

“Venice: The City on Water”

Educator Information and Directions

This PDF provides answers for the materials that accompany the lesson “Finding the Central Idea and ‘Venice: The City on Water.’” This PDF contains activities to accompany the video, as well as activities for students to complete before, during, and after they read the passage. Highlighted words within the passage indicate vocabulary words that will be referred to in assessment questions.

Student Reading Guide

Before Reading

- Watch the video.
- Review the anchor charts.
- Complete the Vocabulary Activity.
- Complete the Online Practice.
- Read some information about today’s passage.
- Start thinking about the topics in the passage by answering the questions.

During Reading

- Read the **Purpose for Reading**.
- Read the passage.
- Take notes and annotate what you are reading.

After Reading

- Reflect on what you have read by answering the questions.
- Complete the **Online Assessment** questions.

Taking Notes and Annotating

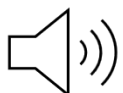
Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the text itself**:

- **Highlight** or underline important words or words you don’t know.
- **Circle** key concepts and ideas.
- Use abbreviations or symbols. For example:

?	To show confusion or questions
M.I.	To show the main idea
★	To show important details
✓	To show evidence

Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the notes section** under the text:

- Summarize key points in your own words.
- Write brief comments and questions.



If you would prefer to listen to the passage, click the link to access an audio recording: [Link to Audio Recording of Passage](#)

Finding the Central Idea

1

Author's purpose

Why did they write the text?

- *entertain, persuade, inform, describe*

2

Text structure

How did they structure the text?

- *cause and effect, descriptive, compare and contrast, chronological order, problem and solution*

3

Supporting details

What supporting details did they use?

- *facts, quotes, anecdotes, examples, dates*

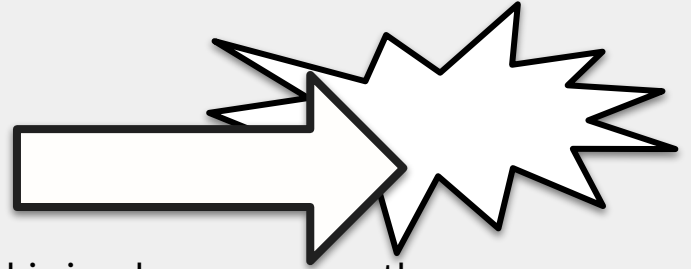
Central idea:

what the text is all about

Text Structures

Cause and Effect

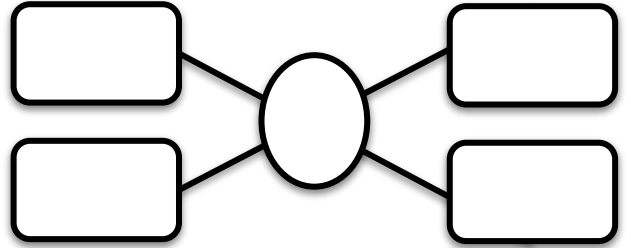
shows the relationship between an event and its consequences



Signal Words: as a result of, because, since, this is why, consequently

Descriptive

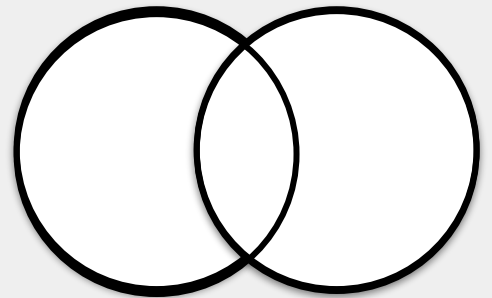
lists features and characteristics, giving specific information about a topic



Signal Words: for example, another, characteristics, looks like

Compare and Contrast

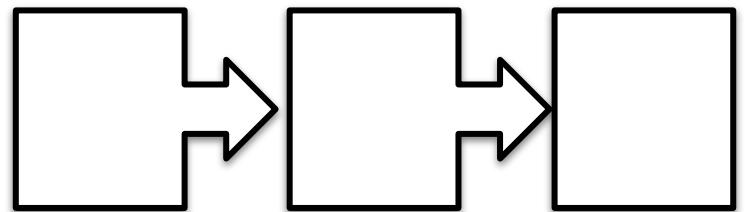
explains how topics are similar and different



Signal Words: similar, different, alike, both, neither

Chronological Order

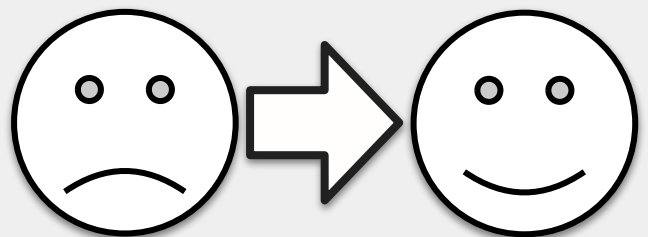
gives facts or steps in a sequential order, or the order in which they actually happened



Signal Words: first, then, next, before, dates, years

Problem and Solution

gives information about an issue and explains how it was or could be resolved



Signal Words: solve, dilemma, issue, answer, challenge, help

Vocabulary Activity

Match each term in the left column with its definition on the right. Write the corresponding letters next to the vocabulary words.



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. ___ Nonfiction | a. Why the author is writing the text |
| 2. ___ Central idea | b. How the author organizes the information in a text |
| 3. ___ Author's purpose | c. Writing that is based on real facts, events, or people |
| 4. ___ Supporting details | d. What the text is all about |
| 5. ___ Structure | e. The details and evidence the author uses to explain, prove, and support their central idea |

Match each text structure in the left column with its explanation on the right. Write the corresponding letters next to the text structures.



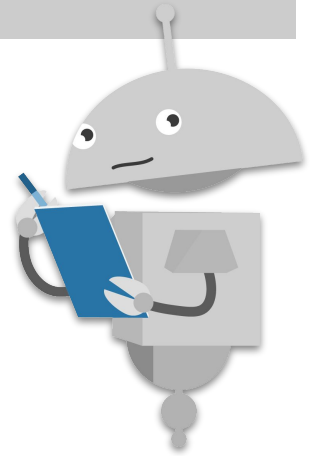
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. ___ Cause and effect | a. Explains a topic by giving information about an issue and explaining how it was or could be resolved |
| 2. ___ Descriptive | b. Explains a topic or series of facts or steps in a sequential order, or the order in which they actually happened |
| 3. ___ Compare and contrast | c. Explains how two or more topics are similar and how they are different |
| 4. ___ Chronological order | d. Explains a topic by showing the relationship between something that happened and what happened afterward |
| 5. ___ Problem and solution | e. Explains the topic by listing its features and characteristics and giving specific information about it |

Before Reading

Today's passage is titled "Venice: The City on Water."

It is about a historic city in Italy.

Before you read today's passage, think about what you already know about Italy.



?

Draw or write down something that you already know about Italy. Do you know the types of foods they are famous for? Famous buildings they have? Sports they play?

?

Based on what you've heard or seen, how do you envision a city built on water? Draw it or describe it below.

During Reading



Purpose for Reading: While you are reading, pay attention to the unique characteristics of Venice. Your goal is to understand the features that make Venice special and the challenges it faces due to its unique construction. Ask yourself the following question: How do geographical features of a place influence its transportation and challenges?

While you read, remember to annotate and take notes! You can review strategies for annotation on page 1 of this PDF.

Venice: The City on Water

(1) Venice, known as “The Floating City,” is one of Italy’s most picturesque and visited places. Built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon of the Adriatic Sea, Venice is a marvel of engineering, history, and art.

(2) Rather than roads, Venice has a **network** of canals, making boats the primary mode of transportation. The city’s most **iconic** waterway is the Grand Canal, which snakes its way through the heart of Venice. Over this canal span bridges like the famous Rialto Bridge, bustling with shops and tourists.

(3) Venice is also renowned for its historic St. Mark’s Square, home to the spectacular St. Mark’s Basilica with its shimmering gold mosaics. Nearby stands the Campanile bell tower, offering breathtaking views of the city’s rooftops and waterways.

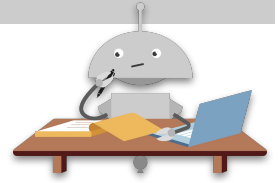
(4) However, rising sea levels and sinking foundations pose challenges for Venice. Innovative projects are underway to preserve this unique city for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Notes

After Reading



What did you learn about Venice? What was the most surprising thing you learned? Write your answers below.



Now that you've read about Venice, think about how unique the city is with its canals and history. Imagine what it might be like to live or visit there. Draw or describe your thoughts below.

After you are done reading and answering these questions, you may want to ask yourself some more questions, like...

- What was the central idea of the passage?
- What was the structure and the author's purpose for writing?

You may even want to read the passage a second or third time! When you feel ready, go ahead and take your assessment!