

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 watched a bee fly from flower to flower? Bees may seem small (and you may even be a little scared of them!), but they play an important role in nature. As they move between plants to sip nectar, they carry pollen from flower to flower. This process, called pollination, is needed for flowers, fruits and vegetables to grow! Unfortunately, scientists have seen that bee populations are shrinking in many places around the world. This problem means that plants may not grow as well, which can affect the food that people eat!

There are several reasons why bees are disappearing. In some areas, bees are losing their habitats. Cities, for example, may not have enough flowers for them to visit. In other places such as farms, chemicals that are used to protect crops can harm the bees. Bees are also catching diseases that kill them.

At first, people tried some easy solutions in order to solve this problem. For example, farmers tried moving beehives to different places so bees would follow them and find more flowers along the way. This helped a little bit, but it didn't solve the bigger problem. Other people tried to plant more flowers in their yards, but small numbers of new flowers were unfortunately not enough to really help the problem.

One effective solution is creating pollinator gardens. Pollinator gardens are large gardens that include a variety of different plants that bloom at different times throughout the growing season. They provide shelter, nesting sites and water sources to help bees survive. At the same time, they also provide a steady source of nectar and pollen. Many communities are now planting pollinator gardens to help bees!



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 two ways people tried to solve the problem that didn't work?

4. What is one successful solution to the problem?

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

Answers

1. What is the main problem in this passage?
Bee populations are shrinking in many places around the world.
2. What are some details from the text that help explain this problem?
 - Bees are losing their habitats in some areas.
 - Cities may not have enough flowers for bees to visit.
 - Chemicals used on farms can harm bees.
 - Bees are catching diseases that kill them.
3. What are two ways people tried to solve the problem that didn't work?
 - Farmers moved beehives to different places so bees could find more flowers.
 - People planted small numbers of flowers in their yards.
4. What is one successful solution to the problem?
Creating pollinator gardens with many different plants that provide bees with food, water and places to live.
5. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
The author first explains the problem of disappearing bees, then describes solutions people tried that did not work and finally explains a better solution.