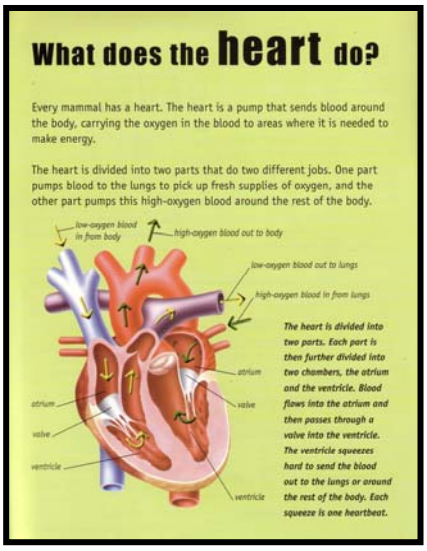
Explanatory Texts



What does the heart do?

Every mammal has a heart. The heart is a pump that sends blood around the body, carrying the oxygen in the blood to areas where it is needed to make energy.

The heart is divided into two parts that do two different jobs. One part pumps blood to the lungs to pick up fresh supplies of oxygen, and the other part pumps this high-oxygen blood around the rest of the body.

The heart is divided into two parts. Each part is then further divided into two chambers, the atrium and the ventricle. Blood flows into the atrium and then passes through a valve into the ventricle. The ventricle squeezes hard to send the blood out to the lungs or around the rest of the body. Each squeeze is one heartbeat.

An explanatory text is a non-fiction text that tells you how something works or why something happens.

- They are written in the present tense.
- Title: the title usually has a WHAT, WHY or HOW and ends in a QUESTION mark (e.g. *What is a bicycle and how does it work?*)
- An introduction paragraph is used to introduce the object or process being explained.
- The following paragraphs offer the reader a sequenced explanation moving from simple details into more complicated descriptions.
- Finally a summary paragraph is included at the end to sum information up.
- The text should include:
  - *How it works*
  - *Why it works*
  - *What it is used for*
- Causal connectives (because of this, this makes, consequently, as a result etc) should be used to show how one process causes another.
- A glossary may need to be used to explain technical words or phrases.
- Labelled diagrams, illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs may be used to help you explain your ideas clearly to your readers and to make comparison of information easier.