

Reread

Some informational texts include scientific information that may be difficult to understand the first time you read it. As you read “The Secret World of Caves,” you can pause and reread difficult sections to make certain you understand them.



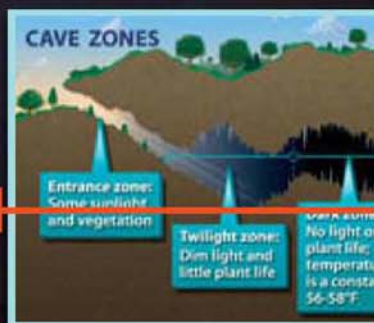
Find Text Evidence

It may not be clear to you why bats live only part of their lives in the entrance zone of a cave. Reread the section “In the Mouth of the Cave” on page 51 of “The Secret World of Caves.”

page 51

Bats are among the most common troglodytes. Hanging upside down from a cave’s ceiling, they are protected and sleep undisturbed. Bats also hibernate this way during the coldest months. In warm months, bats search for food outside the cave.

Other **species** make use of the entrance zone for protection, too. Pack rats build nests using twigs and leaves from the outside. Their big eyes and long whiskers help in **maneuvering** through the dim light. Small gray birds called



I read that bats hibernate in caves “during the coldest months” and search for food outside caves in warm months. From this, I can infer that bats spend more time in caves when the weather is cold and food is hard to find.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Why is *accidental* a good name for some entrance zone creatures? Reread “In the Mouth of the Cave” on page 51 to answer the question. As you read, remember to use the strategy Reread.

Main Idea and Key Details

The main idea is the most important point an author makes about a topic. When the main idea is not stated directly, use the key supporting details to help you identify it.



Find Text Evidence

When I reread the section “Twilight Time” on page 52 of “The Secret World of Caves,” I will look for important details about the twilight zone of a cave. Then I can think about what the details have in common to identify the main idea.

Main Idea

A variety of species rely on the twilight zone’s special environment.

Detail

The twilight zone is darker and damper than the entrance zone.

Detail

Twilight zone animals spend their whole lives in caves, but many could live outside, too.

Detail

Spiders, beetles, centipedes, fish, and worms live in the twilight zone.

These details are all related to one idea.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

Reread the section “Totally in the Dark.” Identify the key details and list them in the graphic organizer. Use the details to determine the main idea of the section.

Go Digital!

Use the interactive graphic organizer

Expository

“The Secret World of Caves” is an expository text. It explains what life is like in underground caves using factual information and visual images.



Find Text Evidence

“The Secret World of Caves” explains how creatures live in or use caves. The headings tell me what each section is about. The photos with captions show me what caves and cave creatures look like. The diagram helps me understand the different cave zones.

page 51

In the Mouth of the Cave

Stepping into a cave is like entering an entirely new world. The environment is suddenly cooler and damper. Though there is some light here, it is dimmer than the light outside. There is a sense of stillness and quiet. This outermost area is called the *entrance zone*. It is a hallway leading to the many secrets of life in a cave.

An animal that uses the entrance zone of a cave belongs to the **classification** known as *trogloxenes*. Creatures in this category may seek shelter in caves but don't spend their whole life cycles in them. They also spend time on the surface. Some entrance zone organisms are called *accidentals* because they often find their way in accidentally. These cave guests stay for a while but not for long.

Bats are among the most common troglomenes. Hanging upside down from a cave's ceiling, they are protected and sleep undisturbed. Bats also hibernate this way during the coldest months. In warm months, bats search for food outside the cave.

Other **species** make use of the entrance zone for protection, too. Pack rats build nests using twigs and leaves from the outside. Their big eyes and long whiskers help in **maneuvering** through the dim light. Small gray birds called phoebes seek safety inside cave doorways. They make their nests in a **compartment**, or nook, in the cave walls. These small spaces hide the birds from animals that prey on them.

CAVE ZONES

The diagram shows a cross-section of a cave with three zones labeled: Entrance zone (bright light and fresh air), Twilight zone (dim light and moderate humidity), and Dark zone (no light and high humidity).

51

Text Features

Headings Headings identify the topic of each section of text.

Photographs and Captions

Photographs illustrate information in the text. Captions explain what is shown in the photographs.

Diagrams Labeled diagrams show a visual representation of ideas.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

Find and list three text features in “The Secret World of Caves.” Tell what you learned from each feature.

Greek Roots

An unfamiliar word in a scientific text may contain a Greek root you know. Use the meaning of the root to help you define the word. Here are some common Greek roots and their meanings.

Root Meaning	Root Meaning
<i>cycl-</i> cir cular, wheel	<i>log-</i> w ord, study
<i>scop-</i> look , examine	<i>zon-</i> area, section



Find Text Evidence

I see the phrase entrance zone on page 51 of "The Secret World of Caves." If I know the root zon- means "area" or "section," I can figure out that an entrance zone is the section where you enter.

This outermost area is called the **entrance zone**. It is a hallway leading to the many secrets of life in a cave.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Use Greek roots to define each word or phrase:

life cycles, pages 51 and 52

microscopic, page 52, caption

logical, page 53

Tell how you used the Greek root to help you understand the meaning of each word.



Readers to . . .

Strong writing includes interesting and often surprising ideas. Writers of informational text develop ideas around a topic or theme. This theme is supported by interesting, rich details. Reread the excerpt from “The Secret World of Caves” below.

Expert Model

Rich Details

Identify rich **details** the writer includes to support the **topic** or **theme** in this excerpt. How do the writer’s **ideas** interest or surprise the reader?

Totally in the Dark

Troglobites are adapted to living with the absence of light. Most of them are completely sightless. So it is only logical that these unusual cave dwellers have heightened senses of smell and touch. For example, their bodies can detect the slightest vibrations. They can also sense changes in the air pressure around them. When something is moving nearby, these creatures can feel it. This special ability helps them catch food. It also helps them avoid becoming another animal’s meal.



This crayfish has see-through skin.

Writers



Chang wrote an expository text about unusual rainforest plants. Read his revisions to the following section of it.

Student Model

Epiphytes

A rainforest has several layers of plants. The forest floor is dark,^{and}

~~Plants~~ growing in the soil there get little rain or sunlight. Plants called

epiphytes need no dirt,^{but} They grow on other plants. In the rainforest

~~the middle layer of trees,~~ Rain falls on the bark of

the trees that epiphytes live on.

~~At about 65 feet off the ground,~~

~~They~~ get all they need to survive.

Editing Marks

- ^ Add
- ^ Add a comma.
- Take out.
- sp Check spelling.
- / Make a lowercase letter.

Grammar Handbook

Combining Sentences See pages 452–453.

Your Turn



- Identify Chang's topic and the details he uses to develop it.
- Explain why he combined sentences.
- Tell how revisions improved his writing.

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Write online in Writer's Workspace