

WALT explore explanation texts.

Look at these examples of explanation texts on your tables. What do you notice?

# Explanation texts

## The Lifecycle of a Frog

Frogs are amphibians.

A female frog lays her eggs in the water. This is called frog spawn.

The eggs hatch into tiny tadpoles.

At first, they grow gills to help them breathe.

They grow two back legs.

They grow two front legs.

The tadpole looks like a frog but it has a tail. This is called a tadpole.

The tadpole loses its tail.

Finally, the froglet loses its tail.

## How Do Tadpoles Grow?

Frogs are cold-blooded amphibians. Amphibians are animals that can walk on land and can swim in water.

The process in which a tadpole turns into a frog is called **metamorphosis**.

A female frog lays 1000 eggs in a lake or pond. These eggs are very soft and have a jelly-like coating.

The tadpoles hatch and swim around to find plants to feed on. The tadpoles live in the water.

At first, they grow legs. Firstly, the hind legs appear. Then, the lungs begin to develop and the gills disappear. The tadpoles start to look more like frogs and are able to live on land. They become more adventurous, but as a result many of them are eaten by predators.

When the tadpoles' lungs are fully developed so they can get out of the water and onto land, they disappear.

In winter, the frogs will hibernate at the bottom of the pond.

## The Life Cycle of a Moth

A moth is an insect with two antennae and a small pair of wings. Moths also have feelers.

To begin with, a female moth uses her antennae to help choose the right plant to lay her eggs on. Three weeks later, the eggs hatch and baby caterpillars come out. The baby caterpillars eat their own shell for nourishment. After they have finished eating their shell, they move on to eating leaves and other plants.

As a result, the caterpillar grows quickly. Soon, it starts to shed its skin. At between 11 and 14 weeks of age, it starts to make a pupa to live in. While the caterpillar is inside its pupa, its body changes. Eventually, the pupa case will open and a lovely moth will come out.



Adult moths flit from plant to plant, feeding and growing. All moths have two sets of wings covered in tiny scales. They grow two eyes and big eye spots on their wings so that they can scare away predators. Their antennae are very sensitive.

For the cycle to begin again, the female must lay eggs on a leaf.



## How Volcanoes Erupt

Volcanoes are like openings on the Earth's surface. All volcanoes can eject lava, rocks, gas or ash, which can cover the surrounding land. When this happens, it is called a volcanic eruption.

There are five main parts of a volcano: the magma chamber, the main vent, the crater, the cone and sometimes there are some smaller vents. The magma chamber is a large space where magma is stored. It is connected to the surface by the main vent and smaller vents. The crater is located above the magma chamber and the outside of the volcano is referred to as the cone.

Just before an eruption, the magma chamber is filled with molten rock from the mantle. After a short period of time, the pressure increases and, as a result, the magma rises through the vent towards the crater. Magma contains bubbles of gas, which grow larger and larger as the pressure increases. This leads to the volcano erupting magma on to the surface of the earth. As the gas bubbles in the magma escape into the atmosphere, the hot molten rock changes to lava. There are two main types of eruptions: explosive eruptions and effusive eruptions. An explosive eruption is when the volcanic material is ejected from the crater violently and dramatically. By contrast, in an effusive eruption, the lava gradually oozes out of the crater. The type of eruption is determined by the amount of gas and the mineral content in the magma. All volcanic

Purpose

Tells us how something works or gives us information about something.

## WALT explore explanation texts.

### Structure

A general statement is used to introduce the topic of explanation.



There are lots of things we can do to stay healthy and to keep illnesses away.

A series of logical steps explaining how or why something occurs.

The best drinks for staying healthy are water and milk. Fruit juices can be good for us but they can have a lot of sugar in them. Fizzy drinks are not good for us at all.



Steps continue until the final state is produced or the explanation is complete.

### Features

Explanations are written in the present tense.



Many birds fly south



Conjunctions that signal time are used in explanations.

then

next

several months later

Explanations are written using causal connectives.

because

so

this causes

## WALT explore explanation texts.

### Features

- **Title** – explains what the text is for
- **Opening Statement** – about the subject
- **Clear, simple points** about why or how something occurs
- **Technical words** – where appropriate
- **Conjunctions** – e.g. because, resulting in
- **Present tense**
- **Summary Paragraph**

### Title and Introduction

Use a clear title that indicates what you are writing about.

Decide whether to use diagrams, charts, illustrations or flow charts to help explain.

Use the first paragraph to introduce the subject to the reader.

Using how or why in a title helps.

Try to make the title intrigue the reader.  
**Why do sloths hang about?**



WALT explore explanation texts.

# TASK

Read the explanation text on Roman roads.

How were Roman roads built?


Roads come in many shapes and sizes. Did you know they were first invented by the Romans? They were first built when the Roman Empire conquered the world. Ever wondered how they were built? Now's your chance!

Having the best roads meant that the army could march from one place to another. They built the roads as straight as possible, so that the army could take the shortest route.


First, the Roman builders would clear the ground of rocks and trees. Then they dug a trench where the road was to go and filled it with big stones. Next, they put in big stones, pebbles, cement and sand which they packed down in order to make a firm base. After that, they added cement mixed with broken tiles resulting in another strong layer.

On top of that rough construction, they put paving stones in order to make the flat surface. These stones were cut so that they fitted together tightly. Finally, kerb stones were put at each side of the road, this allowed the paving stones to stay in place. It was also used to make a channel for the water to run away and act as a draining ditch.

The roads in the Roman era were known as the best! Imagine a world without roads. That is how Roman roads were built!



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
WALT explore explanation text.  
Read the explanation text on Roman roads and find evidence of these features.



Features of explanation text	Evidence of features from explanation text on Roman roads.
A question title?	
A short opening that includes a question.	
The stages of the process in chronological order.	
Technical language for the subject.	
Diagrams and illustrations (with captions).	

Then, record evidence from the text on your recording sheet.