

5th Grade ELA Work Packet

Week of January 19-22, 2021

Name _____

Please do not begin any assignments until instructed by Ms. Eggink.

Name _____ Date _____

BCCSG _____ College _____

Interview with Sloth Canopy Researcher: Bryson Voirin

What is your job description?

I am a biologist studying the behavior and ecology of two- and three-toed sloths. Right now I am studying biology and ecology at New College of Florida, and working in the rainforests of Panama with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

What do you study now?

Basically I am trying to understand why sloths move so slowly, as well as a few other weird things about them. We use radio-collars to track sloth movements in the algae that (exist) inside the hairs of sloths, something that normally does not occur in any other mammals. I am looking to see if maybe there is some benefit for the sloth to have algae.

What is the best thing about your job?

The best part of my job is getting to climb trees in the rainforest. Trees in the tropics are some of the biggest in the world, reaching over 150' tall. The view from the tops of the trees is amazing. A lot of times when I am up there troupes of monkeys come climbing by, sometimes stopping to look at me and wonder what I am doing up there with them.

What is the worst part about your job?

The worst thing, or hardest thing, is actually finding the sloths to start with. Sloths are very good at hiding. They usually live at the tops of trees, and can have greenish fur. We have to walk through the forest all day with our heads tilted up, looking for dark spots with hair. Sometimes it can take us weeks to find a single sloth.

What inspired you to first study science?

Ever since I was little, I was always fascinated with National Geographic magazine. I used to imagine I was one of the scientists in each issue, exploring unknown lands or catching wild animals. I always knew that was what I wanted to do.

What do you do in a typical day?

On a typical day working in Panama, I go out into the forest looking for sloths. I usually hike with someone else, and we use binoculars to look for the animals. When we find a sloth, I use my tree climbing gear to go up and catch it. Even though sloths are pretty slow animals, it can take hours to catch one once I am in the trees. They can move about as fast as you can walk fast, so in a tree 150' tall, it can be hard to catch them.

What advice would you give to someone interested in becoming a biologist?

I would tell anyone interested in working in biology to go outside and explore things. Walk through parks and natural lands. The things you can find in your own backyard can be really cool. If you start exploring young, it will stay with you forever.

Name _____ Date _____

BCCSG

College _____

Text Dependent Questions from "Interview with Sloth Canopy Research"

1. How does the algae on the sloth's fur benefit them?

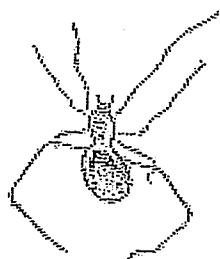
2. When the interviewer asks Bryson Voirin, "What inspired you to first study science?" Bryson Voirin says he was "always fascinated with National Geographic." What does the word fascinated mean in that sentence? What in the text makes you think so?

3. What equipment, or tools, does Bryson Voirin say he uses for his research? How does each of these tools help him to study sloths?

4. Bryson Vorin tells readers "to go outside and explore things" if they are interested in biology. Why do you think he would suggest this?

5. What is the text structure of this document? How do you know?

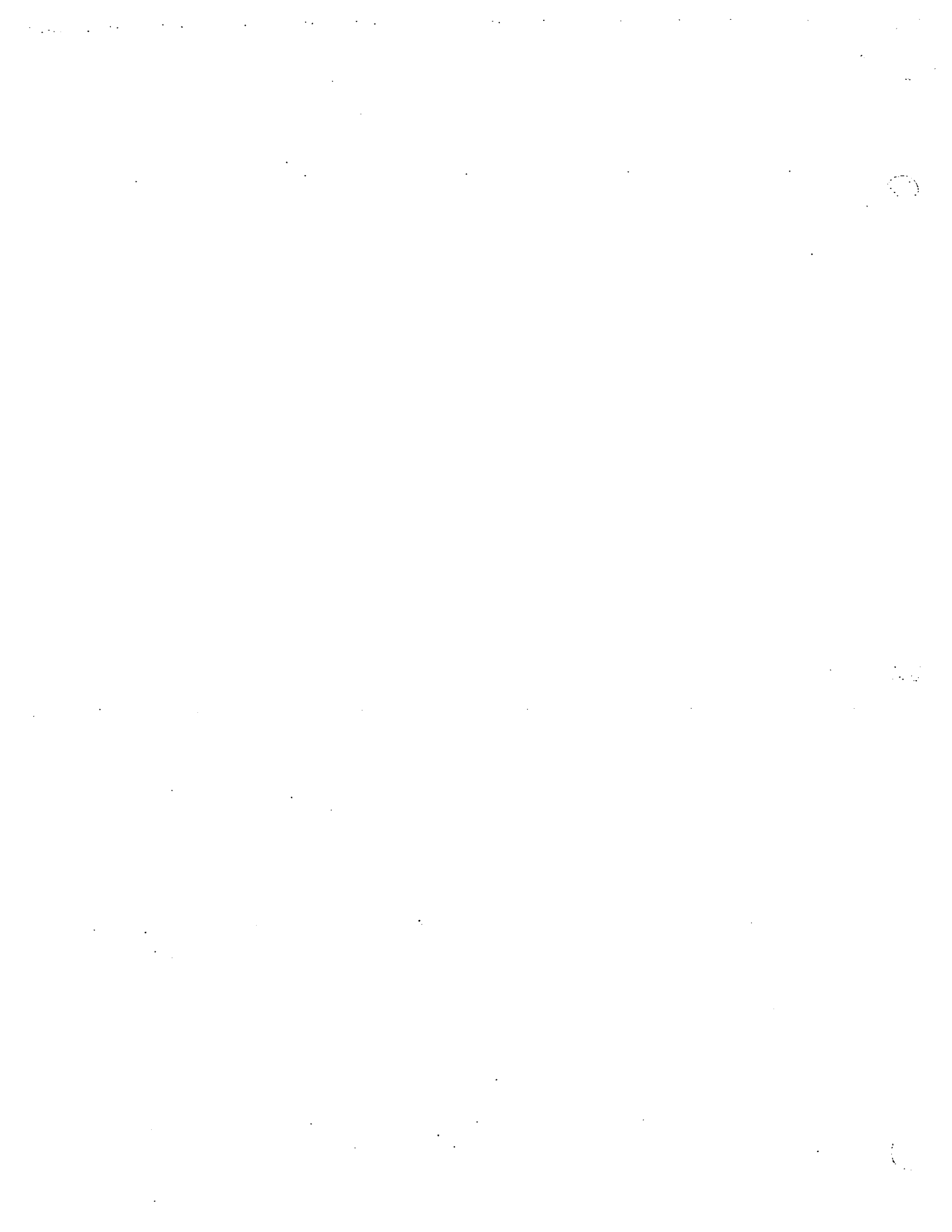
“Hawaii’s Endangered Happy Face Spider”



- Author’s drawing of the “happy face spider”

#1	Meet <i>Theridion Grallator</i> , meaning “happy face spider.” This little <i>arachnid</i> , found in <i>Hawaiian</i> rainforests, is quite small. It measures only 5 millimeters in length, at most!
#2	The happy face spider’s name comes from the <i>unique pattern</i> found on its pale-colored back. The marks resemble two circles that look like eyes. There is a <i>curved</i> shape below, similar to a smile.
#3	Some scientists think the spider may have developed these <i>strange markings</i> as a way to warn <i>predators</i> , such as birds. However, not all scientists agree on this <i>theory</i> . Some believe the features may do nothing to help the spider avoid its enemies.
#4	The happy face spider generally tries to stay out of the <i>limelight</i> . It lives its life on the <i>undersides</i> of leaves, deep in the rainforest. This can make it difficult for scientists to <i>locate</i> and study.
#5	One scientist, Dr. Geoff Oxford, has studied the happy face spider for nearly twenty years. In an interview in 2009, Dr. Oxford said the spider is very <i>difficult</i> to find because it is in danger of <i>extinction</i> . He stated that the species was <i>under threat</i> from <i>non-native</i> animals brought to the islands.
#6	Because of the happy face spider’s <i>endangered</i> status, it has become a <i>symbol</i> for all of Hawaii’s <i>threatened</i> wildlife. In fact, <i>conservationists</i> have placed images of it on T-shirts, baseball hats, and even garbage trucks. They hope to use this as a way to bring <i>attention</i> to the loss of various <i>fauna</i> throughout Hawaii.

Written by Expeditionary Learning for Instructional Purposes 2012



Name _____ Date _____

BCCSG _____ College _____

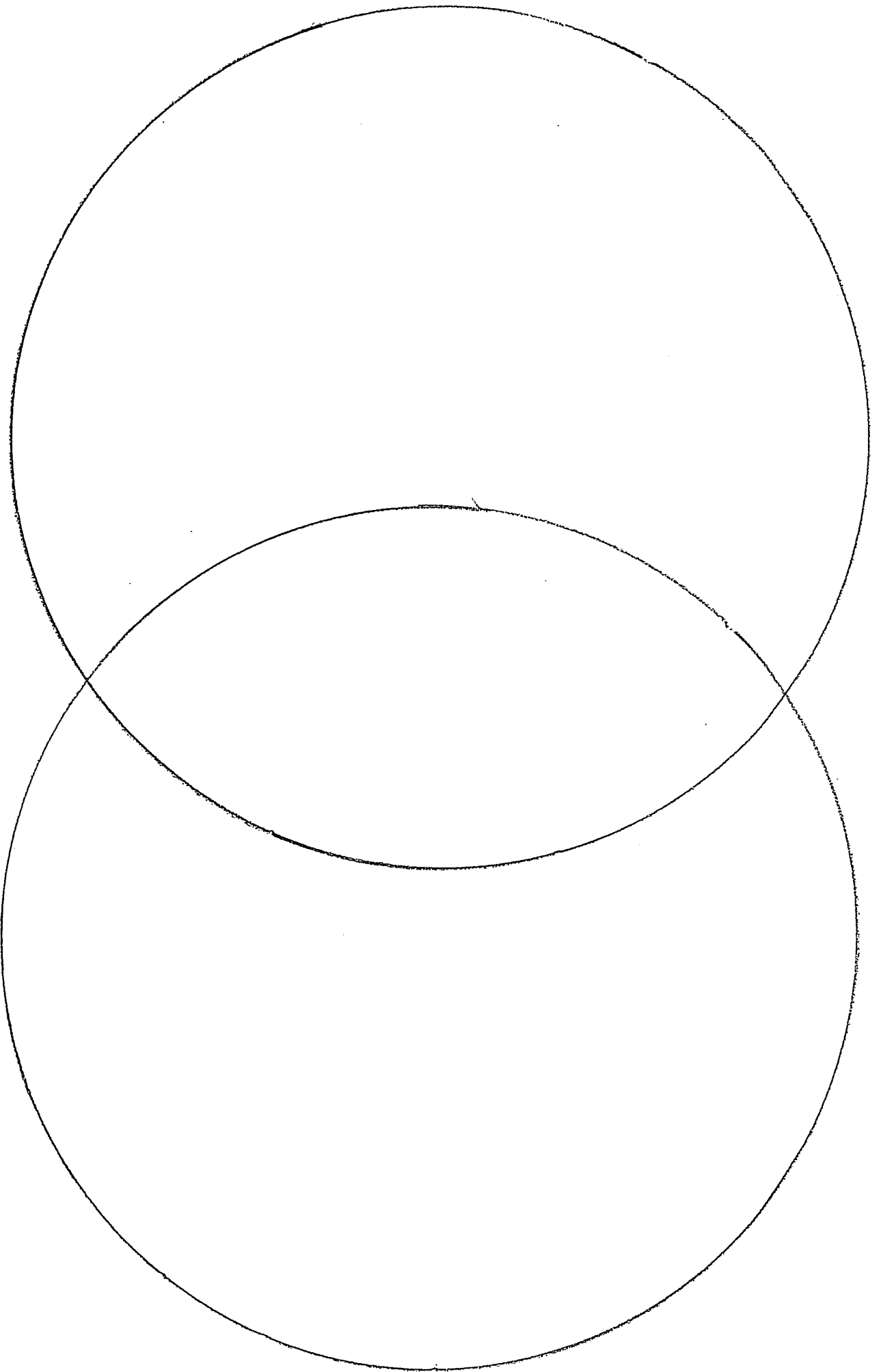
Text Dependent Questions from "Hawaii's Endangered Happy Face Spider"

1. Describe the unique pattern found on the happy face spider's back. What does unique mean? What makes this pattern unique? What in the text makes you think so?

2. What do different scientists believe about the strange markings found on the happy face spider's back? Include details from the text in your answer.

3. How does living on the undersides of leaves help the happy face spider stay out of the limelight? Use a quote from the text in your answer.

4. Using information from the text, explain what conservationists do. How specifically have they used the image of the happy face spider to help them? (Note: To answer this question, you will need to draw an inference, since the answer is not given directly in the text. What evidence from the text helped you make this inference?)



Wednesday ____/____

Title: _____ Pages read: _____

Summary:

Thursday ____/____

Title: _____ Pages read: _____

Summary:

Friday ____/____

Title: _____ Pages read: _____

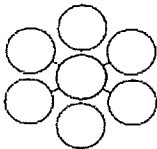

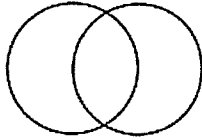
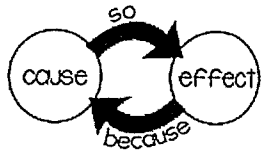
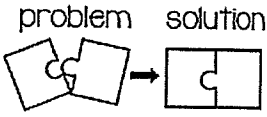
Summary:

Nonfiction

TEXT STRUCTURE

What is nonfiction text structure?

The text structure is how the information in a text is organized for the reader.

Text Structure	Explanation	Clue Words	Visual
Descriptive	This text describes characteristics of something.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• for example• such as• adjectives	
Chronological Order	This text describes a sequence of events, or a list of steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first, next, last• before, after• dates, years	
Compare & Contrast	This text discusses similarities and differences between two or more things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• like/ unlike• similarly• on the other hand	
Cause & Effect	This text explains events (causes) the results of these events (effects).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• because• consequently• this is why• so	
Problem & Solution	The text describes a problem and how it was solved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• because• since• this led to	

© 2018 Courtney Brown

