

Text Structure

Text structure is the way information in a story or article is organized. Fiction is usually told in the order in which events take place. Nonfiction can be organized in many ways. It can state a problem and show how to solve it. It can tell the ways two things are alike and then tell how they are different. It can give a main idea and then details to support that idea.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

I think guinea pigs make the greatest pets. They are easy to care for. All they need are vegetables, pellets, and hay to eat, and some fresh water every day. With a roomy cage and a little attention, they are as happy as can be! They are also fun to have around. The most fun is listening to them talk! They can chatter all day. The best reason to get a guinea pig is that they are really cute and cuddly. They come in lots of different colors, and they have cute little heads and short legs. If you want an easy-to-care-for, fun, and cute pet, try a guinea pig!

1 How is this passage organized?

- A There is one main idea, which is supported by details.
- B The article compares and contrasts several different pets.
- C The article explains what causes guinea pigs to talk.
- D It tells what happened in order from start to finish.

2 What is the author trying to tell you in this passage?

- F No one should own a guinea pig.
- G Guinea pigs are cute.
- H Guinea pigs make good pets.
- J Guinea pigs have a varied diet.

3 Which answer best completes the outline below?

A. Guinea Pigs Make Good Pets

- I. Easy to care for
- II. Fun to have around
- III. ? _____

- A Cute and cuddly
- B Make the greatest pets
- C Eat vegetables, pellets, and hay
- D Have short legs

4 Tell about an animal you think is a great pet. Give three reasons why this animal makes a great pet.

Text Structure

Read *I Love Guinea Pigs* (pages 197–208). Then answer the questions below.

1 Which best describes how the author informs the reader about guinea pigs?

- A He puts events in chronological order.
- B He tells invented stories.
- C He uses facts and opinions.
- D He tells opinions only.

2 How does the author organize the text?

- F As a timeline
- G As text with pictures and captions
- H As a photo essay
- J As a news report

3 In the passage, the captions are usually —

- A facts
- B opinions
- C not very important
- D the most important parts

4 How does the structure of the text make it easier to understand?

5 Explain how the author tries to persuade the reader that guinea pigs make great pets.
