THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Roachzilla Returns
Description Nonfiction Text Structure
(main idea and details)

Karen was at the museum one Saturday when she saw this fabulous model of the Terracotta Underground Army. Karen was amazed at the details of the soldiers and the size of the army. She wondered, "What is an Underground Army?" "Who created it?" "Where was it found?"

Karen read an interesting article about the Underground Army posted next to the exhibit. But she also noticed that it's a great example of Description Nonfiction Text Structure!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Underground Army*. Create a *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer with your family or friends.

Then compare your group's thinking with **Karen's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer**.

thinking ALOUD
Making Sense of Literacy

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about archeological discoveries.
Think about what you've learned about main idea and details.
Share your thought with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Ask your parent, brother, sister, or friend to read this passage with you. Look for signal words and see if together you can determine the main idea and details. You may want to highlight signal words in blue. Highlight the main idea in orange and the details in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

* Think about these questions, *"What is an Underground Army?" "Who created it?" "Where was it found?"* Discuss your ideas with your family or friends.
* Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Description Nonfiction Text Structure to determine the details about the Underground Army. Share your *thinking* with each other.

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.

Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the main idea and details for the Underground Army, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.

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 solders 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.

thinking ALOUD
Making Sense of Literacy

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?

Underground Army

- **Discovery**
  - **When** — 1974
  - **Where** — City of Xi'an, in Shaanxi province of China; Underground chambers 15-20 feet
  - **What** — Horses, servants, musicians, and acrobats; Terracotta army of soldiers; Over 1,000 uncovered
- **8th wonder of the ancient world**
- **Excavation continues** — More than 6,000 remain
- **Characteristics** — 6 feet tall; Hands and heads made separate; Torso all the same; Some young; Some old; Various features → Mustache, Facial expressions, Hairstyles
- **Creation**
  - **Who** — China's first emperor; Qin Shihuangdi
  - **What** — Build lifelike army; 700,000 men
  - **Why** — Protect and assure rule in afterlife
  - **When** — 22 centuries ago; Over 30 years to complete