

8th Grade ELA Reading Packet

Hello incoming 8th graders! Below you will find three assignments to be completed over the summer, all of which will focus on Text Structure. There are charts to remind you of the different types of text structures that exist. Save a copy of this assignment to your drive, and I will give you instructions on how to turn this in, in September.

See you all soon!

The History of Planet Earth - *Read then answer the questions below.* *As you read, try and identify any examples of cause and effect text structure.*

Our planet is no spring chicken. The history of the earth stretches over billions of years. In that time period, a lot has changed. Some of those changes took place over a very long time, too slowly and gradually for people to **discern**. Some changes, on the other hand, took place very quickly.

Water, wind and ice slowly shape the surface of the earth, constantly moving all around us. Activity just beneath the surface of the earth's crust creates rapid changes in the shape of the land—that's where we get volcanoes, landslides and earthquakes.

Glaciers, which are huge, very old formations made out of water, earth and ice, can even change the size and shape of the oceans. These major shifts take place over millions of years. We can see the results, but apart from measuring them and seeing where growth or change took place, we can't observe these changes as they occur. They simply happen too slowly.

Erosion is an example of a slow process that changes the surface of the earth. Think of a windy beach, how sand from the beach is carried toward the dunes or, depending on the behavior of the wind, how the sand from the dunes is carried further down the beach. We can see and feel the sand moving over the land and through the air, but the long-term effects of that movement won't be visible for years.

The earth's surface is also made up of very slowly moving parts, called tectonic plates. These plates fit like puzzle pieces and make up the outermost layer of the planet. When this layer moves around, it can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It's very easy to spot these changes as they're happening! In fact, we have to be very careful and prepare for them in advance, and take safety measures before and after they occur.

Volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides aren't everyday events. If they were, we'd be in big trouble! Ordinarily, the movement of the plates is extremely slow, yet very powerful. Plate movement is one of the major forces that changes the

location and shape of continents and oceans—major changes that we can't **detect** and that appear gradually over millions of years.

Some earth-changing events occur naturally, but others come from us, from humans. It's important to remember that we have our own impact on the earth. In many cases, humans **influence** the earth's natural processes on purpose, speeding them up, slowing them down, or manipulating them in other ways to get something we want—usually a natural resource, like water or oil. Some of what we do to our planet is on purpose, and some of it is accidental.

Cutting down forests, building new houses, bridges, office buildings and movie theaters, can lead to quickening natural events that might have taken much longer without humans' involvement.

You can walk outside any time you like and see the planet stir: wind moving particles of sand and rock, water dripping from one surface onto another, seasons changing each year. Everything you see on a walk around your neighborhood contributes to the earth's changing and maturing, just like everything we do every day contributes to what we'll be like as people 10 years, 20 years, even 50 years from now. And those changes in our bodies and personalities—unless something unusual happens—take time to show up too.

It's interesting to think about how what we do and the forces that act on us affect who we become. The earth is like a big, changing organism, just like we are.

Directions: you may highlight the correct answer, or type the correct answer on the provided line.

1. How much has the earth changed in its history? _____

- A. a lot
- B. a little
- C. not at all
- D. not enough for anyone to notice

2. Two effects mentioned in this passage are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. What is their cause? _____

- A. wind that blows sand from one place to another
- B. water dripping from one surface onto another
- C. the construction of houses, movie theaters, and bridges
- D. the movement of the earth's outermost layer

3. Some of earth's changes take place too slowly for people to notice them happening. _____

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. Changes like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are not everyday events, but they are easy to spot when they are happening.
- B. People notice changes glaciers have made to the size and shape of earth's oceans after the changes have taken place.
- C. Earth's history goes back billions of years, and a lot of changes, both fast and slow, have taken place over that period of time.
- D. People sometimes influence earth's natural processes on purpose by speeding them up, slowing them down, or manipulating them in other ways.

4. What is an example of change on earth that people can see happening? _____

- A. glaciers changing the size and shape of earth's oceans
- B. sand blowing from one part of a beach to another

- C. tectonic plate movement changing the location and shape of earth's continents
- D. tectonic plate movement changing the location and shape of earth's oceans

5. What is this passage mainly about? _____

- A. glaciers and erosion
- B. landslides and earthquakes
- C. changes in the earth
- D. changes in the human body

6. Read the following sentences: "Water, wind and ice slowly shape the **surface** of the earth, constantly moving all around us. Activity just beneath the **surface** of the earth's crust creates rapid changes in the shape of the land—that's where we get volcanoes, landslides and earthquakes."

What does the word "**surface**" mean in the sentences above? _____

- A. a process that changes the shape of the earth
- B. an effect that takes many years for people to notice
- C. the middle or central part of something
- D. the outer layer or part of something

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The earth is shaped by the movement of different forces, _____ water, wind, and ice. _____

- A. never
- B. instead
- C. finally
- D. Including

8. How do humans influence the earth's natural processes? (2 sentence minimum answer)

Response:

9. How are changes in the earth similar to changes in human beings? (2 sentence minimum answer)

Response:

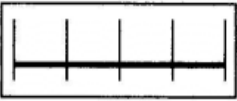
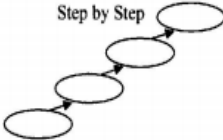
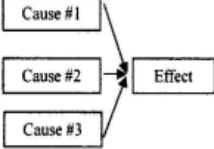
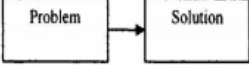
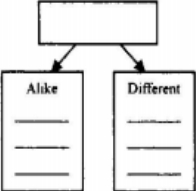
10. The passage describes some ways that changes in the earth and changes in people are similar. What are some ways that changes in the earth and changes in people are different? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (5 sentence minimum answer)

Response:

Name:

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Read each passage and identify its text structure. Explain your answer. (5 text structures are below for reference)

Chronological	Sequence	Cause and Effect	Problem and Solution	Compare and Contrast
				

1. Tornadoes and Hurricanes Tornadoes and hurricanes are both amazing yet deadly natural phenomena. Both generate deadly conditions, but in different ways. Tornadoes are likely to damage people and property with their high winds, which go up to 300 miles per hour, but hurricanes are generally more feared for their flooding. Also, hurricanes can produce tornadoes, which makes them quite dangerous indeed.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

2. Where Did This Tornado Come From? No one knows exactly what causes tornadoes, but some scientists believe that when warm air meets cold air, a tornado may form. The reason for this is that the warm air is lighter than the cold air, so it rises up fast and meets different winds moving different directions. Under the right conditions, this can cause a tornado. Though there is still much mystery surrounding tornadoes, many people believe that when warm moist air meets cool dry air, tornadoes can result.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

3. Twista Carl Terrell Mitchell, better known by his stage name Twista, was born in 1972. Nineteen years later Mitchell's first album, "Runnin' Off at da Mouth," debuted. In 1997, after appearing on a hit song, Twista was signed to Atlantic Records. Under that label he released "Adrenaline Rush" and formed the group Speedknot Mobstaz in 1998. His 2004 album Kamikaze went to number-one on the U.S. Billboard 200 album chart.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

4. The Twist The twist is a dance inspired by rock and roll music. To do the Twist, first stand with your feet approximately shoulder width apart. The torso may be squared to the knees and hips, or turned at an angle so one foot is farther forward than the other. Then, hold your arms out from your body, bent at your elbow. Next, rotate your hips, torso, and legs as a single unit with your arms staying more or less stationary. Every so often lift one leg off of the floor for styling. Now you're doing the twist!

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

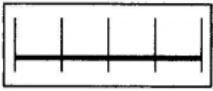
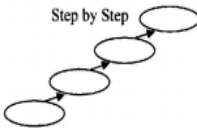
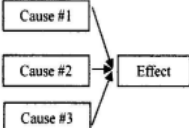
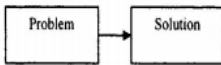
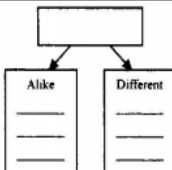
5. Dancing There are many reasons why people dance. Some people dance for fun, just because they enjoy dancing. At other times, people dance for exercise or for weight loss, because dancing can really get your heart beating. Also, sometimes people dance to try to get boyfriends or girlfriends. Some people think that good dancing is attractive. There are many reasons why people dance.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

Name:

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Read each passage and identify its text structure. Explain your answer. (5 text structures are below for reference)

Chronological	Sequence	Cause and Effect	Problem and Solution	Compare and Contrast
				

1. The Age of the Dinosaurs Dinosaurs existed about 250 million years ago to 65 million years ago. This era is broken up into three periods known as the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The Triassic Period lasted for 35 million years from 250-205 million years ago. Planet Earth was a very different place back then. All the continents were united to form one huge land mass known as Pangaea. The Jurassic Period was the second phase. The continents began shifting apart. The time scale for this famous period is from 205 to 138 million years ago. The Cretaceous Period was the last period of the dinosaurs. It spanned a time from 138 million to about 65 million years ago. In this period the continents fully separated. However, Australia and Antarctica were still united.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

2. Vicious Predators The Cretaceous Period was filled with dangerous predators, but two of the most feared hunters were the tyrannosaurs rex and the velociraptor. The tyrannosaurs rex was one of the largest carnivores to ever walk the Earth. He was 20 feet tall and weighed seven tons. His jaws could crush down with 3,000 lbs. of force, enough to smash the bones of his prey. The velociraptor was very small compared to rex. Raptors only stood three feet tall and were seven feet long, weighing merely 35 pounds. But the velociraptor was fast. Scientists think that raptors could run 24 miles per hour and turn on a dime. Both dinosaurs used their jaws to kill prey, but the raptor had a secret weapon: a retractable toe claw that he pulled out like a knife to slash at his prey. Both dinosaurs had eyes on the front of their heads, which helped them track prey. If these two dinosaurs had fought, it would be difficult to say which would win; however

since raptors died over ten million years before the first tyrannosaurs was born, scientists don't believe such a fight ever occurred.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

3. Creating a Dinosaur Sculpture Materials: pipe cleaners, clay, non-toxic paint Wouldn't you like a scary dinosaur model on your desk to protect your pencils and textbooks? You can easily make one by following these simple directions. First, bend your pipe cleaner to make the frame of your dinosaur. I suggest you create a tyrannosaurus frame by using one long pipe cleaner as his neck, spine, and tail, and then bend another into a u-shape to make his feet. Wrap the feet around the spine piece. Next, roll out clay to wrap around the pipe cleaners. Let the clay dry overnight. The next day you may want to paint your dinosaur using non-toxic paint. His eyes should be white, but feel free to color your dinosaur as you wish. Nobody really knows how dinosaurs were colored, so don't let anyone tell you that your dinosaur can't be pink. Lastly, put him on your desk and watch as he or she scares away bullies and pencil thieves.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

4. What Happened to the Dinosaurs? There are many theories about why the dinosaurs vanished from the planet. One theory that many people believe is that a gigantic meteorite smashed into the Earth. Scientists believe that the meteorite was very big and that the impact may have produced a large dust cloud that covered the Earth for many years. The dust cloud may have caused plants to not receive sunlight and the large plant eaters, or herbivores, may have died off, followed by the large meat eaters, or carnivores. This theory may or may not be true, but it is one explanation as to why these giant reptiles no longer inhabit the Earth.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

5. Fossil Mishap It's important to think critically about the information that you receive, or else you may be led astray. For example, the brontosaurus is a type of dinosaur that never really

existed. Many people still believe in the brontosaurus today, but the “brontosaurus” is actually the body of an apatosaurus with the head of a camarasaurus. This concocted creature was made from two mismatched fossils. Had more people thought critically about these findings, analyzing the components that were presented, entire generations of school children may not have been misinformed; therefore, think critically about the information that people tell you, even if it’s information you find on a book or in a worksheet. Keep these problems in mind when conducting your studies.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?

6. Dino the Dinosaur One day Dino the Dinosaur decided to go for a walk to the watering hole. It was a sunny day and the sky was blue and clear. Dino was thinking about his girlfriend Dina when he saw a pack of wild lizards and animals running through the plains in a frenzy. Dino tried to ask the critters why they were running, but they just kept running. Dino scratched his dinosaur head and continued walking toward the watering hole. Soon after, Dino heard a loud thumping noise like the slow beat of a drum. The earth shook and fruit fell from the trees, but Dino was so deep in thought over his girl Dina that he didn’t even notice. The thumping grew louder and louder as Timmy the Tyrannosaurs Rex approached Dino. Dino kept thinking about his girl Dina until the moment Timmy ate him.

- Text Structure?
- How do you know?