



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

Video: Caution: Flash Flood Alert

*Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure
(life cycle)*



Informational Text: It's Everywhere!

Information is increasing at an alarming rate! You may find yourself accessing much of it on the Internet. You may also find what you're looking for in more traditional media such as nonfiction books, newspapers, or magazines. All of this increased use of informational text brings with it special comprehension demands.

Why is Informational Text More Difficult to Comprehend?

Why might it be more difficult for you to comprehend informational text? Researchers have several theories.

1. You are less familiar with the content found in informational text compared to the familiar content found in stories.
2. You have more experiences reading stories at home and in school than reading informational text.
3. You may not have been taught how to recognize the expository text structures found in informational text.

Standardized Reading Tests are Mostly Informational Text

Seventy to eighty percent of the content of standardized reading tests is informational text. With the increased pressure to improve test scores, it is critical that students have the tools necessary to develop understanding of this type of text.

Learning about Text Structure Can Help Improve Your Comprehension

Studies show that students as young as second grade improve their understanding of informational text when they receive text structure instruction. When this instruction is **combined with the use of graphic organizers**, they learn even more content from informational text.

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