

Year 5 and 6 Information Text Writing

This week, your writing task is linked to the weekly science theme: **Evolution and Inheritance**. This learning will be a recap and an extension of learning you did in school during the Autumn term. You will be writing an information text to explain how a chosen animal has adapted to survive in its environment.

Monday

As you will be writing an information text, we are going to start by recapping how to use bullet points so that you can include them in your piece of writing. Watch the short clip and have a go at the activity by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/z2yydxs>

Now have a go at the activity on page 2. Write each group as a list using bullet points. Remember to use the correct punctuation for each bullet point and include an introduction to your list using a colon. For example,

Here are the items you must bring for the trip:

- **A rain coat**
- **Packed lunch**
- **Spare socks (in case yours get wet)**
- **A pencil**
- **A rucksack (to carry all your belonging in)**

Punctuating Bullet Points Activity

Proper nouns	Proper nouns
Rainbow group	Largest UK cities
• suhila	• london
• melissa	• birmingham
• george	• leeds
• amaan	• bradford
Notes	Item List
Blue Whales	Ingredients for sponge cake
• biggest animal ever lived	• self-raising flour
• baby = calf	• eggs
• mammal – breathes air	• butter
• heart size of small car	• caster sugar
• louder than jet engine	• jam
Questions	Statements
• what do you eat at mealtimes	• its proper name is Commonwealth of Australia
• do you go to school	• the capital city is Canberra
• what is your home like	• over one third of its area is desert
• what toys do you have	• the Aborigine people have lived there for about 50,000 years
• do you have to do any work	• many Australian animals are found nowhere else in the world

Tuesday - Exploring Text Structure and Layout Devices

To further prepare for your information text writing this week, today we are going to explore how information texts can be presented. Look at the example information text below then read the information on the following page which describes the layout devices included.

Breeds of Dog

Why understanding your dog's breed is important

Selecting a dog based on how cute it looks as a puppy could lead to potential problems in the future. It is important to have a clear understanding of your dog's breed and how this can affect its health and behaviour.



A litter of husky puppies

Dog breed history

Dogs were the first animal to be domesticated by man over 40,000 years ago. Since then, dogs have been bred for the way they look, their size and their abilities, resulting in hundreds of different breeds – all with unique physical features and personality types.

The right home for your dog

Before you get a dog. You should consider your own lifestyle and how you expect the dog to fit in. Some factors to consider include:

- How active you are. Some breeds will require a lot more exercise or stimulation due to their breed or size.
- How much space you have. Some small puppies can grow to be pretty large!
- Other family members. A timid dog might be frightened by a rampaging toddler which could cause it to growl or bite.

The right dog for you

Adopting a rescue dog is a good way to ensure that you choose the right breed of dog for you. Expert handlers at your local rescue centre will be able to tell you all about the breeds of the different dogs (even if they are mixed breeds) and the type of home they need.

Breed features

Breed	Adult size	Features
Border Collie	Medium	Highly intelligent. Likes to work.
Greyhound	Large, slim	High prey instinct. Fast but likes to laze.
Chihuahua	Small	Very loyal. Likes to cosy up in dens.



Staffordshire Bull-Terrier

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Layout Devices



www.twinkl.co.uk

The way information is presented in a text is very important. Writers and editors use a range of layout devices to present texts in the most effective and appealing way to the reader. A range of different layout devices may be used for varying reasons.

Can you think of any more layout devices or reasons why layout devices are used?

Heading

Title at the top of a page of text which tells the reader what the whole text is about.

Sub-heading

Title of a sub-section of text which tells the reader what the section of text is about.

Bullets

Glyphs used in lists and to draw attention to key information in the text.

Quotes

Used to illustrate a point or provide evidence.

“Dogs were the first animal to be domesticated by man over 40,000 years ago.”

Breeds of Dog

The right dog for you

Adopting a rescue dog is a good way to ensure that you choose the right breed of dog for you. You will be able to talk all about the breeds of the different dogs (even if they are mixed breeds) and the type of home they need.

Why understanding your dog's breed is important

Selecting a dog breed to live with it looks as a paper could lead to potential problems in the future. It is important to have a clear understanding of your dog's breed and how this can affect its health and behaviour.

Breed features

Breed	Adult Size	Features
Border Collie	Medium	Highly intelligent (like to work)
Greyhound	Large, slim	High prey instinct (not for them to eat)
Chihuahua	Small	Very high like to cling up to feet

Dog breed history

Dogs were the first animals to be domesticated by man over 40,000 years ago. Since then, dogs have been bred for the way they look, their size and their abilities, resulting in hundreds of different breeds – all with unique physical features and personality types.

The right home for your dog

Before you get a dog, you should consider your own lifestyle and how you expect the dog to fit in. Some factors to consider include:

- How active you are. Some breeds will be better suited to active or stimulation dog to their breed or size.
- How much space you have. Some small puppies can grow to be pretty large!
- Other family members. A small dog might be frightened by a snapping toddler which could cause it to growl or bite.

Quotes

“Dogs were the first animal to be domesticated by man over 40,000 years ago.”

Columns

Large amounts of text split into sections with shorter lines which makes it easier to read.

Tables

Used to draw attention to information that is often related or comparative.

Pictures

Used to illustrate a point or encourage empathy.

Fonts

Used to depict the mood, intended audience or key information in a text.

Dog Dog Dog

Now have a go at re-organising the information below, using some of the layout devices used above to make the text more appealing for readers. You could use the frame on page on page 6 to help.

I can organise a text using layout devices.

- Choose some of this text and present it more effectively using a range of layout devices.
- Use the template to help you.
- Try to include headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets and a table.

The Labrador is one of the most common breeds of dog in the world and they can make lovely family pets. Known for their gentle temperament and their playful, inquisitive nature, labradors are also very intelligent dogs which makes them easy to train. Many Labradors are employed as: assistance dogs, leading the blind; sniffer dogs, helping the police or as gun dogs, retrieving game or fish.

The Labrador breed is thought to have originated on the coast of Newfoundland in Canada where fishermen used them to retrieve fish from the freezing cold sea waters. The Labrador has a number of special features which make it especially good for this: they have soft, gentle mouths which cause no damage to the prey they retrieve; they have a double coat of short, coarse fur which has a warm under-layer and a waterproof top layer, to keep them warm and dry; and they have long, strong legs with webbed feet, ideal for swimming. Since they are so well adapted for swimming, most Labradors find it irresistible to take a splash whenever they see water, even when there are only shallow, muddy puddles available!

Labradors come in three main colours: black, yellow and chocolate, with a more recent fox-red colour also now becoming more common. They are large dogs which require a lot of space and exercise, although they can often be a bit greedy and potentially lazy! The male is bigger and heavier than the female, standing up to 62cm tall and weighing up to 40kg, compared to the female who stands up to 60cm tall and weighs up to 35kg.





Black Labrador

	Male	Female
Weight		
Height		





Wednesday - Let's gather our ideas for writing

Your challenge is to write an information text about a chosen animal to describe how it has adapted to survive in its environment.

You will need to include the following information:

- the animal and its features
- the environment (including available food, climate, habitats etc)
 - how it has adapted to survive in the environment
 - why it wouldn't survive in a different environment



You will need to conduct some research to find out the information you need. This website may help: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/animal-adaptation> I have completed an example (Page 9) to demonstrate the type of

Name of the animal _____
Description of features:

information you will need to record. Record the information below:

Detailed description of the animal's environment:

Description of how the animal has adapted to suit the environment:

Explain why the animal would not survive in different environments. Provide examples of at least 2 different environments:

Example

Name of the animal: **Raccoons**

Description of features:

- Nocturnal animals
- Very good eyesight
- They are omnivorous (they eat from nuts and berries on trees, fish in streams etc).
- They store up fat
- They can even share a winter den with other animals like opossums and muskrats

Detailed description of the animal's environment: **Forest and Woodlands**

- Mostly trees which are very close to each other
- Woodlands are a little more open than forests – woodlands have space to let a bit of light in between trees, while forests have so many trees that it's actually pretty dark when you walk around.
- **Animals and insects who live in forest and woodland habitats rely on the trees to give them what they need** – shelter, food, and protection from other creatures higher up the food chain. They also use the streams and ponds within forests to get water and fish.

Description of how the animal has adapted to suit the environment:

- Nocturnal animals – **their very good eyesight helps them to see at night as that is when they are awake**
- Very good eyesight – **helps to look for food in the forest during the night when they are awake**
- They are omnivorous (they eat from nuts and berries on trees, fish in streams etc). – **the forest habitat is rich with food which the animal eats**
- They store up fat - **so they can sleep for a month or so in the colder winter months**
- They can even share a winter den with other animals like opossums and muskrats – **to keep warm and support their survival**

Explain why the animal would not survive in a different environment:

Raccoons WOULD NOT survive in a polar environment because ...

- Polar habitats have just two seasons – summer and winter (but even summer is normally very cold). In the summer, it is light for 24 hours a day (right at the north and south Poles, the sun doesn't set for six whole months when it is summer) and in the winter, it is dark for 24 hours a day. **Raccoons are nocturnal so this may be very confusing for them**
- Polar habitats have tundra, which is ground that is nearly always frozen. **Raccoons would struggle to find food.**
- Because it is too cold for trees to grow in arctic habitats, animals find other places to live such as holes in the ground, or in caves made from snow – **Raccoons live in trees**
- Animals in the arctic also can't rely too much on eating plants. Most are carnivores (they eat meat) and hunt for fish as well as smaller animals.
- Polar habitats get very, very cold – it can get as cold as -50°C in the Arctic, and temperatures in Antarctica have been as cold as -89°C . Animals in polar regions have adapted to survive in these extreme conditions. They have thick fur or feathers, blend in with the white snow, or hibernate during the coldest winter months. **Raccoons would not survive this cold.**

Thursday - Drafting your writing



Using the notes you gathered yesterday, complete your information page to explain how your chosen animal has adapted to suit its environment. My title would be....

How Have Racoons Adapted to Survive in their Woodland and Forest Habitat?

Remember:

- a heading
- subheadings
- bullet points
- columns
- to consider the font you use for different sections

You might like to use the format on page 11 to help you but you don't have to.

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Friday - Proofreading and editing

Reda through your writing carefully to check and edit the following:

- spelling
- punctuation
- do all of your sentences make sense?
- could you add any additional information to any of your sentences?