

RE-VIEW

Video: Roachzilla

*Description Nonfiction Text Structure
(main idea and details)*

Josh wants to learn all the details about the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach before finishing his Godzilla-like monster movie. Make sure you gather more information as well. Be sure to watch **Roachzilla Returns**. Then continue your learning after viewing that video.



Compare your Think Aloud with Cali's Think Aloud:

Cali's Think Aloud: "Since the topic of the article is the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, I use this as my label of the center circle. I learn about where the cockroach lives, so I label my first circle *habitat*. I write *Madagascar*, because that's where they come from. I also include *forest floor*. That's where they hide among the *fallen leaves* and *fruits*.

From the next paragraph I notice that the author is describing what the cockroach looks like. I label the next circle *appearance*. Extending from this circle are the descriptive words that help me remember specific features. I include *3 pairs of legs*, *pair of antennae*, *no wings*, *size of palm*, *brown and black*, *head tucked under thorax*, and *males have horns*. I see that the horns are used when fighting other males, so I'm going to add *push other males* extending from *males have horns*. I read that the winner is the leader of the group, so I add that as well.

I learn that they are nocturnal, or active at night. I add another circle indicating this important fact.

I think the hissing sound is an important characteristic, so I make a new circle extending from the center and write *hissing* on it. The hiss is used as a *defense mechanism* and to *show dominance*. It is made by *exhaling air through breathing tubes*.

I label the next circle *food* since I learn what the cockroach eats. They like *rotting fruit*. At least the *leader samples the food first!*

Finally, I read about the *babies*. *Up to 60 babies* are born at once. They develop in a *brood sac for 2 months*. They're *born alive*, are *white*, but soon *turn brown and black*. They *feed on a jelly-like substance from their mother*."

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach



The hissing cockroach is such an **interesting** and **entertaining** creature that it has become a favorite insect pet. It comes from **Madagascar**, an island off the coast of Africa where many other unusual animals **live**. You would find these cockroaches in groups on the **forest floor** among the **fallen leaves** and **fruits**. If you should frighten one by **bumping it with your foot**, it would frighten you with a **sharp hiss** created by **forcing air out of its breathing tubes**.

When you looked to see what made that hiss, you would find a big flat insect: **three pairs of legs**, one **pair of antennae**, but **no wings**. Wings would not be useful when rummaging in the leaves. They **look like** a small, flat armored tank about the **size of the palm** of your hand. The abdomen is **brown** and the thorax, to which the legs are attached, is **black**. These colors blend in well with the forest floor. **The head is tucked under the front part of the thorax**. The **males** are different from the females because they **have rounded horns** on top of the front part of the thorax.

During the day, these cockroaches rest, but at **night**, you would find them much **more active**. The males **hiss** and **push each other** with their horns and bump abdomens. The **winner** of this social game **becomes the leader of the group**.

The groups of males, females, and young slowly search about hunting for **food**; a **rotting fruit** is a favorite. The **leader samples the food first**.

In addition, this leader fathers the brood of **up to 60 babies**. These babies develop from a batch of eggs that the mother carries for about **two months in a brood sac**. The **live babies** are tiny and as **white as snow when they emerge**, but **soon they also become brown and black**. Right after birth, they **feed on a jelly-like substance provided by the mother**. It is not yet known how she does this.

Wouldn't you like hissing cockroaches to study?



Compare your Graphic Organizer with Cali's Graphic Organizer:

Cali's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is describing the topic or main idea by providing details, I use a description map."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How does Cali use the characteristics, features, attributes, and examples from the text to make sense of the topic?
- How does the *Description Graphic Organizer* help Cali determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

