

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1



Text Structure - Information Report

Title

General statement - identifies and classifies

Description - includes appearance, behaviour habitat, habits, breeding and interaction with humans

Background Information

KIWI

Kiwi are small New Zealand native birds. They belong to the bird family.

Kiwi are usually grayish-brown in colour, but some kiwi are spotted. They grow to about the size of a chicken and. have very long beaks for digging in the forest floor.

They are flightless birds, which means that they cannot use their wings.

Kiwi live in the forest areas of New Zealand. They are nocturnal birds which sleep during the day and come out to feed at night.

They eat worms, insects and berries.

The female kiwi lays its large white eggs in a burrow and the male looks after the eggs and keeps them warm for about 80 days until they hatch.

The Maori people valued the feathers of the kiwi and used these for making cloaks. Kiwi are now in danger from dogs, stoats, possums and other harmful pests.

Language Features

Use of general nouns, e.g. kiwi

Use of timeless present - typical of much scientific writing, e.g. are, eat, lays, live

Use of past tense verbs to show that something happened in the past.e.g The Maori people valued the feathers.

Use of relating verbs, e.g. are, have

Use of adverbial phrases to locate, e.g. in a burrow

Use of technical language, e.g. nocturnal

Use of nouns to build topic information, e.g. insects, berries, burrow

Use of pronouns to stand for nouns to help cohesion in text e.g. used these (the feathers) for cloaks

Use of adverbial phrases to build description, e.g. for digging

Use of adjectives to describe, e.g. flightless

Note the suffix - less showing that something is not there - in this case the ability to fly; the suffix - ful (harmful) showing that something has or is full of something (in this case the animal pests are full of harm - or danger to kiwi)

Use of action verbs to build information, e.g. lays, looks after

Use of sentences and statements throughout