

Text structure: Problem and solution

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

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

Problem and solution is a type of text structure in which an author describes a challenge and explains how it is solved.

Signal words are clue words that help you identify the text structure. Signal words for problem and solution texts include **problem, because, in order to, one reason for, a solution, since, may be due to, therefore, as a result** and **solve**.

Circle the text's signal words, underline the problem(s), and put a squiggly line under the solution(s).

Have you ever seen plastic bottles or plastic bags littered on the ground or floating in a river, ocean or lake? Plastic pollution has become a serious problem around the world. While plastic can be used for many different purposes, it doesn't break down easily. Some types of plastic can last for hundreds of years! As a result, plastic waste can build up in places where it does not belong.

When plastic enters rivers and oceans, it can travel long distances. This plastic pollution harms animals and the environment. Birds, sea turtles and fish often mistake plastic for food and try to eat it. If they succeed in taking a bite, the plastic can make them very sick. Animals can also become trapped in plastic rings and bags. There are many different dangers associated with plastic pollution.

Communities and scientists are working to find solutions to this problem. One important solution is reducing the amount of plastic that we use. People are now able to buy reusable water bottles, reusable shopping bags and reusable food containers instead of single-use plastic that is used only once. When we use fewer plastic items, less plastic winds up in nature.

Another solution is for people to recycle plastic whenever possible. When you recycle plastic, it turns into new material that can be used again. This reduces the plastic that goes into landfills or blows into the environment.



New inventions and innovations are also helping solve the problem of plastic pollution. Scientists are in the process of trying to figure out how to create plastic that can break down more quickly in nature. Engineers have designed machines that can easily collect plastic from rivers before it reaches the ocean. In addition, innovative companies have started offering refills of their products without the plastic packaging!

If people, companies and the scientific community work together, plastic pollution should become less of an issue!

Use your annotations to answer the questions below.

1. What is the main problem in this passage?

2. What are some details from the text that help explain this problem?

3. What are three possible solutions to this problem?

4. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

Answers

1. What is the main problem in this passage?

Plastic pollution is building up in nature and harming animals and the environment.

2. What are some details from the text that help explain this problem?

- Plastic does not break down easily and can last for hundreds of years.

- Plastic can travel long distances in rivers and oceans.

- Animals sometimes mistake plastic for food and eat it.

- Animals can become trapped in plastic rings and bags.

3. What are three possible solutions to this problem?

- Use reusable bottles, bags and food containers instead of single-use plastic.

- Recycle plastic whenever possible.

- Create new inventions and machines that collect plastic from rivers or make plastic break down faster.

4. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

The author first explains the problem of plastic pollution and then describes several possible solutions.