

# What Are Text Features? (Teacher's Notes)

## A. Definition of text features

- a. **Text features** are to non-fiction what story elements are to fiction
- b. help the reader make sense of what they are reading
- c. the building blocks for text structure

## B. Why do authors use text features?

- a. Help readers identify what is important to the main idea
- b. Draw attention to an element of the text that may appear less important than it is
- c. Readers often skip text features

## C. Common Text Features (*have students fill out chart*)

- a. Captions:
  - Appear beneath or beside photographs, diagrams, and other visual aids
  - Help you better understand a picture or photograph
- b. Comparisons:
  - These sentences help you to picture something by using a common image or measurement to help readers appreciate the scope or reality of the fact that is being presented
  - Example: A whale shark is a little bit bigger than a school bus
- c. Glossary:
  - An alphabetical list of terms or words found in or relating to the book's specific subject area with explanations
  - NOT the same as an index
- d. Graphics:
  - Charts, graphs, or cutaways are used to help you visualize what the author is trying to tell you
- e. Illustrations/Photographs:
  - Help you to know exactly what something looks like so that you can identify it
- f. Index:
  - This is an alphabetical list of ideas that are in the book with page numbers to help you easily locate it within the text
- g. Labels:
  - These help you identify a picture or a photograph and its parts
- h. Maps:
  - Help you to understand where places are in the world
- i. Special Print:
  - When a word is **bold**, in *italics*, or underlined, it is an ***important*** word for you to know
- j. Subtitles:
  - These headings help you to know what the next section will be about
- k. Table of Contents:
  - Helps you identify key topics in the book in the order they are presented

## *Text Features Graphic Organizer*

<b><u>Your Class Notes:</u></b>	<b>CAPTIONS</b>	<b>COMPARISONS</b>	<b>GLOSSARY</b>
<b>GRAPHICS</b>	<b>ILLUSTRATIONS/ PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	<b>INDEX</b>	<b>LABELS</b>
<b>MAPS</b>	<b>SPECIAL PRINT</b>	<b>SUBTITLES AND HEADINGS</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>