Explanation texts tell us how or why something happens. They describe a process and they also give reasons.
Why do we write explanation texts?

We use explanation writing to help people who want to understand a process. The text should answer any how, why, when or where questions that they might have.
It is very difficult to write an explanation if you don’t know the process well. If you can, watch (or try) the process a few times (and make notes to help you when you writing later).

Making flowcharts and diagrams can also help you to plan your writing.

The stages in the life cycle of a butterfly:

1. Female butterfly attaches an egg to leaves or stems.
2. Egg hatches and a caterpillar emerges.
3. Caterpillar transforms into a chrysalis.
4. Adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.
Interest the reader
Add interesting facts and exclamations to make your writing interesting. Make sure that they are related to the subject of your explanation!

- The Sun is 149,600,000km from the Earth!
- The first mechanical computer was invented in 1822. Amazing!

Make it relevant
Try to make the subject of your explanation writing relevant to the person reading it. You could use some of the following phrases...

- Did you know...?
- Have you ever...?
- What do you think about that?
- So now you know...

Reread your writing
When you have finished writing, read your work and pretend that you know nothing about the topic. Does it make sense? Would you have any questions about the process?

If you can, ask somebody else (who knows nothing about the topic) to read your explanation. Does it answer all of their questions?
The life cycle of a butterfly.

How a spider spins a web.

The life cycle of a frog.

Why do some animals hibernate?
How is honey made?

What is the water cycle?

How do humans digest food?

How do plants reproduce?
When you are outside, look for each stage of a butterfly’s life cycle!

**Stage 1 - Eggs**
A female butterfly attaches her eggs to plants (to help the caterpillars find food when they hatch).

**Stage 2 - Caterpillar**
The caterpillar is born. It is very hungry and eats leaves and flowers. As a result, it grows really fast.

**Stage 3 - Chrysalis**
When the caterpillar has finished growing, it makes a chrysalis in order to protect itself while it changes into a butterfly.

**Stage 4 - Butterfly**
The chrysalis opens and a butterfly emerges.

Did you know that butterflies go through a life cycle?
Thank you for looking at our preview resources. We hope that they are useful to you.

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Mark and Helen