

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Explanation

Statement of phenomenon

Explanation sequence

WHY WELLINGTON WAS CHOSEN BY THE SETTLERS AS THE CAPITAL OF NEW ZEALAND

Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand. It is at the bottom of the North Island. The Maori name for the region of Wellington is Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui, which means "the head of the great fish of Maui." This is the name that the Maori people have for the North Island of New Zealand.

The original capital of New Zealand was a tiny town at the top of the North Island, called Russell (or Kororareka). In 1841, Governor Hobson moved the government to Auckland. However, most of the development of New Zealand at this time was in the South Island, so the early politicians felt that the development of New Zealand would not be balanced if Auckland remained the capital. The first General Assembly of the representatives of the six New Zealand provinces met in 1854, but the real beginnings of central government were not until 1856.

Wellington was named after an English lord, the Duke of Wellington. It became the capital city in 1863. The first meeting of the Parliament of New Zealand was in 1865.

Wellington had a port, which was originally called Port Nicholson, and a beautiful harbour. Many of the ships which brought the first European settlers to New Zealand from England landed here. The English thought there was plenty of land for settlement, although it is on a geological fault line, which means the earth's crust is quite thin around Wellington and there are often earthquakes in the area. Some of the land was bought from the Maori people, but some was taken illegally.

Wellington first became a city in 1886. It is now the home of many important organisations and buildings including Parliament (which is sometimes called "the Beehive" because of the shape of the building), the National Library and Te Papa o Tongarewa, the national museum.

Language Features

Use of past tense due to historical setting

Use of numerals for dates

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. government, politicians, met, capital

Uses of relating verbs, e.g. it is on a geological fault line

Use of passive voice, e.g. was named

Use of general nouns, e.g. politicians

Use of classifying adjectives, e.g. early, European

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. a tiny town at the top of the North Island

Use of causal conjunctions

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. from England

Use of empty subject, e.g. There are often earthquakes

Use of compound and complex sentences