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# Teacher Pack



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# Materials Needed for the Projects in This Unit

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## Natural Disaster Research

- Books about natural disasters
- Internet

## Making an Answer Key

- Scissors



# Books About Natural Disasters

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**Note for the Teacher:** Gather books about natural disasters. The students will use them for their research.

## Suggested Books:

**All About Hurricanes** by Cody Crane

**All About Tornadoes** by Cody Crane

**All About Wildfires** by Alessandra Potenza

**All About Natural Disasters for Kids** by Sandhya Warekar

**DK Eyewitness Books: Volcano and Earthquake** by Susanna Van Rose

**DK Readers L4: Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters** by Harriet Griffey

**Everything Earthquakes and Tsunamis** by Baby Professor

**Floods and Blizzards** by William B. Rice

**Flood Warning** by Katharine Kenah and Amy Schimler-Safford

**Let's Read and Find Out: Earthquakes** by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley

**National Geographic Kids Everything Volcanoes and Earthquakes** by Kathy Furgang

**National Geographic Readers: Wildfires** by Kathy Furgang

**The Magic School Bus Presents: Volcanoes and Earthquakes** by Tom Jackson

**Tornado!** by Judy Fradin and Dennis Fradin

**Unbelievable Pictures and Facts About Avalanches** by Olivia Greenwood

**What Makes a Blizzard?** by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld and Maddie Frost



# Text Structures Anchor Chart



Text Structure	Explanation	Signal Words
Sequence	This type of text tells the events in order or gives a list of steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First, next, last</li><li>• Before, after</li><li>• Years, dates</li></ul>
Cause and Effect	This type of text explains events (causes) and the results of those events (effects).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Because</li><li>• Consequently</li><li>• So</li><li>• As a result</li><li>• Therefore</li></ul>
Problem and Solution	This type of text describes a problem and tells how it is solved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problem</li><li>• Solution</li><li>• Solve</li><li>• Dilemma</li></ul>
Compare and Contrast	This type of text discusses the similarities and differences between things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Like/unlike</li><li>• Both</li><li>• Similarly</li><li>• However</li><li>• On the other hand</li></ul>



# Sample Sequence Structure Organizer



1	<i>Wildfires or human activities destroy vegetation on slopes.</i>
2	<i>The roots of vegetation hold the soil in place. When the plants are removed, the slope is weakened, and the land is more likely to slide away.</i>
3	<i>Something disturbs the natural stability of the slope. For example, there could be heavy rains, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions.</i>
4	<i>Masses of rock, earth, or debris move down a slope.</i>
5	<i>Everything in the landslide's path is covered or destroyed.</i>



## Sample Sequence Paragraph

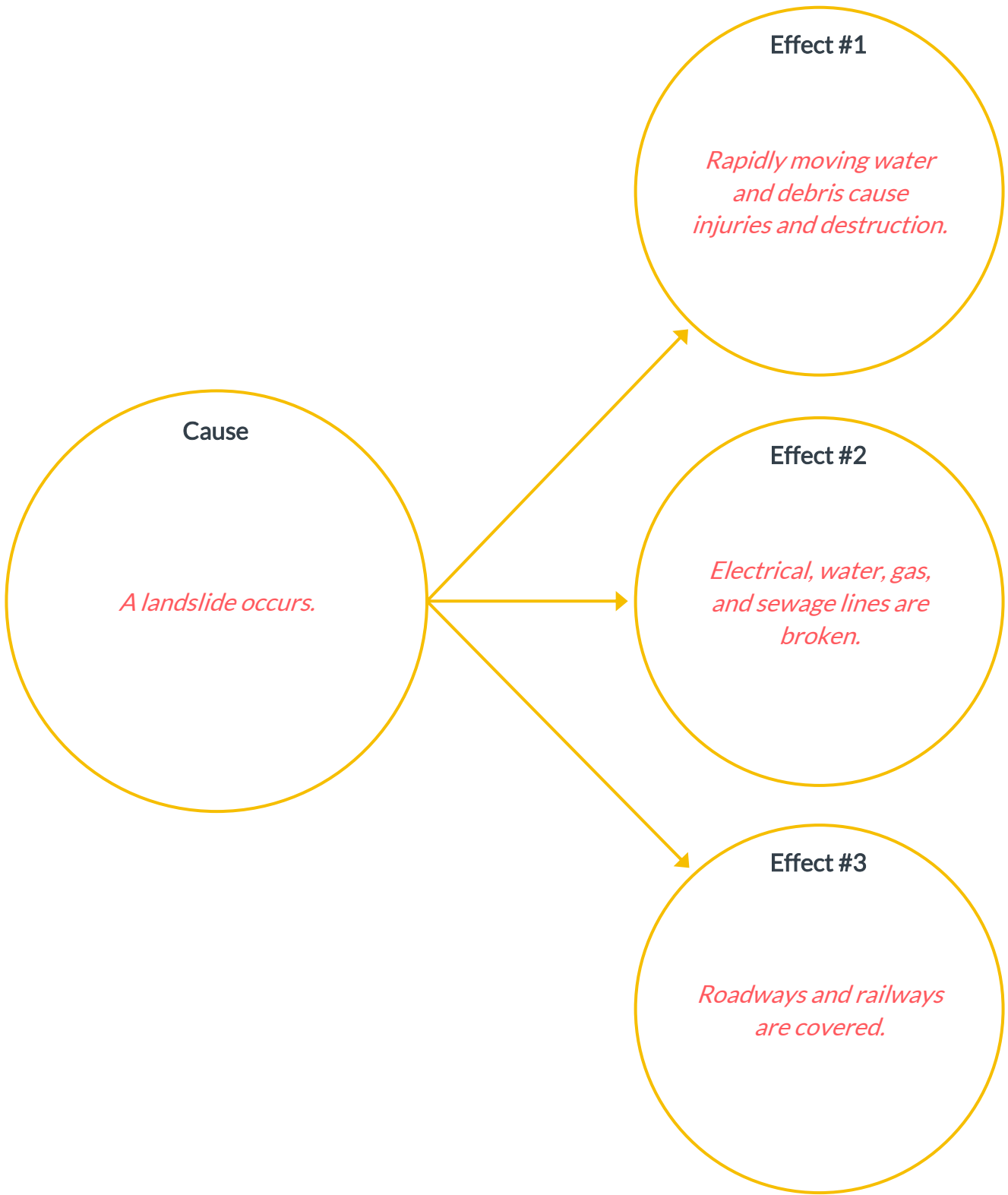
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*A landslide is a type of natural disaster that can cause a lot of damage. It starts when wildfires or human activities destroy vegetation on slopes. The roots of the vegetation hold the soil in place. When the plants are removed, the slope is weakened, and the land is more likely to slide away. Then, something disturbs the natural stability of the slope. For example, there could be heavy rains, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions. Next, masses of rock, earth, or debris move down the slope. Finally, everything in the landslide's path is covered or destroyed. Landslides are dangerous natural disasters.*



# Sample Cause and Effect Organizer







## Sample Cause and Effect Paragraph

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*There are many negative effects of a landslide. During a landslide, water moves rapidly and rocks and other debris fall down a slope. As a result, many people are often injured, and many buildings are destroyed. Electrical, water, gas, and sewer lines are often broken because of the falling debris. Railways and roadways are covered by the water and dirt, so it's hard for people to travel and get medical care. Landslides cause a lot of destruction.*



# Sample Problem and Solution Organizer



**Problem:**

A(n) *landslide* is approaching your house, and you need to stay safe.

Solution #1	<i>If you have time, evacuate by leaving the area where the landslide is occurring.</i>
Solution #2	<i>Move quickly away from the path of the landslide. If rocks and debris are approaching, run to the nearest shelter and take cover.</i>
Solution #3	<i>If you're driving, stay alert. Roads may become blocked or closed because of the landslide.</i>



## Sample Problem and Solution Paragraph

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*If a landslide is approaching your house, there are several ways you can escape this problem and stay safe. One solution is to evacuate by leaving the area where the landslide is happening. If it's too late to evacuate, move as quickly as you can out of the path of the landslide. If rocks and debris are approaching you, run to the nearest shelter and take cover. If you have a car nearby, you can drive to try to escape the landslide. Just make sure you stay alert because roads might be blocked or closed. By choosing one of these solutions, you have a good chance of staying safe during a landslide.*

# Exploring Text Structures Quick Quiz

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**Directions:** Read each question. Circle the best answer. Use information from your research to complete the sentences.

**1. Why do authors use text structures in their writing?**

- A. To make their writing more convincing
- B. To organize their information
- C. To write longer paragraphs
- D. To gather more details for their writing

Using text structures helped me write paragraphs because .....

.....

**2. Which of these would be the best topic for the cause and effect text structure?**

- A. The life of George Washington
- B. How to solve the problem of pollution
- C. The steps to make a kite
- D. The reasons animals are becoming endangered

One effect of my natural disaster is .....

.....

**3. Which text structure do the words “first,” “next,” and “last” signal?**

- A. Sequence
- B. Cause and Effect
- C. Problem and Solution
- D. Compare and Contrast

Two signal words for the cause and effect text structure are .....

and .....

**4. Which text structure would you use to write about how people are getting rid of insects in their homes?**

- A. Sequence
- B. Cause and Effect
- C. Problem and Solution
- D. Compare and Contrast

# Exploring Text Structures

## Quick Quiz *Answer Key*

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**Directions:** Read each question. Circle the best answer. Use information from your research to complete the sentences.

1. Why do authors use text structures in their writing?

- A. To make their writing more convincing     **B. To organize their information**  
C. To write longer paragraphs                     D. To gather more details for their writing

Using text structures helped me write paragraphs because *Answers will vary.* .....

.....

2. Which of these would be the best topic for the cause and effect text structure?

- A. The life of George Washington                     B. How to solve the problem of pollution  
C. The steps to make a kite                             **D. The reasons animals are becoming endangered**

One effect of my natural disaster is *Answers will vary.* .....

.....

3. Which text structure do the words “first,” “next,” and “last” signal?

- A. Sequence**     B. Cause and Effect  
C. Problem and Solution                             D. Compare and Contrast

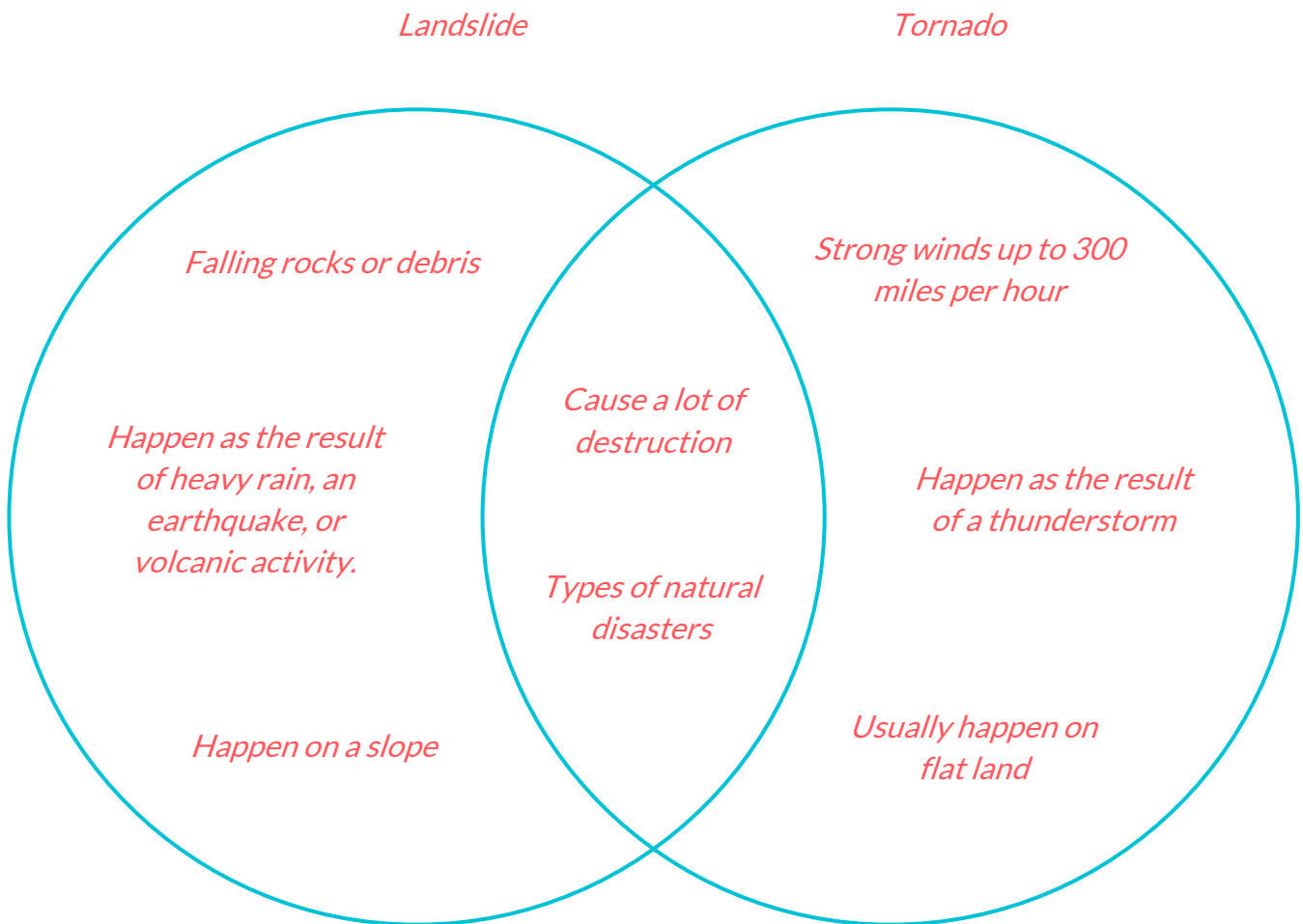
Two signal words for the cause and effect text structure are *because, consequently, so, as a result,* and *consequently.*

4. Which text structure would you use to write about how people are getting rid of insects in their homes?

- A. Sequence     B. Cause and Effect  
**C. Problem and Solution**                             D. Compare and Contrast



# Sample Compare and Contrast Organizer





## Sample Compare and Contrast Paragraph

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*Landslides and tornadoes have many similarities and differences. Both of these natural disasters cause a lot of destruction, including damage to buildings and loss of lives. Landslides involve falling rocks and debris. Tornadoes, on the other hand, have high winds that can reach up to 300 miles per hour. Landslides usually occur on a slope after heavy rains, earthquakes, or volcanic activity. However, tornadoes occur on flat land as the result of a thunderstorm. Even though there are differences between them, both landslides and tornadoes are dangerous natural disasters.*

# Exploring Text Structures Summative Assessment



## Part A

**Directions:** Write the correct letter on each line to match the text structures with their signal words.

..... Sequence

A. So, because, therefore

..... Cause and Effect

B. Similarly, both, however

..... Problem and Solution

C. First, next, last

..... Compare and Contrast

D. Dilemma, solve

## Part B

**Directions:** You need to write a paragraph about what will happen if you don't follow the rules in third grade. Choose the best text structure for your paragraph, and make sure it has a topic sentence, a closing sentence, and at least 3 signal words. Write your paragraph on the lines below.

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# Exploring Text Structures Summative Assessment *Answer Key*

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## Part A

**Directions:** Write the correct letter on each line to match the text structures with their signal words.

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| C Sequence             | A. So, because, therefore   |
| A Cause and Effect     | B. Similarly, both, however |
| D Problem and Solution | C. First, next, last        |
| B Compare and Contrast | D. Dilemma, solve           |

## Part B

**Directions:** You need to write a paragraph about what will happen if you don't follow the rules in third grade. Choose the best text structure for your paragraph, and make sure it has a topic sentence, a closing sentence, and at least 3 signal words. Write your paragraph on the lines below.

*Answers will vary, but your students should choose to use either the cause and effect text structure or the problem and solution text structure for their paragraphs. Make sure they include a topic sentence, a closing sentence, and at least 3 signal words.*

# Exploring Text Structures Rubric

	4	3	2	1
<b>Sequence Paragraph</b>	The paragraph includes a topic sentence, at least 5 sentences explaining how the natural disaster occurs, a concluding sentence, and at least 3 sequence signal words.	The paragraph is missing one important part.	The paragraph is missing two important parts.	The paragraph is missing three or more important parts.
<b>Cause and Effect Paragraph</b>	The paragraph includes a topic sentence, at least 3 negative effects of the natural disaster, a concluding sentence, and at least 3 cause and effect signal words.	The paragraph is missing one important part.	The paragraph is missing two important parts.	The paragraph is missing three or more important parts.
<b>Problem and Solution Paragraph</b>	The paragraph includes a topic sentence, at least 3 ways to stay safe during the natural disaster, a concluding sentence, and at least 3 problem and solution signal words.	The paragraph is missing one important part.	The paragraph is missing two important parts.	The paragraph is missing three or more important parts.
<b>Compare and Contrast Paragraph</b>	The paragraph includes a topic sentence, at least 2 ways the natural disasters are the same, at least 3 ways the natural disasters are different, a concluding sentence, and at least 3 cause and effect signal words.	The paragraph is missing one important part.	The paragraph is missing two important parts.	The paragraph is missing three or more important parts.

Teacher's comments: .....

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