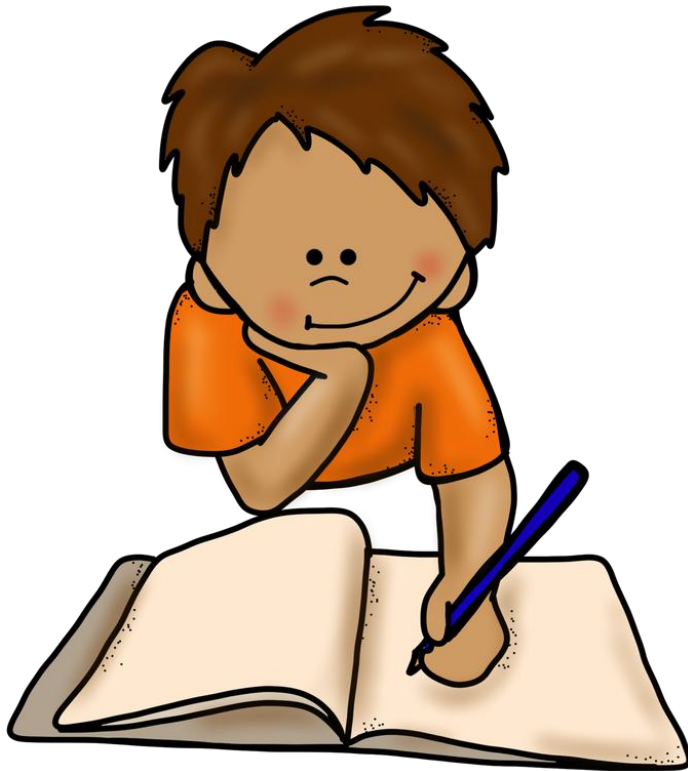


# Excellent Explanation Writing





# ***HOW TO WRITE AN EXPLANATION TEXT***

# *What is an explanation text?*



**An explanation text is a  
NON-FICTION text  
which DESCRIBES HOW  
or WHY things happen.**

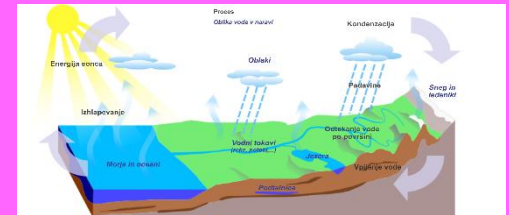
# Different Explanation Examples

Explains the  
stages of an  
event one  
after another



From seed to  
tree

Explains what  
causes  
change from  
one stage to  
the next



The Water  
Cycle

# Don't confuse yourself...



This may sound like something we have done before....

An explanation text is similar to a procedural text

BUT

**Explanation text** explains how and why things happen

The lifecycle of a butterfly/ Frog

The Water Cycle

How a plant grows

**Procedural Text** instructs you on how to do something

Making a sandwich remember the YouTube video

Chocolate biscuit cake recipe

# Steps for writing explanations

1

Introduction-  
Can be a  
question or a  
statement



2

Explain the  
process



3

Draw a picture  
Clearly label the  
picture/s



4

Conclusion-  
one final  
sentence



# Step 1

## SET THE SCENE

### TITLE / OPENING STATEMENT

What are you  
explaining and  
why?

Identify the topic of the explanation.

Often this can be phrased in the form of a question such as how or why? Or a statement

Examples:

How is a frog formed?

What are the different stages a frog goes through?

or

The lifecycle of a frog



## Step 2

### EXPLAIN THE PROCESS

- A sequence of sentences describing how or why something happens.
- Use such as *first, second, finally, as a result, so, if, because, therefore.*

Example:

First the frog lays its eggs (frogs spawn)

Next the frog spawn hatches into tadpoles

Then the tadpoles grow gills and legs and it turns into a froglet. It still has a tail

Finally the froglet loses its tail and turns into a frog.





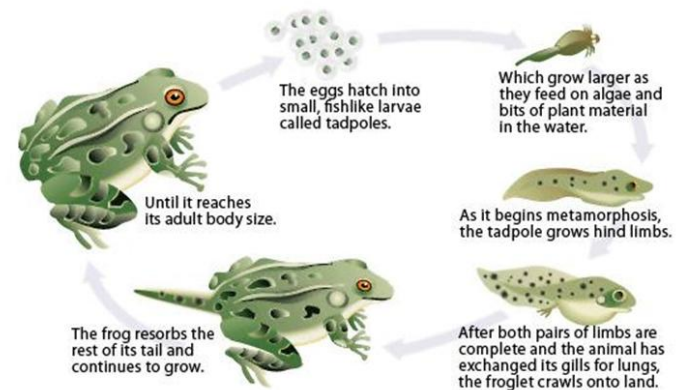
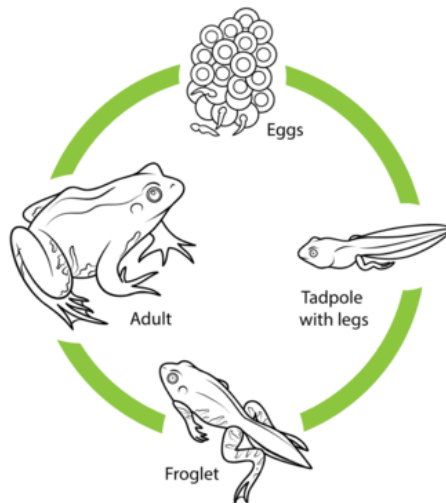
# Step 3

DESCRIPTIVE  
AND  
ENGAGING  
VISUALS/  
pictures



Explanations rely upon pictures. They don't need to be very detailed.

Labels and arrows which connect ideas make writing an easier task.



## Step 4

### CONCLUSION

Tie things  
together



The conclusion of an explanation should draw all your information together. Same idea as 'They lived happily ever after'. The reader knows your piece of writing is finished.

Example:  
The cycle starts again.

# *The vocabulary of Explaining*

Below is a table highlighting some words you might frequently use in Explanatory writing.

First, then, next, after, finally

Then, as a result, so, if, because, therefore



# Jumbled Explanations

See if you can reorganise this jumbled explanation text to make sense. Check the next slide for the answer. No peeking!!!!

## The Life Cycle of a Flower.

After the flowers die, the cycle starts again from new seeds.

Later the buds grow and develop into flowers . The flows drop seeds onto the ground. Sometimes the wind even blows the seeds else where.

Plants are living things. Most plants start from seeds. Plants need water, sunlight and air in order to grow. Plants seeds are usually buried in soil.

Firstly the seed cracks open and roots begin to grow. Roots suck water and nutrients from the soil

After a few days the stem begins to grow. As the stem grows thicker the leaves begin to grow.

# How Do Seeds Grow?



Plants are living things. Most plants start from seeds. Plants need water, air and sunlight in order to grow. Plant seeds are usually buried in soil.



Firstly, the seed cracks open and roots begin to grow. Roots suck water and nutrients from the soil.

After a few days, the stem begins to grow. As the stem grows thicker, leaves begin to grow.

Later, buds grow and develop into flowers. The flowers drop seeds on the ground. Sometimes the wind even blows the seeds elsewhere.

After the flowers die, the cycle starts again from the new seeds.



# ***WRITING SAMPLES***

# Explain The Digestive Process



**Step 1:  
Introduction**

**Step 2: Explain the  
process**

**Step 3: Draw a  
picture**

**Step 4:  
Concluding  
Sentence**

# Explain The Digestive Process

When we eat food, it doesn't just land in our stomach. It goes through a process called 'The Digestive System'. It is very interesting and fun to learn about.

Step 1

It all starts in the mouth. By chewing, the food is broken down and swallowed. After the food is swallowed, it enters the oesophagus. The oesophagus is a long tube that goes from your mouth, to your stomach.

Step 2

The stomach is like a large bag that the food goes in and where the food gets digested and covered in strong liquid that helps to break it down.

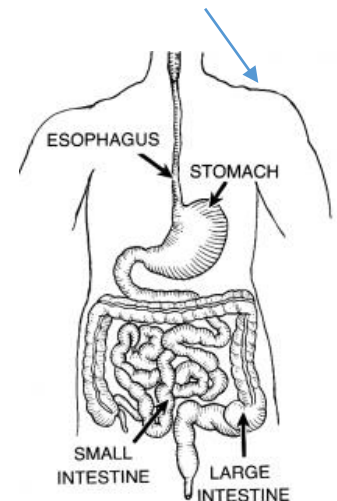
After the food has been in the stomach, it enters the first part of the small intestine. In the small intestine, the food is broken down again.

The food then enters the large intestine. The solid waste is let out of the body when you go to the toilet.

This is the process your body goes through every day without you even noticing!

Step 4

Step 3





# *The Life Cycle of a Butterfly*

## **Life Cycle of a Butterfly**



**Step 1:**  
**Introduction.**

**Step 2: EXPLAIN  
THE PROCESS.**

**Step 3: Draw a  
picture**

**Step 4: Write your  
closing sentence**

You can write your own into your copy or you can follow this template.

### Step 1: Introduction

How does a butterfly grow?

### Step 2: Explain the process

The butterfly lays the egg on the leaves. This is the first stage, the egg stage.

The egg will remain on the leaf of the plant for several weeks until it hatches. When this occurs a beautiful butterfly larva is born. This is the second stage, the caterpillar stage.

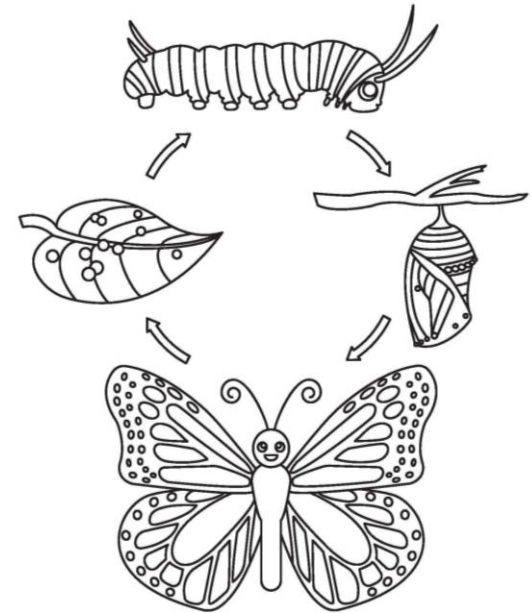
The caterpillar or larva grows and grows until it has reached it's full size. It then looks for a place where it can transform into a chrysalis or a cocoon. This is the third stage, the chrysalis stage.

The chrysalis remains hanging for 2-3 weeks. Inside the little caterpillar is growing and changing. The fourth stage is when the beautiful butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.

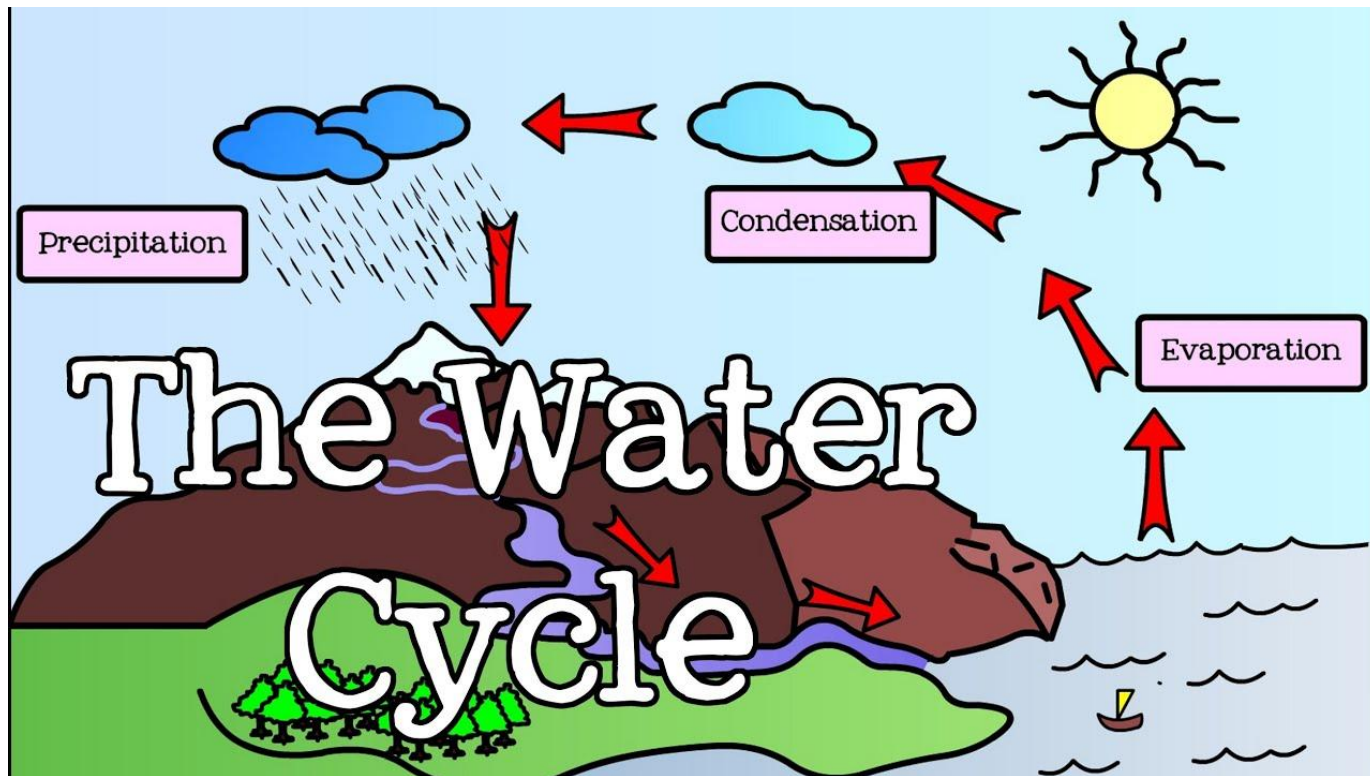
### Step 3 Picture

### Step 4 – Conclusion

This butterfly lays an egg and the cycle begins again.



# The Water Cycle



You can write your own into your copy or you can follow this template.

### Step 1: Introduction

#### The Water Cycle

### Step 2: Explain the process

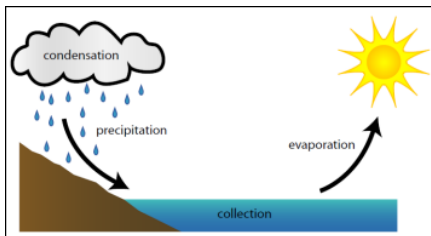
The sun turns water into a vapour or steam. Water comes from the ocean, lakes, rivers and streams. It also comes from plants, trees and the ground. This is called evaporation.

As the vapor or steam rises, it gets cold. When it gets cold, it gathers in clouds. This is called condensation.

When the clouds get too heavy to hold the water any longer, they drop it back to the ground in the form of rain, sleet, snow or hail. This is called precipitation.

Some of the water runs into lakes, streams, rivers and oceans. Some of it soaks deep into the ground. This is called Collection.

### Step 3 Picture



### Step 4 – Conclusion

Eventually the water cycle begins again