

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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 Karen's Think Aloud:

Karen's Think Aloud: When I read the title, the word, "Army" makes me think of a large group of people. *Where are they?* I'll continue reading because I know authors relate their title to their writing. I'll pay attention to the first paragraph because authors who write using descriptive text structure usually identify the person, place, or thing that's the topic of their writing in the first sentence or paragraph. The sentence, "an astonishing archeological discovery that will captivate the world," makes me think the underground army is the archeological discovery. I'm also thinking the author is going to continue *describing* the astonishing discovery throughout the text.

I read that the underground army was discovered in 1974. That's not long ago. The words "terracotta" and "soldier" help me understand the title. I know that "soldiers" are part of an army and "terracotta" is a type of clay. I bet that the army isn't real. Maybe the statues are made from clay! I see the army was discovered in central China in the city of Xian. I like when authors use words to help me understand location. I'm noticing *details* about *what*, *where*, and *when*. Those ideas signal descriptive text structure. When I read the words "not only," it helps me to understand that the author is going to tell me that the archeologists found more than just soldiers and horses. Sure enough, I read that servants, musicians, and acrobats have also been found. Wow, 6,000 soldiers are still buried! The author further *describes* their location as being in three chambers, 15-20 feet underground. When I read this paragraph, I understand that it is *describing* how the army was discovered.

Next, I notice author is *describing* the looks of the statues. When I read the word "characteristic," it signals descriptive text structure. I know the soldiers are not all the same when I read the word, "unique." The heads and hands were created separately. I see more unique *features* such as hairstyle, mustache, and facial expression. The words "look like" are sensory words they help me understand more *details* about the soldiers. Finally, I see that the torsos were made from molds. I bet that all of the soldiers have the same torso since that's why molds are used. I'm thinking the statues were created to be different because it makes it seem more realistic.

The final paragraph says the first Chinese Emperor wanted to build the terracotta army because he wanted protection and assurance of his rule in his afterlife. When I read this last paragraph, I understand that it *describes* the creation of the underground army. That is truly fascinating. I wonder how long it will take them to completely uncover the army of soldiers?"

Underground Army



Imagine digging a well, sweat dripping off your brow as your shovel plunges repeatedly into the loose soil. Suddenly, you hit something hard. What you think is a large rock is actually an **astonishing archeological discovery** that will captivate the world.

It began with the uncovering of one **terracotta** soldier in **1974**, near **Xi'an** (she-ahn), **Shaanxi province in central China**. Archeologists have since dug up a complex **army of not only** clay soldiers and **horses**, but **servants, musicians** and **acrobats**, too. While **over one thousand soldiers** have been **excavated** and pieced together, **more than six thousand remain buried in three chambers, 15-20 feet underground**.

Each terracotta soldier stands about **six feet tall**. The **hands** and **heads** of the soldiers were **created separately**, with their own **unique characteristics**. There are **variations in facial expressions, hairstyles, and even mustaches** as well. Some soldiers **look like young men**, while others appear **middle-aged**. The **torsos** of the figures were **made from a mold**.

The **mastermind** behind the terracotta army project was **China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi** (chin sure-hwang-dee). He commanded **700,000 workers** to build a lifelike army that would **protect him** and **assure his rule in the afterlife**. The enormous project, which **began 22 centuries ago**, took **over 30 years to complete**.

The terracotta army is considered to be the **eighth wonder of the ancient world**. **Excavation continues** today as archeologists put the pieces together of this fascinating puzzle.



Compare your Graphic Organizer with Karen's Graphic Organizer:

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

