# Informational Text Features

Florida Sunshine State Standards:
LA.3-5.2.2.1 – Identify and explain the purpose of text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, headings, charts, graphs, diagrams, illustrations)
LA.3-5.6.1.1 – The student will explain how text features (e.g., charts, maps, diagrams, sub-headings, captions, illustrations, graphs) aid in the reader’s understanding.

## Print Features

*Guide readers through the patterns of organization.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Helps the Reader…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Table of Contents  | Table of Contents  
Chapter 1: All About Animals  
Animal Adaptations …….Page 1  
Animal Food………………Page 2  
Animal Habitats ………….Page 3  
Animal Homes .............Page 4  
Chapter 2: All About Plants  
Photosynthesis ………….Page 5  
Types of Plants ………….Page 6 | • See major parts of the book along with page numbers.  
• Locate information and see main topics or main points. |
| Glossaries         | Acid rain (AS ihd rayn) rain that causes certain kind of pollution.  
Adapt (uh DAPT) to change in order to survive in new environments | • Quickly find a key term from an alphabetical list. |
| Index/Indices      | Abu Simbel, temple of, p73  
Acadia, Canada, 212-213  
Acid rain, 396, c396-c397, 396-397  
Animal Adaptations p1  
Animal Food p2  
Animal Habitats p3  
Animal Homes p5 | • Quickly find pages that contain information you are looking for. |
| Key/Guide words    | braid · bread  
braid · brand  
brain · brass  
bramble · brave  
bran · braze  
branch · bread  
brea… | • Define key terms to find out their meaning in the text.  
• Better learn and understand the subject. |

## Graphic Aids

*Represent information in some specific way.*

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| Diagram    | [Volcano Diagram]                                                       | • Understand a more detailed or simplified view of information.  
• Understand steps, how objects are made, or information in the text. |
### Graphs/Charts/Tables
- Organize large amounts of information in a small space.
- Understand relationships among and between information.
- Summarize and compare information.

### Maps
- Understand where an event happens.
- Understand how far away an event took place.

### Timeline
- Understand important events in chronological order or time order.
- Understand the order of events and how one event may have lead to another.

### Illustrations
*Expand the meaning of the text.*

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| Illustration | ![Buzz Off! Illustration](image) | • Understand information in a visual way.  
• Understand the story.  
• Understand an idea from the text that was unclear. |

### Organizational Aids
*Help readers find important information.*

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</table>
| Bold print | *The Wetlands of the South*  
Why are the South’s wetlands so important?  
The Clefenteke (ch ku h fun NOH kee) Swamp is a large wetland in the South. A wetland is a place where the ground is soaked with water for at least part of the year. | • By signaling the word is important and/or found in the glossary. |
| Italics | | • Understand the word is important. |
| Titles | | • Identify the topic of the text.  
• Understand the main idea of the text.  
• Make connections between what you already know and the text. |
| Headings | | • Identify topics throughout the book/article as they skim and scan.  
• Divide the text into sections. |
| Subheadings | | • Navigate through sections of text.  
• Understand the main idea of each section of the text.  
• Locate information in the text by telling you where to look. |
| Captions | • Understand what is shown in a photo or illustration. 
• Understand information that may or may not be in the text. |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sidebars | • Locate more information than is in the text about a topic. 
• Understand interesting facts or important information the author wants the reader to know. 
• Understand by creating interest or emphasizing important information. |
| Footnotes | • Understand the meaning of an unknown word 
• To pronounce an unknown word correctly 
• Locate another source of information used in the article or story |