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.

Roller Coasters

There seem to be two groups of people: those who love roller coasters and those who hate them! Roller coasters are exciting rides that send people speeding along tracks built high above the ground. They feature hills, sharp turns and fast drops that are specially designed to create feelings of thrill and excitement in riders. While roller coasters may look frightening, they are carefully built and tested to keep riders safe.

When people arrive at the beginning of the line for a roller coaster, they first climb into small cars that look a little like a train. Once riders are seated, they lower the safety bar. These bars are then checked by the ride operators. Once everyone is safely secured, the cars move forward and slowly start to climb the tallest hill of the ride. Most roller coasters use a chain lift system that pulls the cars up the big hill one click at a time. As the cars climb higher and higher, some riders may get nervous. Others might look out and enjoy the view!

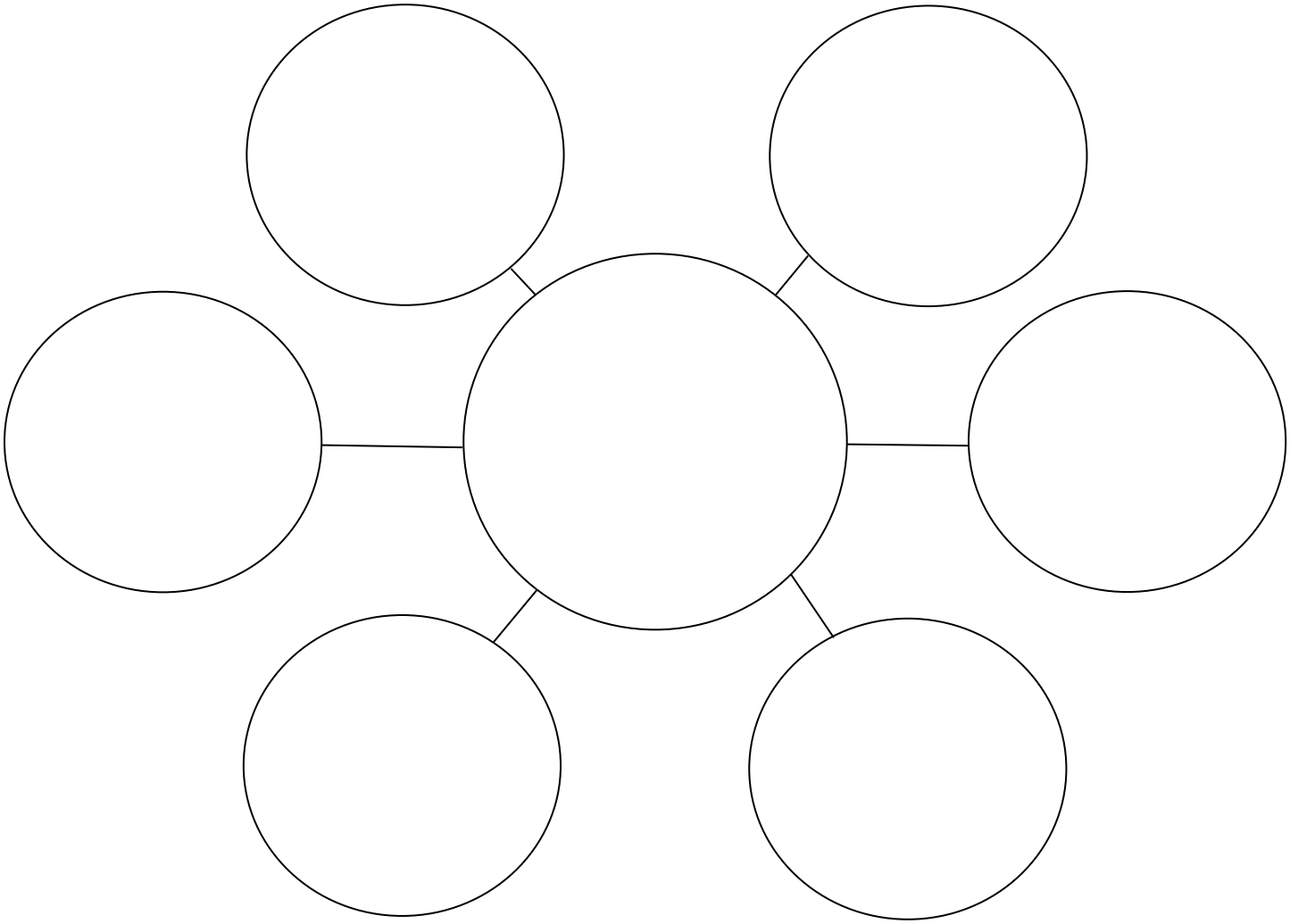
Next comes the most thrilling part of the ride. Once the train reaches the top of the hill, it usually rushes down a very steep drop. Gravity helps pull the train down, and it can gain speed very quickly! Some roller coasters, for example, are able to reach speeds of more than 60 miles per hour! This is when you hear lots of riders scream. Once the cars are moving quickly at the bottom of the hill, they continue to move around curves, through tunnels, over hills and even through some upside-down loops! Riders will feel rushes of wind and (hopefully) excitement as the cars continue to move quickly along the track.

The engineering that keeps riders safe is a very important part of the ride. Engineers have carefully designed the track so the cars stay on the rails. As the cars move along the tracks, special wheels keep the cars attached. These wheels grip the tracks from different directions so the cars move safely. For instance, some wheels are designed to hold the cars in place, while others are designed to help guide the cars along

loops and drops. Modern roller coasters also have computer systems and sensors that help control each group of cars and keep them spaced safely apart.

At the end of the ride, the cars begin to slow down. The cars will usually roll back into the station where the riders first boarded. The safety bars will lift up once the ride has completely stopped, and the riders are able to step out. If you watch riders walk away from a roller coaster ride, they are usually laughing and chatting about their experience. A new group of riders then climbs aboard to take their place and start the cycle all over again.

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?

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 passage explains how roller coasters work and how riders move through the ride.

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.