

## Text structure: Description

### Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

**Text structure** is how an author organizes information in a nonfiction text.

**Description** is a type of text structure in which an author talks about one subject in great detail.

**Signal words** are clue words that help you identify the text structure. Signal words for description texts include **for instance, for example, such as, to illustrate, another, to begin with, first, second, third and also.**

Circle the signal words, underline the main idea and use a squiggly line to mark the most important details.

Have you ever dreamed of going into space? The International Space Station, also called the ISS, is a large spacecraft that travels above Earth. It's called the International Space Station because astronauts from many different countries live and work there for months at a time. The ISS orbits around Earth extremely quickly: It completes one full trip around Earth every ninety minutes!

Astronauts travel to the ISS in a space capsule carried by a rocket. When they arrive at the space station, they first enter through a special area where spacecraft can connect to the station. Once they are inside the station, they experience something called microgravity, which means they float instead of walk! Then they move through narrow hallways that lead them to different sections of the space station. These sections are called modules, and each module has a different purpose. For example, some modules are filled with computers, some have scientific equipment and others have sleeping areas! After arriving, the astronauts also unpack any supplies or equipment that they brought from Earth.

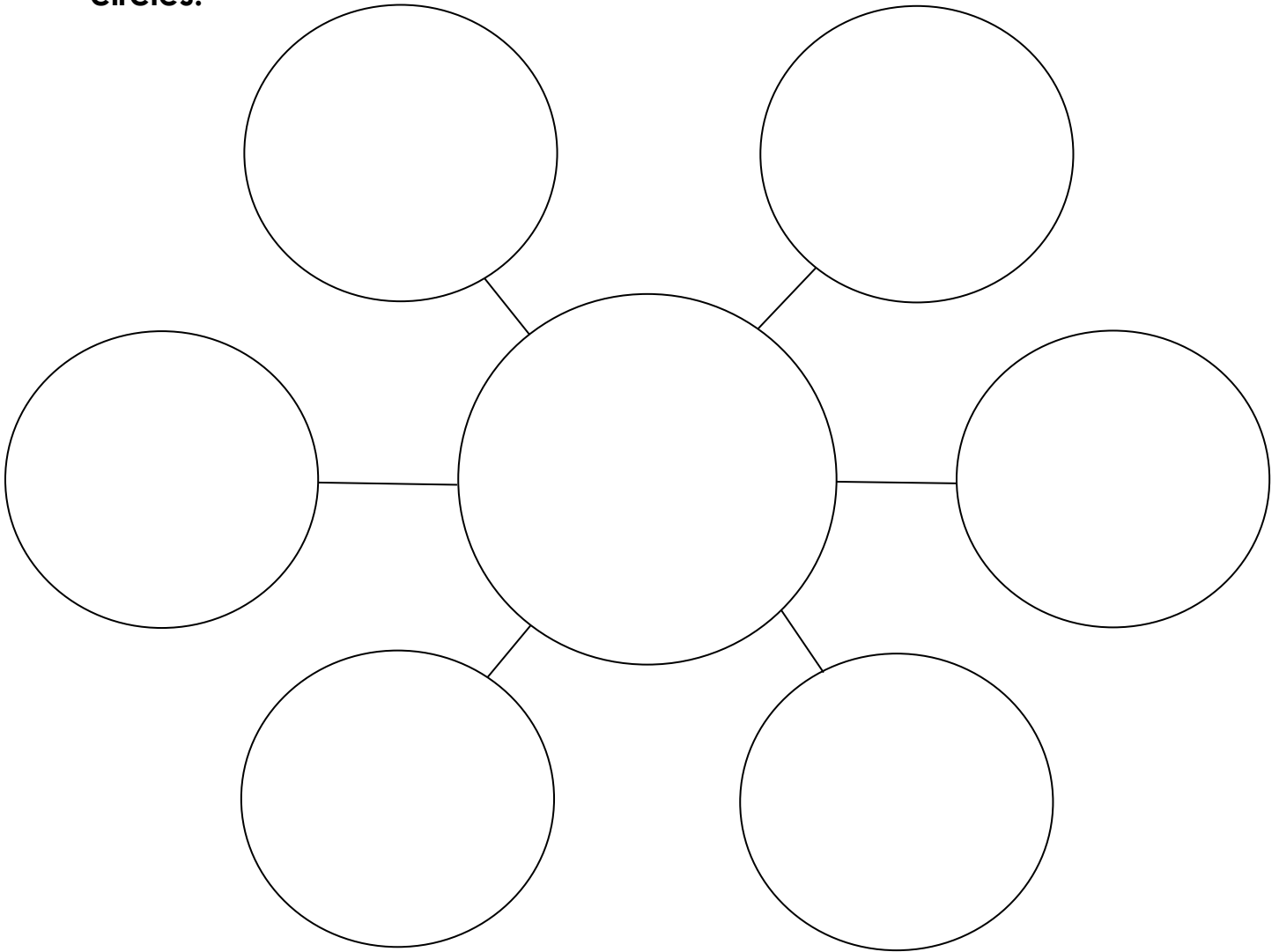
Astronauts who live on the ISS spend a lot of their time conducting experiments. These experiments help them learn more about outer space, microgravity and the human body. For instance, astronauts grow plants, study how bones and muscles change in space and test new technologies. There is a lot that scientists still have to learn about space!



When astronauts are not conducting experiments, they make time every day to exercise. This helps keep their bodies strong even though the environment is weightless! Astronauts also complete other everyday activities, such as eating meals. Meals look different in space. Because everything floats, astronauts must open their food packages carefully and use special containers so their food doesn't float away.

Lastly, when astronauts have free time, many say that they like to look out of the station's windows. From space, they can see Earth below them, including oceans, mountains and even glowing city lights. While living on the International Space Station certainly has its own set of challenges, it's also an incredible opportunity that astronauts never forget!

1. **Fill out the graphic organizer below. Write what the text was mostly about in the center and some of the most important details in the surrounding circles.**



2. **What detail did you find most interesting and why?**

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## Answers

1. **Fill out the graphic organizer below. Write what the text was mostly about in the center and some of the most important details in the surrounding circles.**

**Center Circle:**

*Answers can vary slightly but should say that “the International Space Station is a large spacecraft that travels around Earth.”*

**Outer Circles:**

*Details that students pick out will vary but must be taken from the text.*

2. **What detail did you find most interesting and why?**

*The detail students select will vary but should be supported with an explanation.*