

Answer the following questions:

RECALL

1. What is an explanation text?
2. Have you ever written an explanation text? What was it?

# LO: WHAT IS A BIOGRAPHY AND WHY TO WRITE ONE?

Some will even know the role of each paragraph in an explanation text.  
Some will identify different parts of an explanation text.  
Most will know how an explanation text is built.  
All will know what an explanation text is.

# GUIDED PRACTICE

This week, you will learn what explanation texts are. In order to do that, you will read different examples of explanation texts.

An explanation text is a type of text that explains to the readers something they do not know or they do not know about it.

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Answer the questions about explanation texts.

Why write an explanation text?

Who are explanation texts for?

What could you write an explanation text about?

Why are explanation texts important?

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE - ANSWERS



**Why write an explanation text?**

To inform someone who would be interested about something you are an expert on. To explain how or why this thing works.

**Who are explanation texts for?**

Someone who would like to know about and understand a topic but does not know as much about it as you.

**What could you write an explanation text about?**

Anything you know a lot about, perhaps the natural world, an object, a hobby, people or a sport. It could also be about a creature, an activity or a place you have visited.

**Why are explanation texts important?**

We can learn a lot of interesting facts from these texts.

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read an explanation text on the next page and match sections next to the correct paragraph. More than one paragraph can be in one section.

## **Section 1**

Introduce the topic you will be explaining and say why it interests you.

## **Section 2**

Organise the information in chunks: use paragraphs and subheadings as you explain each stage of how or why things happen.

## **Section 3**

End by saying why the topic is special or important.

# WHY DOES THE MOON CHANGE SHAPE?



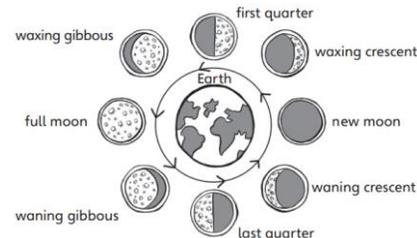
One night, I was sitting with Dad in the garden. His arm cloaked around my shoulder. He knelt down and whispered to me - make a wish - blow it to the moon. The whole garden turned bright silver. A star-soaked cat leaped into my lap. When you look at the moon in the night sky it looks a different shape 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.

**A waxing moon** - As the moon moves around the Earth 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. 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.

# WHY DOES THE MOON CHANGE SHAPE? ANSWERS

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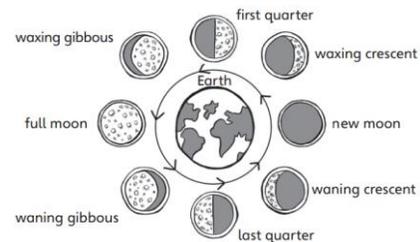
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Section 3

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Look at how an explanation text is built and write what things the author of the “Why does the moon change shape?” included in each section.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Explain / summarise what each section was talking about</b>
Introduce the topic you will be explaining and say why it interests you.	
Organise the information in chunks: use paragraphs and subheadings as you explain each stage of how or why things happen.	
End by saying why the topic is special or important.	

# INTELLIGENT PRACTICE - ANSWERS



Look at how an explanation text is built and write what things you could write about in each section.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Explain / summarise what each section was talking about</b>
Introduce the topic you will be explaining and say why it interests you.	The author is saying how he got interested by the idea of the moon's shapes. He/she is also saying what the most interesting thing about the moon's shapes is.
Organise the information in chunks: use paragraphs and subheadings as you explain each stage of how or why things happen.	This section is divided into different paragraphs. Each paragraph explains a different shape of the moon. There's also a diagram showing different phases of the moon.
End by saying why the topic is special or important.	The author is saying why he/she loves this topic and gives the reason (having a telescope).