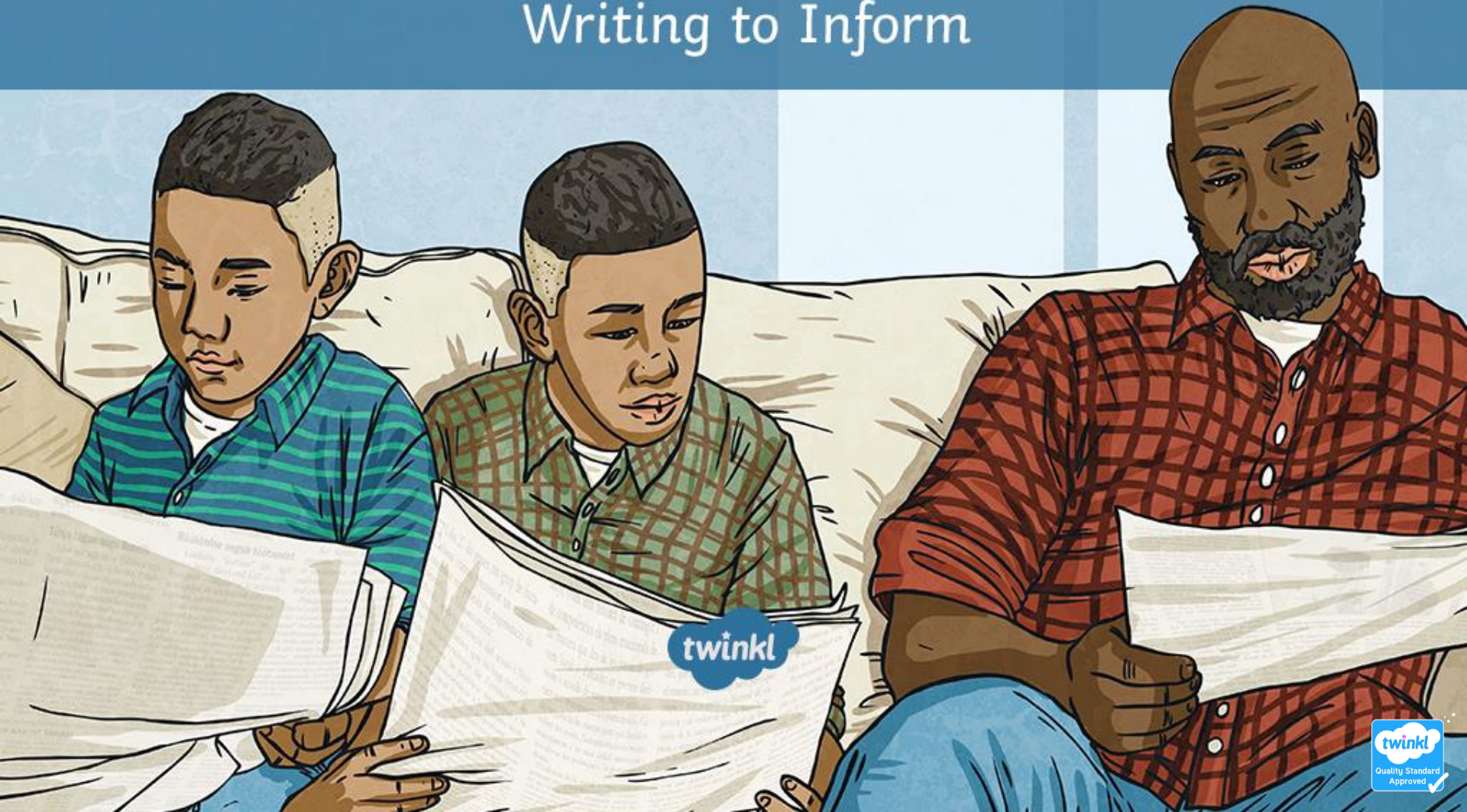


Purposes for Writing:

Writing to Inform



Writing to Inform

Writing to inform means that you want your reader to be informed by what you've written. You might be informing them about a specific topic or a particular event. You'll need to keep your reader hooked by providing them with interesting information.

There are different examples of informative writing, such as:

- information texts;
- biographies;
- newspaper articles.



Can you think of some writing that you've read recently which informed you about something? What features did the author use to convey the information?



Features of Writing to Inform

Adverbials

Adverbials can help your reader to understand the information.

Use adverbials of time to show chronology.

After that, During her time at university,

Parenthesis

Use parenthesis to add in extra information. Parenthesis can be punctuated using commas, dashes or brackets.

Buddy – **a four-year-old greyhound** – has found his forever home.

Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate clauses can be used to add more detail or vital information.

Try varying their location within a sentence.

Although she loved Poland, Marie knew that she had to leave.

Colons and Semi-Colons

Use colons and semi-colons to mark clauses within your writing.

Capybaras are excellent swimmers: they can stay submerged for several minutes at a time.

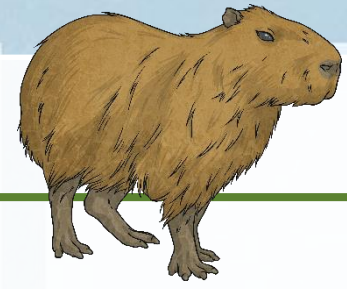
Can You Spot the Features?

Have a look at these different types of informative writing. Can you spot any of the features below?

- parenthesis
- subordinate clauses
- adverbials
- colons and semi-colons



Information Text



Capybaras

At just under 1.5 metres long, capybaras are the largest rodent on Earth. These impressive mammals are closely related to guinea pigs and are often said to look like giant versions of them.

Where Do They Live?

Capybaras are mostly found in their native South America although a small population have also been discovered living in Florida. Being semiaquatic – living both on land and in water – capybaras have long, brittle fur which dries quickly. As a result of their webbed toes and well-adapted bodies, capybaras are excellent swimmers: they can stay submerged for several minutes at a time.

Predators

Although they are not considered to be endangered, capybaras have a number of predators. These include pumas and jaguars. When they are young and small, capybaras are also at risk from large snakes, birds and foxes.

Which features has the author used to inform you about capybaras?

Biography



Below is an extract from a biography about the Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Marie Curie.

Moving to Paris

Marie's greatest dream was to go to university. Unfortunately, at the time, it was unheard of for women to continue studying after they had left school. Therefore, Marie made the difficult decision to leave her beloved Poland and head for France, where the Sorbonne University in Paris was accepting women. While studying for a degree in physics, Marie had little money and often wore every item of clothing she owned during the cold winters in an attempt to keep warm. Marie loved learning new things and it is said that she often forgot to eat and drink as a result of being so involved in her studies!

While in Paris, the young Maria Sklodowska met Pierre Curie, a fellow scientist. In 1895, they married and Maria Sklodowska became Marie Curie: Marie being the French translation of her original first name. Not being interested in a traditional wedding, Marie chose to wear a dark blue outfit instead of a white wedding dress. In fact, this was the same outfit she would end up wearing while working in the laboratory for many years to come!

Which features has the author used to inform you about Marie Curie?

Newspaper Article

New Home for Pawsborough's Longest Resident

The manager of Pawsborough dog kennels took to their website yesterday to celebrate the exciting news that their longest resident had found their forever home.

Buddy – a four-year-old greyhound – had been living at Pawsborough for six months before his luck changed. “We were starting to worry that nobody would take him,” Lydia Cross, manager at Pawsborough, told us. “Whenever people would visit, they would completely ignore his kennel. He’s such a lovely dog but nobody seemed to care; we just didn’t understand.”

After putting out an appeal on their social media site, Pawsborough were contacted by a couple who had been looking everywhere for the perfect dog. As soon as they saw Buddy, they fell in love and immediately completed the paperwork to adopt him: it was perfect. A few days later, he was on his way to his forever home.

Although Buddy’s story is a happy one, there are still plenty of dogs in need of a loving home. For more information on finding your perfect canine companion visit the Pawsborough website.

Which features have you been able to spot?

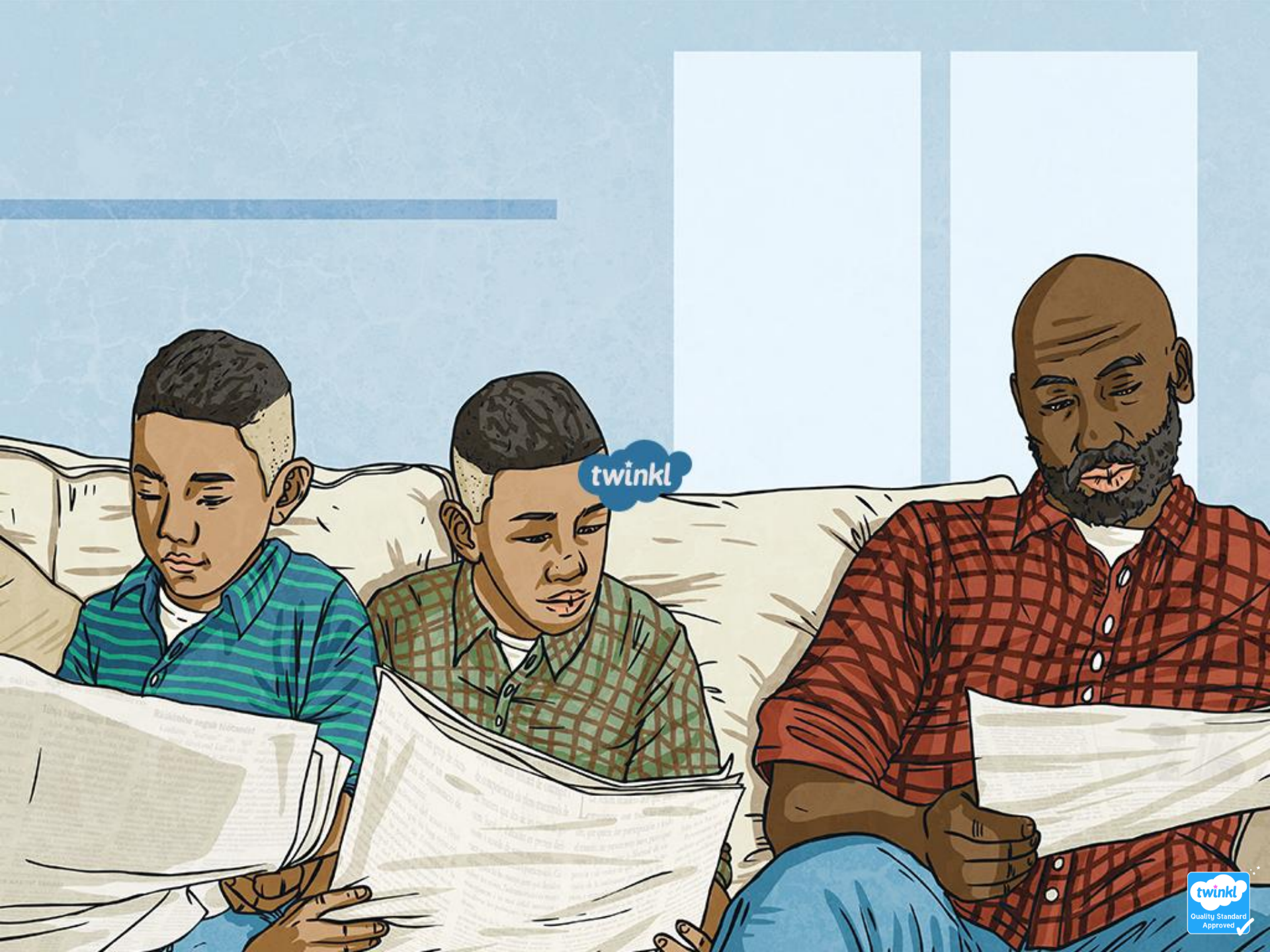
Did You Spot the Features?

Did you manage to spot any of these features in the informative writing?

- parenthesis
- subordinate clauses
- adverbials
- colons and semi-colons



Were there any other features you spotted which weren't on this list?



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