

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Text Structures

Directions: Text structure is the way an author organizes information in a piece of writing. Authors use different text structures to achieve different purposes. Common text structures are listed in the boxes on the right. Use the information in these boxes to help you answer the questions below about "How the Wolf Became the Dog."

1. What is the main purpose of the article? _____

Why is a sequence-of-events structure useful for this purpose? _____

2. The authors use description in the first section. What do the authors describe? _____

3. In the section "From Wolf to Dog," the authors explain how "a group of humans and a group of wolves teamed up." Which text structure is this?

Explain your answer using examples. _____

Description

includes details to help you picture or get to know a person, place, thing, or idea.

Cause and Effect

explains *why* something happened (cause) and *what* happened as a result (effect).

Problem and Solution

presents a problem and explains how it is solved.

Compare and Contrast

presents the similarities and/or differences between two items, such as events, time periods, or places.

Sequence of Events

describes events in the order in which they happen. This is also called *chronological order*.

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4. The author uses a sequence-of-events structure in "Hunters, Napkins." Give examples of clues (words or phrases like "the beginning" or "in 1930") that tell you this is the structure. _____

5. Look at the captions below the photographs of the Egyptian mummy dog, Sergeant Stubby, and Balto on pages 16-17. Imagine that the authors put this information into a paragraph rather than in the captions.

Which text structure would they most likely use? Why? _____

You be the author! Write a paragraph using the photographs and captions of the mummy dog, Sergeant Stubby, and Balto on pages 16-17 as inspiration. Use your answer to question no. 5 to help you.