

Year 3 and 4 Homework

Read the 2 examples of an explanation text below, understand the features and layout.

Then, write your own explanation of how a **Telephone works?**

The Life Cycle of a Moth



A moth is an insect with two antennae and a small pair of wings. Moths also have feelers.

To begin with, a female moth uses her antennae to help choose the right plant to lay her eggs on. Three weeks later, the eggs hatch and baby caterpillars come out. The baby caterpillars eat their own shell for nourishment. After they have finished eating their shell, they move on to eating leaves and other plants.

As a result, the caterpillar grows quickly. Soon, it starts to shed its skin. At between 11 and 14 weeks of age, it starts to make a pupa to live in. While the caterpillar is inside its pupa, its body changes. Eventually, the pupa case will open and a lovely moth will come out.



Adult moths flit from plant to plant to feed. All moths have two sets of wings covered in tiny scales. They grow two eyes and big eye spots on their wings so that they can scare away predators. Their antennae are very sensitive.

For the cycle to begin again, the female must lay eggs on a leaf.

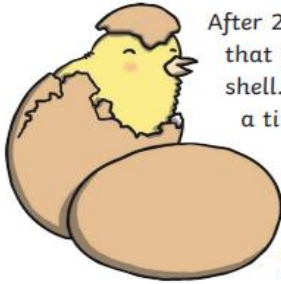
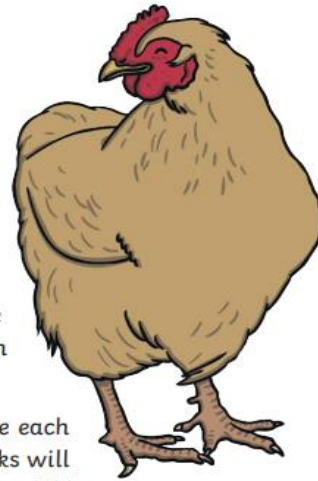
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How Does a Chicken Hatch?

The hen is a female bird and the cockerel is a male bird. A hen and a cockerel mate and the hen will lay eggs. These eggs will hatch into chicks.

To begin with, the hen makes a nest for her eggs. Each day, the hen lays one egg in her nest. After ten days, there are ten eggs in the nest. This is called a clutch of eggs.

At this stage, the hen sits on her eggs to keep them warm. Inside each egg, a chick will soon begin to grow. If the eggs get cold, the chicks will die. During the incubation period, the eggs are turned so that they will be warm all over.



After 21 days, the chick is fully-developed and ready to hatch from the sack that protects the egg. Not long after, the chick uses its egg tooth to tap the shell. If the chick is unable to tap the shell, it will not hatch. Soon it makes a tiny hole in the shell.

At last, the shell breaks open and the chick comes out of the eggshell. If it is wet and very tired, it lies down to rest. Within a few hours, the chick can stand up and run about provided that it is not injured. Now it is soft and fluffy and ready to feed.

If the chick is healthy, it will grow up to be a hen or a cockerel. If it is a hen, it may mate with a cockerel and lay some eggs.

Explanation Text Features Key

Text Title: _____

Here are the features of an explanation text. Use your coloured pens, pencils or highlighters to identify parts of your text which show each feature. For example, you could colour the 'time conjunctions' box in red, then use the same colour to underline all the time conjunctions in your text.

	Title shows what the text is about. Often uses "How..." or "Why..."		Technical vocabulary specific to the topic.
	Opening paragraph introduces the process.		Diagrams/illustrations with labels.
	Chronological order with time conjunctions .		Cause and effect conjunctions explain how one event leads to the next.
	Stages of the process clearly broken down.		Final paragraph (conclusion) links back to the opening.
	Present tense (unless it's a historical explanation).		Passive voice is often used. (e.g. something is done)
	Impersonal tone .		