

Nonfiction Text Features

Each feature includes an explanation of how it can help recall, understanding information, locating details, and/or connecting ideas.

- **Afterword:** This contains information about a person or event that occurs after the end of the book. Knowing what happened satisfies your curiosity, brings closure to a series of events, and lets you see the results of decisions, conflicts, the impact of nature, and so on.
- **Bibliography:** This list at the end of the book cites the books and magazines the author used to write the book. A list of sources lets you know how much research the author completed as well as the accuracy of the information.
- **Boldface Type:** This is the darker type used for titles and headings. Key vocabulary can also be in boldface type. This feature calls your attention to words or phrases and indicates they are important. Boldface titles and headings enable readers to quickly locate specific information to prove a point, answer questions, or study for a test or quiz.
- **Glossary:** This alphabetic list of important terms explains tough or unusual words found in the text. It usually comes near the end of the book. Sometimes a glossary entry also includes guidelines for pronouncing the word, offering quick help when you can't figure out a word's meaning using context.
- **Index:** This alphabetic list of key words, topics, and names of people and places in the text comes at the end of the book. Next to each item is a page number or several page numbers, referring you to the places in the book where the idea or person is mentioned. The more page numbers an index entry has, the more details you can find about that topic. Scanning the index for a specific topic can let you know how much information you'll find in a book because the index is more detailed than the table of contents.
- **Maps:** These help you visualize the location of a place the author discusses. They also allow you to follow the path of an explorer, pilot, or rescue effort and can enable you to better understand how distances and geography can create hardships, challenges, and dangers.
- **Introduction:** This part of a text can explain how the author conceived of the idea as well as recognize others who helped the author gather information. Here, you learn about the extent of the research and interviewing the author did, and this can help you evaluate the accuracy of the information in the book.
- **Photographs and Captions:** These supply an image of an object or person and can give extra information about the topic. Captions are one or two sentences that explain the photograph. Having a visual can help you understand a difficult concept and deepen their understanding of new information.
- **Quotes and Interviews:** These features can be in sidebars or on a section of the page separate from the story. Quotes and interviews give the exact words of a person. These can provide anecdotes and stories about a person or topic that can help you remember details and connect ideas.
- **Sidebars:** These are boxes containing information on a page of a book or magazine article that didn't quite fit into the text but that the author wanted to include. Sidebars can contain a list of fascinating facts, quotes, a part of an interview, a newspaper clipping, or a letter. The additional information in a sidebar can help you better understand the topic and identify a main idea or theme.
- **Table of Contents:** This provides chapter titles and page numbers. It's also an overview of what you will find in the text.
- **Time Line:** This feature provides visual images and the sequence of a person's life, key historical events, or events that led to an invention or medical breakthrough. This feature can include key dates in a person's life. It can also cover the dates of key events in a historical period such as the Middle Ages or the Renaissance or a major war such as World War II. Time lines can have photographs, illustrations, and short write-ups under each date.