types



Bold
Italics
Highlight
CAPITALS
Size

Characteristics:

- Color, shape, size of specific words or phrases are different from the majority of words in the text.
- Words are generally academic, domain-specific, or otherwise unfamiliar

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader will notice certain words because they stand out from the rest of the text
- Allows the reader to know which words the author considers important for understanding the topic
- Shows the reader that a title or heading is separate from the body of a text.

Table of Contents

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Internet links

For links to the websites recommended in this book, go to the **Usborne Quicklinks Website** at www.usborne-quicklinks.com and enter the keywords "discovery dinosaurs". Usborne Publishing is not responsible for the content on any website other than its own. Please read the Internet safety guidelines on the Usborne Quicklinks Website and on page 62 of this book.

★ Pictures in this book with a star symbol beside them can be downloaded for your own personal use from the Usborne Quicklinks Website.

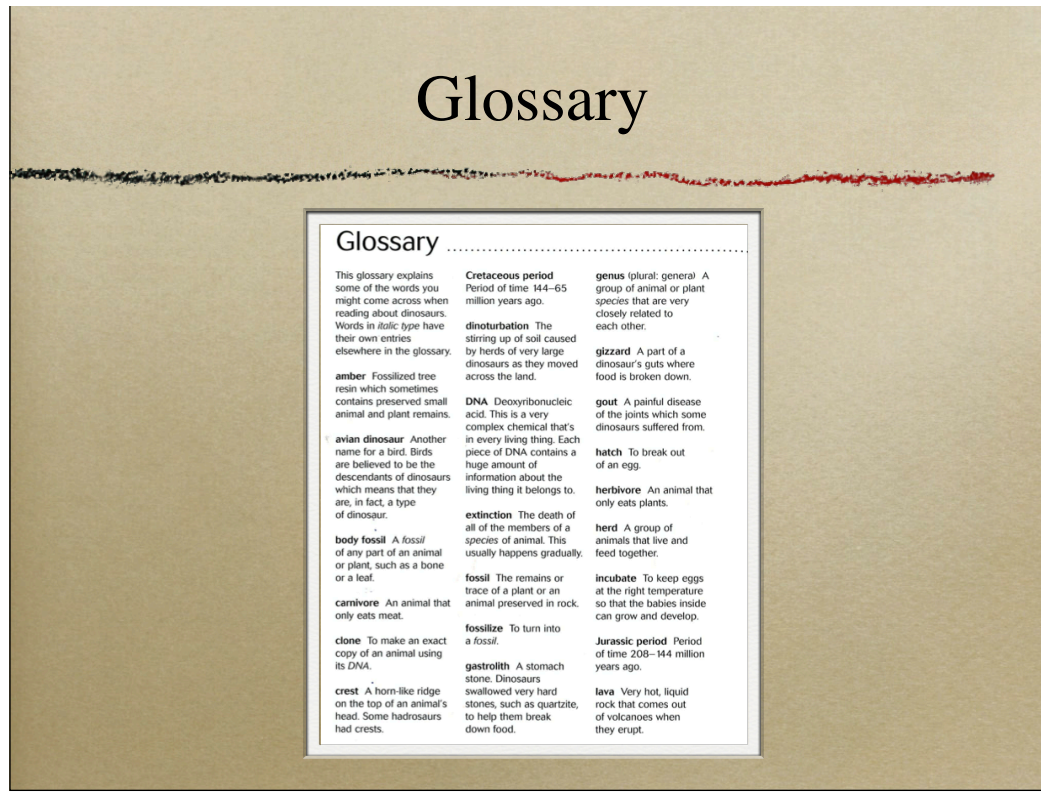
Characteristics:

- Found in the front section of a text.
- Generally lists chapters or topics contained in the text.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to quickly find specific chapters or topics in the text.
- Allows the reader make predictions/inferences about the what the text is about.

Glossary



Characteristics:

- Found in the back of a text.
- Key academic & domain-specific vocabulary terms are listed alphabetically with their definitions.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to easily find unfamiliar academic & domain-specific terms contained within a text.
- Allows the reader to build meaning by providing definitions of academic & domain-specific terms contained within the text.

Maps



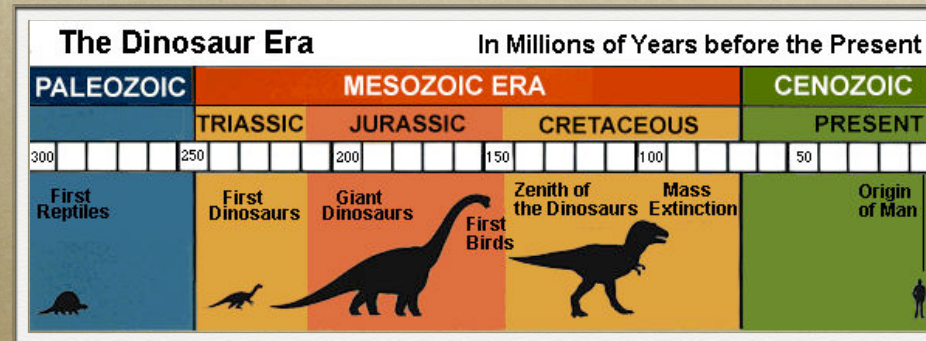
Characteristics:

- Visual representation of a geographic area of the world.
- Generally has a key or legend showing specific features of the map.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to see where places, people, events or discoveries exist.
- Allows the reader to identify relationships and context for places, people, events or discoveries.

Timelines



<https://tce-live2.s3.amazonaws.com/media/media/bc814326-10fd-4340-81d0-c08a5ae77571.jpg>

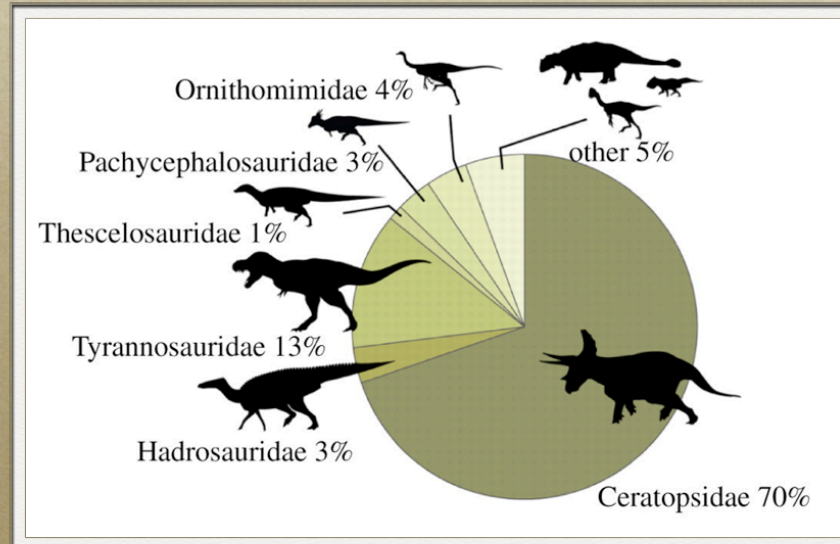
Characteristics:

- A visual display of events in chronological or sequential order.
- Often contains dates and times as well as labels for identifying key events and eras.
- May incorporate the use of color, pictures or other icons to display events.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to see the chronological order of events.
- Allows the reader to see patterns, durations, and any overlap of events.
- Provides context for events by putting them in chronological relation to one another.

Graphs



<http://rsph.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/278/1709/1158>

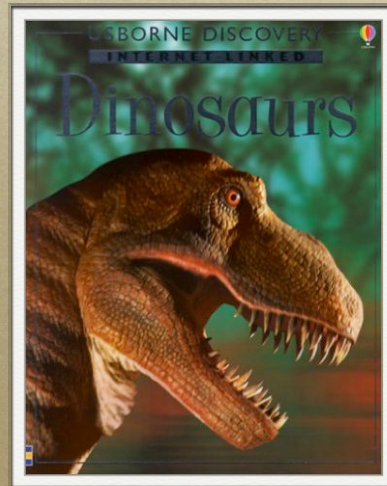
Characteristics:

- Visual representation of data.
- Graphs may include bar, circle, line, pictograph or other visual representation of data.
- Graphs generally include labels, numbers, headings, titles and a key.

Purpose in Reader Understanding:

- Allows the reader to quickly see the data represented in context.
- Allows the reader to identify patterns or notice trends.

Acknowledgement



Firth, Rachel. Dinosaurs. London: Usborne Publishing Ltd., 2001. Print

Unless otherwise acknowledged, all visual images came from Dinosaurs by Rachel Firth.

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