

Seed Travel Map

Trace a text's organization, then organize your own explanation.

5.T.SS.1 "Organization: Demonstrate and apply understanding of organizational structures and elements to create cohesive and engaging texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the entire introductory paragraph and the final concluding sentence. Beside each paragraph, name its job. Circle the words that guide readers from one method to another. Notice how examples stay beside the method they explain.

How Seeds Travel

Seeds may travel away from their parent plants before growing. Spreading out can reduce competition for sunlight, water and space. Different kinds of seeds travel in different ways. Wind, animals and water are three important carriers; they are not three steps every seed follows.

First, consider seeds carried by wind. Cottonwood seeds have soft, light tufts that catch moving air. Maple seeds have winglike parts and spin as they fall. These different shapes help the seeds move through the air rather than dropping directly beneath the parent plant.

Next, consider animal travelers. Some seeds have hooks that catch on fur. Others are inside fruits; an animal may eat the fruit and later leave seeds in its waste. Finally, water can carry floating fruits such as coconuts, whose light husks help them float. In each method, a plant's structures help its seeds travel.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the introduction prepare readers for the rest of the text?

2 Why do the cottonwood and maple examples belong together?

3 Do First, Next and Finally describe the life stages of one seed here? Explain their organizational job.

4 How does the last sentence connect the examples to the whole text?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three connected paragraphs explaining how an animal handles a weather challenge. Introduce the animal and two useful features or habits, develop each with accurate details, and conclude. Use guiding words to connect your ideas. You may use the arctic fox facts below or another animal you know well. Facts: thick winter fur reduces heat loss; furry footpads protect paws; the fox wraps its fluffy tail around its body and face while sleeping in cold weather.

1. Introduction

Introduce the animal and weather challenge. Preview two features or habits you will explain.

2. First feature or habit

Explain one feature or habit and how it helps. Keep its supporting details together; use a guiding phrase such as First or One useful feature.

3. Second feature and conclusion

Develop the other feature or habit. End with a sentence that connects both ideas to the weather challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the entire introductory paragraph and the final concluding sentence. Beside each paragraph, name its job. Circle the words that guide readers from one method to another. Notice how examples stay beside the method they explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the introduction prepare readers for the rest of the text?	It explains why seeds travel and previews wind, animals and water as different carriers.
2	Why do the cottonwood and maple examples belong together?	Both illustrate wind dispersal, even though their structures differ. Keeping them together develops one main idea.
3	Do First, Next and Finally describe the life stages of one seed here? Explain their organizational job.	No. They guide readers through a list of different ways seeds travel, not a time sequence that every seed follows.
4	How does the last sentence connect the examples to the whole text?	It returns to the shared idea that plant structures help seeds travel, connecting wind, animal and water examples.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Three-paragraph example**

An arctic fox stays active in a cold environment. Its body has features that help it cope with winter weather. Thick winter fur and a fluffy tail are two useful protections.

First, the fox's thick winter coat reduces the body heat it loses to the cold air. Fur also covers the bottoms of its paws. This protection helps the fox cope with cold conditions as it moves about.

Another useful feature is the fluffy tail. When sleeping in the cold, the fox wraps it around its body and face. Together, the winter coat and wrapped tail help protect the animal from the cold.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess an introduction that previews the focus, grouped details, useful transitions, and a conclusion linking the ideas. The model is three visibly separate paragraphs; do not require a fixed sentence count. Accept other accurate animals, features, orders and guiding words. First/Next/Finally in the seed passage enumerate methods, not stages of one seed. Background: National Park Service, Plant Adaptations; Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Foxes Wear New Coats for Spring. The arctic fox facts supplied in the task are enough for a self-contained response.