

LITERACY LINK 2 RECOGNIZE NONFICTION TEXT FEATURES



STRATEGY MINI LESSON (approximately 10 minutes)

Connect (1 minute)

- What is the first thing you look at when you pick up a new nonfiction book, for example, a book on the history of the circus? (Answers will vary. Prompt students to cite features common to nonfiction, such as an index and captions.)
- You've just named *text features*—organizational and graphic characteristics most often associated with nonfiction. Being familiar with these features will enable you to quickly find what you're looking for and help you get the most out of the nonfiction you read.

Teach (4–5 minutes)

- I'm going to write some common nonfiction text features on the board: *table of contents, index, table, graph, photo, caption, head, callout*.
- After I tell you the purpose of each, I want volunteers to show me an example from their Literacy Link nonfiction book or from a textbook. We should be able to find all of them.
- Located at the front of a book, a *table of contents* gives the names and first page numbers of chapters or book sections. Scan it to see the general topics in the book.
- An *index*, located at the back of the book, is an alphabetical listing of all the important topics covered with the page numbers where they appear in the book.
- A *table* is a graphic presenting information in rows and columns. A *graph* is a graphic showing how things compare at a point in time or change over time.
- A *photo* illustrates a point made in the text.
- A *caption* is a brief explanation of what is pictured in a photo or illustration.
- A *head* is a subtitle for the content in one short section of a book.
- The purpose of a *callout* is just that—to call out text to be emphasized. It is set off in some way, such as through larger type, a box, or a different color. A callout can be found anywhere on a page.

Engage (3–4 minutes) (Pairs)

- Let's try this. After you have paired up with someone reading a different book than you are, challenge your partner to find four out of the eight text features listed on the board. Then trade roles.

Review (1 minute)

- Knowing how to use text features in nonfiction will help you study better, read more purposefully, and enjoy different kinds of reading experiences.



INDEPENDENT READING (25–30 minutes) As you go back to your independent reading, think about how the book's text features work together to present information.



SHARE (10 minutes) Encourage students to name the nonfiction text feature they found the most useful in today's reading, and to explain why.