LO: To explore the features of explanation texts.

Explanations

Introduction

Explanations tell us how something happens or why something works.

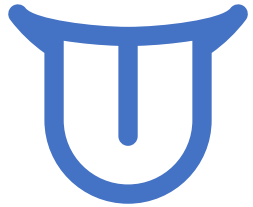
Often about science or technology.

An explanation is **non-fiction**.

Think!

Who is my audience?

- Who do I need to tell?



- What language do I use?

Think!

What is the purpose ?

- Share information with the reader about how or why something works?

Structure of Explanation Texts:

- Title
- Introduction
- Paragraphs with different subheadings
- Diagrams or graphs
- Conclusion

- Written in the present tense (unless a historical text)
- Written in the third person
- Use cohesive devices to link ideas and make explanations clearer
- Chronological report
- Use technical vocabulary as needed.

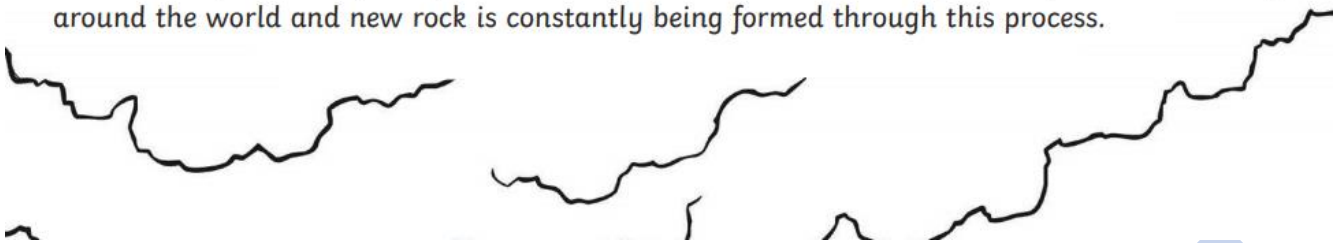
How Volcanoes Erupt

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 eruptions cause significant changes, both positive and negative, to the surrounding land.

As the lava cools, it solidifies and becomes a type of igneous rock, such as basalt and granite. Volcanic eruptions are part of a continual process called the rock cycle. Eruptions occur daily around the world and new rock is constantly being formed through this process.



How does your immune system work?

Have you ever wondered what happens when you become ill? How do you recover? The body has an amazing ability to heal and repair using an incredible system, which can detect and destroy harmful invaders quickly, this is how the immune system works.

What is an invader?

- Pathogens (harmful micro-organisms) enter the bloodstream via the nose, mouth or break in the skin. Once in the blood, the pathogens multiply and begin to attack healthy cells. Subsequently, this causes the body's white blood cells to mount a defense. Once the white blood cells detect pathogenetic antigens they begin to create antibodies. This causes the destruction of the pathogens and hopefully this happens quickly without you becoming ill.

Why do we sometimes become ill?

- Occasionally our immune system is overwhelmed, and we become ill. When this occurs, our bodies react by changing our body temperature, we may be sick or feel tried and achy. These signs allow us to make sensible decisions such as going to bed, drinking more or eating small, plain food, which is easier to digest. This means more energy can go into fighting off the pathogens and help us recover quickly.

What can we do to keep our immune systems healthy?

- Just like any cells the immune system likes us to make healthy choices about what foods to eat, rest to take and how much exercise to do. Follow these tips to ensure a healthy body:

1. Eat a balanced diet including 7 portions of fruit and vegetables
2. Get plenty of sleep around 10 hours a night
3. Take daily exercise, 60 minutes a day is recommended.

Conclusion

- To summarise the immune system is a complex, delicate system which needs care to work effectively. You are responsible for looking after your body. Take care of it you may need it for a long time!