

Answer the following questions:

RECALL

1. Why do we write explanation texts?
2. Why do we use diagrams in explanation texts?

LO: HOW IS AN EXPLANATION TEXT BUILT?

Some will even explain why the topic is interesting for the author.
Some will identify interesting and surprising facts in the text.
Most will know the role of sub-headings in the text and that they correspond with the content of the paragraph.
All will know what the authors wrote in their introduction.

GUIDED PRACTICE

Today, you will look at all the explanation texts you read last week. You will compare all of them and you will learn what is the same and what is different about them. It should help you decide on how your explanation text is going to be built.

WHY DOES THE MOON CHANGE SHAPES?

One night, I was sitting with Dad in the garden. His arm cloaked around my shoulder.

He knelt down and whispered to me - make a wish - blow it to the moon. The whole garden turned bright silver. A star-soaked cat leaped into my lap. When you look at the moon in the night sky it looks a different shape to a few days before. What is the explanation for this? Here is what is happening.

Moon phases

The first thing to understand is that the moon travels around Earth every 28 days. As the moon moves, you see different parts of the moon reflecting light from the sun. You look at the moon from different angles as it moves around Earth, therefore this makes the shape of the moon you can see look different. These different shapes of the moon are called moon phases.

A new moon

The moon's phases start with a new moon. At this point you can't see the moon at all because the part of the moon that faces Earth is in cold shadowy darkness (there's no sunlight heating the Moon).

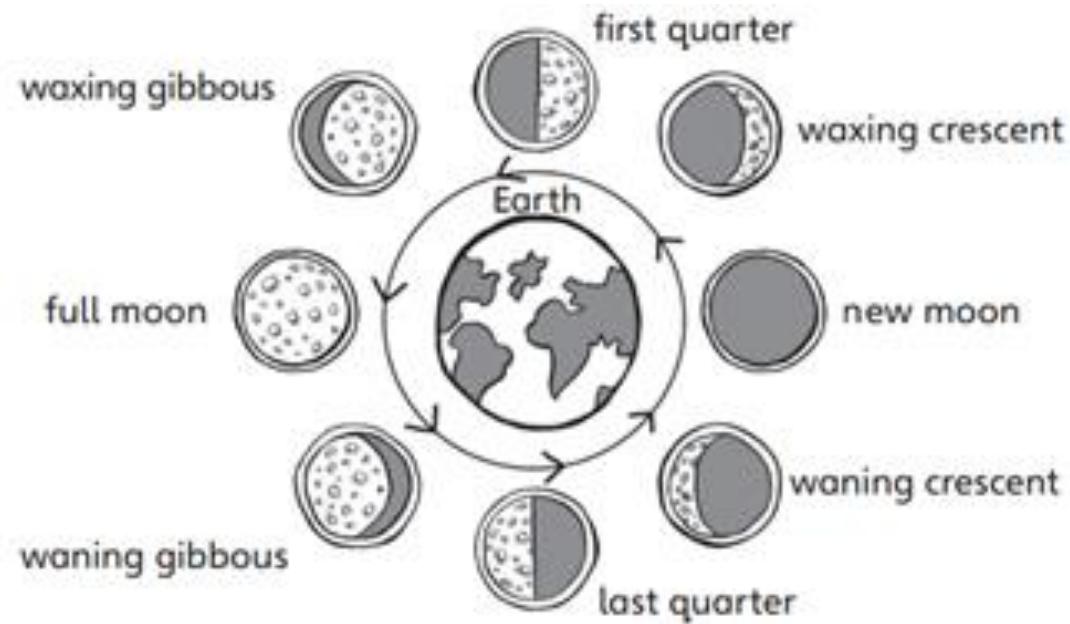
A waxing moon

As the moon orbits the Earth (moves around) you start to see more and more of its bumpy and scarred surface. When the moon is growing night after night it is called a waxing moon. It is a crescent shape. This stage carries on until you can see half of the moon in the night sky. Some even say you can see a cat with a dish on the moon at this time - but I don't know about that! Night after night you see more and more of the moon until after 14 nights there is a full moon (it can't get any bigger). This occurs because you can see a whole side of the moon. This is the moon at its most proud.

A waning moon

After the full moon, the amount of the moon that you can see each night gets smaller and smaller. She begins to go back into her shell. It is a crescent shape again and it is called a waning moon. I sometimes think she's a wailing moon and she is leaving us because she is sad. Twenty-eight days after the new moon you can only see a very small sliver of her in the sky. Finally, the moon starts to travel around Earth again, starting with another new moon.





I especially love this topic because I have a telescope and like to look at the moon and stars in the night sky with my dad. I find the moon fascinating and mysterious but it is also nice to understand why the moon changes shape in the sky.

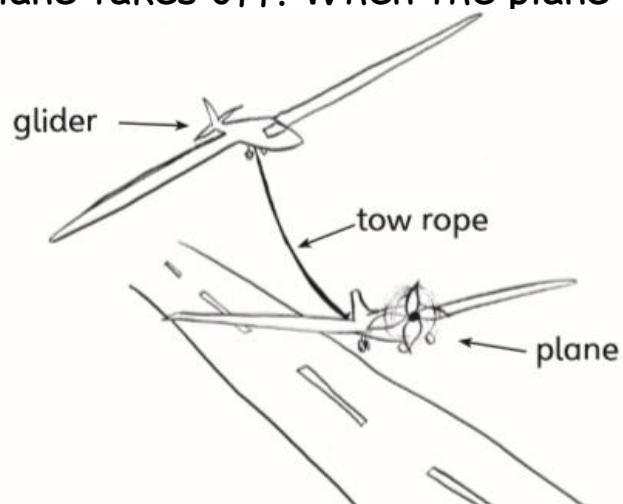
HOW DOES A GLIDER FLY?

We went up to the airport the other day to see my aunty do her gliding. She (inside the aircraft) was like a gentle feather in the wind. It all looked so peaceful up there amongst the clouds, birds and dreams. I hope to be a feather up there with her too one day. On a sunny day you might even spot my aunty soaring across the sky without making a single sound.

Have you ever wondered how gliders can stay in the air without any engines? Well, let me tell you!

How does a glider get up into the air?

Before someone can fly a glider, it has to get up into the air. For this reason, this had to be done with the help of a plane. Due to the fact of a glider being an unpowered aircraft, a tow rope is attached to the back of the plane and the front of the glider and the plane takes off. When the plane has reached the right altitude (flew high enough in the sky), the tow rope is release



How does a glider stay up in the air?

You might be wondering why the glider doesn't fall down to the ground when the plane is no longer pulling it through the sky. In fact, the glider keeps on flying! As a result of warm current of air rising up from the ground, the glider floats on it. When the glider moves out of a column of rising warm air, it starts to descend (drop) gradually until the glider finds another current of warm air. Warm air ascends (rises) from places like car parks and rocks (they are heated more than other surfaces) on the ground. For this reason, the pilot looks out for these places. Wind can also help gliders to stay in the air.

How does the glider land?

When it is time to land the glider, the pilot has to find the runway and start to descend. The pilot makes flaps on the wings (called spoilers) lift up to stop the glider lifting up any more. The glider lands on one wheel underneath where the pilot sits.

I am interested in gliding because I want to be a pilot when I grow up and gliding is a good way to start learning to fly.

HOW DO WE RECYCLE GLASS BOTTLES?

How do we recycle glass bottles?

Last month, I went for a trip to a recycling centre with my class. I thought that learning about rubbish would be boring but I was wrong... Everything (about the work of recycling centre) we saw was interesting but I was particularly impressed by how glass bottles are recycled.

Have you ever wondered how we recycle glass bottles?

How are new bottles made?

New glass bottles are made mainly of silica sand (white fine sand). The sand is melted in a furnace (a large container) , at a very high temperature. As a result, the process of making new bottles uses a lot of energy (you need to generate a lot of heat). Recycled glass bottles are made in a very similar way, but cost less and use up fewer natural resources and less energy.

What happens to the old glass bottles?

The process begins when people take their used bottles and jars to a bottle bank or put them into their brown bin. Next, the bottles and jars are taken by lorries to the recycling plant. At the plant, due to the bottle tops and lids not being made of glass, they are removed. Next, the glass is sorted by colour and washed to remove any impurities (dirt). Because of the bottles being too big, the glass then has to be crushed into small pieces.

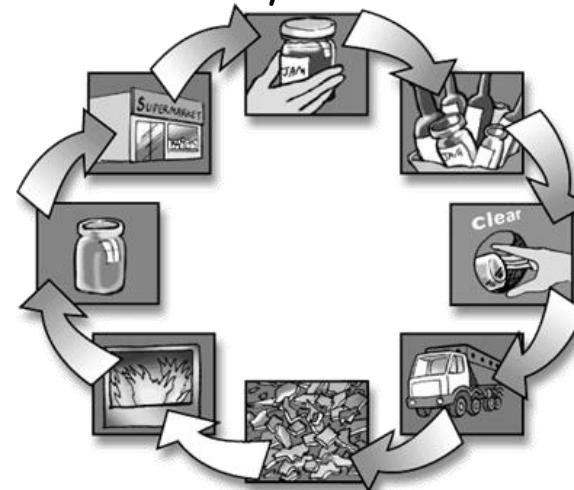
Where does the crushed glass go?

The crushed glass is then sent by lorry to a bottle factory. Here, it is mixed with a small amount of silica sand (smaller amount than for new bottles). It is then melted in a furnace, at a lower temperature than new glass. Therefore, it allows us to save energy.

How are the new recycled bottles made?

Finally, the hot liquid glass is drawn out of the furnace and fed into machinery that moulds it into bottles. Recycled glass is as pure and as strong as new glass. For this reason, glass can be recycled many times without losing its quality.

I am really interested in the topic of recycling glass due to the fact that there's more and more plastic bottles (they can't be easily recycled) being thrown away around the world and I would like the people to re-use glass bottles instead of just throwing plastic bottles away.



INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Each explanation text you read, stated why the person was interested in the topic it was about. Write why the writer was interested in the topic of the following explanation texts.

Title	
Why does the moon change shapes?	
How does a glider fly?	
How do we recycle glass bottles?	

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE - ANSWERS



Each explanation text you read stated why the person was interested in the topic it was about. Write why the writer was interested in the topic of the following explanation texts.

Title	
Why does the moon change shapes?	The author had amazing time with his/her dad, watching the night sky and the moon in the garden. Then, they realised that the moon had a different shape than a few days ago. The author wanted to know why it happens.
How does a glider fly?	The author used to watch her/his aunt flying a glider and was impressed by the beauty and uniqueness of this experience. The most interesting thing was the fact that the glider didn't make any noise and the author was curious why.
How do we recycle glass bottles?	The author went on a school trip to the recycling centre and was taught how glass bottles are recycled. It made the author investigate more and find out what the whole process looks like.

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Each explanation text you read was split into paragraphs and had sub-headings to make it easier for the reader to follow it. Write down sub-headings from each explanation text and write in one sentence what each paragraph was about. Does it the subheading match the content of the paragraph?

Title	Write down sub-headings and summarise a paragraph in one sentence.
Why does the moon change shapes?	
How does a glider fly?	
How do we recycle glass bottles?	

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE - ANSWERS



Title	Write down sub-headings
Why does the moon change shapes?	Moon phases - explains what moon phases are and A new moon - describes what the new moon is A waxing moon - describes why we call this phase a waxing moon A waning moon - describes the last phase called waning moon
How does a glider fly?	How does a glider get up into the air? - Explains how the glider takes off. How does a glider stay up in the air? - Explains how it is possible for a glider to stay in the air. How does the glider land? - Explains how it lands without the engine.
How do we recycle glass bottles?	How are new bottles made?- Describes the process new bottle production What happens to the old glass bottles? - Explains what happens to the old bottles after they are recycled. Where does the crushed glass go? - Why do we crush the bottles and what happens to the crushed glass. How are the new recycled bottles made? - Explains the final process of bottle recycling.

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Each biography includes some interesting facts that surprise the reader and hook reader's attention. Write down all surprising/interesting facts from each explanation text. In the second column write why the author thinks the topic was special.

Title	Interesting and surprising facts you learned from the explanation text.	Reason why the topic was special.
Why does the moon change shapes?		
How does a glider fly?		
How do we recycle glass bottles?		

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



ANSWERS

Title	Interesting and surprising facts you learned from the explanation text.	Reason why the topic was special.
Why does the moon change shapes?	The new moon is not visible that's why we know it's a new moon. The new moon starts every 28 days.	The author has the telescope and loves watching the moon every night.
How does a glider fly?	A glider has no engine and it can still fly. The plane leaves the glider on its own, high in the sky.	The author wants to be a pilot and flying a glider can be a great training for a future pilot.
How do we recycle glass bottles?	Glass is made of sand. Recycled glass is of the same quality as the new glass.	It can help us save the world from too much rubbish.