

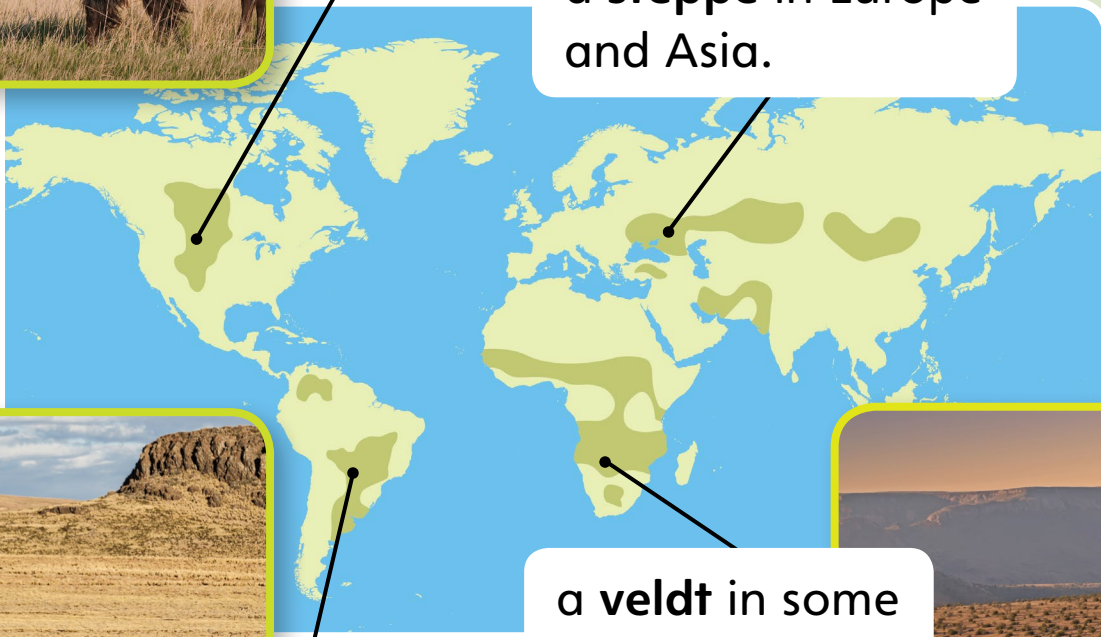
GRASSY Places

The places in these pictures have lots of grass and few trees. They have cold winters and hot summers.

The **prairie** in North America is called . . .



a **steppe** in Europe and Asia.



the **pampas** in South America.



a **veldt** in some parts of Africa.

Grasses

Prairies have mostly grasses and not many trees.



Prairie grasses can grow very tall.

Animals

Prairie dogs, owls, hawks, rabbits, and coyotes live on prairies in the United States. So do grasshoppers and flies.




Prairie dogs live underground.

Weekly Question

What patterns can we see on a prairie?


Quick Write Look at the four pictures on the map. How are these places alike? Write your ideas below.

Recognize Changes in Words

 **SEE and SAY** You can recognize new words made by changing the middle phoneme, or sound, in a word. Say the names of the pictures.



What middle phoneme, or sound, changed from the first picture to the second?

 **TURN and TALK** Work with a partner. Name the pictures. Say what sound changed.



Long a: ai, ay, ea

The vowel teams, or digraphs, **ai**, **ay**, and **ea** can make the long **a** sound. Sometimes, when two vowels are together in a syllable, the first vowel is long and the second one is silent, as in the teams **ai** and **ay**. Sometimes, the vowel team **ea** makes the long **a** sound.



MY TURN Decode, or read, the words below and listen for the vowel-team sound in each word.

ai	ay	ea
sn <u>ai</u> l	pay	break
paint	Sunday	great
brain	Monday	steak



TURN and TALK Reread the words in the chart with a partner. Underline the vowel team in each word that makes the long **a** sound. Then choose two of the words and use them in sentences. Share your sentences with your partner.

Long a: ai, ay, ea



MY TURN

Decode, or read, the words in the box. Then use the words to complete the sentences.

crayon	Friday	main
brain	break	great

1. My sister likes to draw with a blue crayon.

2. On _____ we took a _____ from the ball game to have lunch.

3. In science, we learned about the _____ and other parts of the body.

4. The _____ idea in the book is that dogs

are _____.



My Words to Know



MY TURN

Read the words in the box. Then write a sentence using each word.

kind

change

air

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



TURN and TALK

Read your sentences aloud with a partner. Talk about the sentences, and make any corrections needed.



My Learning Goal

I can read informational text and use its text features.

Spotlight on Genre



Informational Text

Informational text tells **facts** about a topic. It includes **main**, or **central**, **ideas** about the topic and important **details**. Informational text may also include:

- **text features and graphics**, such as headings, photos, captions, labels, and bold words
- a **glossary** and an **index**



Describe a book or article you have read about an animal. What made the text informational? What kinds of text features did it include?

Photos in a text are a clue that it has real information.



Informational Text Anchor Chart

→ Purpose

☉ To give information about a topic

→ Text Structure

☉ Descriptive

☉ Compare and contrast

☉ Problem and solution

→ Text Features

☉ Headings

☉ Bold words

☉ Photos

☉ Captions

☉ Glossary

☉ Index

A Home on the Prairie

Preview Vocabulary

Look for these words as you read *A Home on the Prairie*.

prairie

habitat

grazers

burrows

colonies

First Read

Look through this text. Make a prediction using the text features.

Read to see whether the text matches your prediction.

Ask questions to clarify information.

Talk about the text with a partner.

Meet *the* Author

David C. Lion loves to go out on his boat and fish. He lives in Glens Falls, New York, with his wife Kathy and their cat Jeep. He has also written a book called *A Home in the Swamp*.



A Home on the Prairie

by David C. Lion



AUDIO

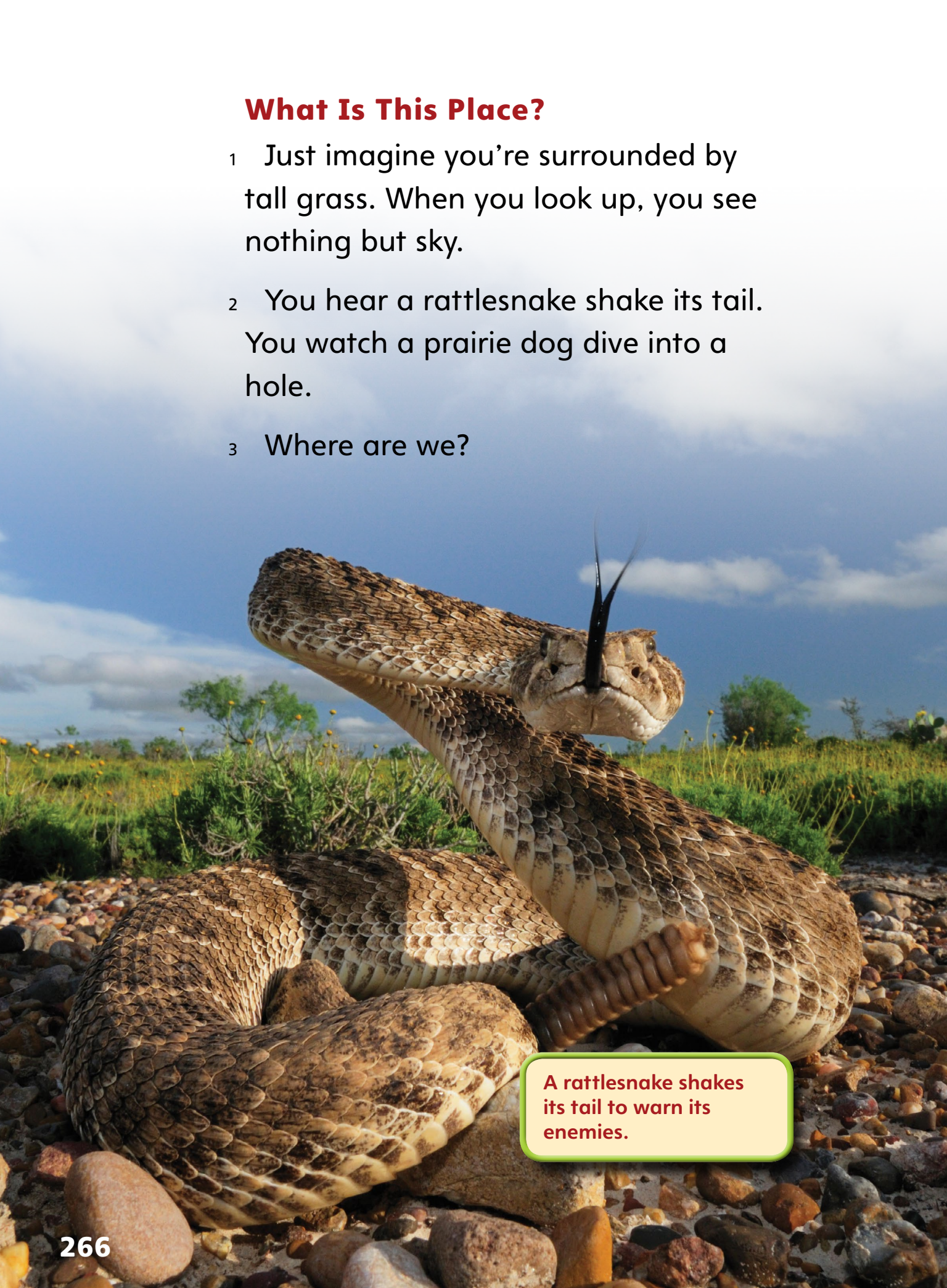
Audio with
Highlighting



ANNOTATE

What Is This Place?

- 1 Just imagine you're surrounded by tall grass. When you look up, you see nothing but sky.
- 2 You hear a rattlesnake shake its tail. You watch a prairie dog dive into a hole.
- 3 Where are we?

A close-up photograph of a rattlesnake coiled on a rocky surface. The snake's head is raised, and its tail is vibrating, creating a rattle. The background shows a grassy field under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

A rattlesnake shakes its tail to warn its enemies.



Prairies have very few trees.

CLOSE READ



Confirm or Adjust Predictions

Highlight a bold word that helped you predict the topic of this text.

- 4 We're on a North American **prairie**!
- 5 A prairie is a type of **habitat**. A habitat is where a plant or animal usually lives.
- 6 A prairie is a large, open grassland with almost no trees.

prairie a large, open grassland with very few trees

habitat the place where a plant or animal usually lives



Vocabulary in Context

Look for clues to the meanings of unfamiliar words within or beyond the sentence the word appears in. Find the word *bison*. Underline the synonym, or the word that means the same as *bison*.

- 7 Many different kinds of grasses grow on the prairie. There are tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass prairies.
- 8 **Bluestem** and Indian grass are the tallest grasses on the prairie.
- 9 **American bison** roam the prairies. Another name for bison is buffalo.

American bison





CLOSE READ

10 Bison and deer are prairie **grazers**, which means they feed on prairie grasses.

grazers animals that feed on growing grasses



Deer graze on grass, leaves, bark, and acorns.



Text Features

Underline the label that helps you locate the burrow in the photo.

Confirm Predictions

Did the facts in the text match the prediction you made before reading? What information in the text surprised you?

burrows holes or tunnels in the ground that are made by a small animal



- 11 Many prairie animals live in underground holes called **burrows**. Badgers, black-footed ferrets, prairie dogs, and burrowing owls all spend time in these holes.



Most owls live in trees.
But burrowing owls live in
underground holes!





Text Features

Underline the part of the photo caption that tells you where prairie dogs got their name.

colonies groups of animals that live in one place

- 12 Prairie dog burrows connect to form groups, or **colonies**. These colonies are almost like underground towns.



Prairie dogs got their name from the loud barking noise they make.



13 The prairie is an exciting place to explore! Peek among the tall grasses. You'll meet this black-footed ferret and other truly amazing animals that live in this habitat!





CLOSE READ



Text Features

Underline the heading that tells you the main topic of these two pages.

Confirm or Adjust Predictions

Did you need to adjust or revise your prediction based on information in the text?

A Day in the Life of a Rattlesnake

How does a rattlesnake spend most of its time?

- 14 A rattlesnake hides in burrows or under rocks or plants.

What does a rattlesnake eat?

- 15 A rattlesnake eats mice, ground squirrels, and younger prairie dogs and rabbits.



TEKS 2.6.C Make, correct, or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures; TEKS 2.9.D.ii Recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including features and graphics to locate and gain information.



What are a rattlesnake's enemies?

- 16 Humans, hawks, and eagles are a rattlesnake's enemies.

Does a rattlesnake have a special trick?

- 17 A rattlesnake rattles its tail as a warning to stay away.



Your New Words

- 1 **American bison** (uh-mer-uh-kuhn bye-suhn) prairie animals with large heads and high, humped shoulders
- 2 **bluestem** (blu-stehm) one of the tallest types of prairie grass
- 3 **burrows** (bur-ohz) holes or tunnels in the ground that are made by a small animal
- 4 **colonies** (kol-uh-nee-z) groups of animals that live in one place
- 5 **grazers** (grayz-urz) animals that feed on growing grasses
- 6 **habitat** (hab-uh-tat) the place where a plant or animal usually lives
- 7 **prairie** (prer-ee) a large, open grassland with very few trees





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- 8 **A** American bison, 268, 269
- 9 **B** badgers, 270
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- 10 **C** colonies, 272
- 11 **D** deer, 269
- 12 **E** eagles, 275
- 13 **G** grasses, 268, 269
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- 14 **H** habitats, 267
hawks, 275
humans, 275
- 15 **I** Indian grass, 268
- 16 **M** mice, 274
mixed-grass prairies, 268
- 17 **P** prairie dogs, 266, 270, 272, 274
- 18 **R** rabbits, 274
rattlesnakes, 266, 274–275
- 19 **S** short-grass prairies, 268
- 20 **T** tallgrass prairies, 268

Text Features

Underline the page number where you can learn more about deer.



Develop Vocabulary



MY TURN

Use the glossary that follows the text to determine the meaning of each word below. Write each word's meaning.

Word	Meaning
prairie	a large, open grassland with very few trees
habitat	
grazers	
burrows	
colonies	



Check for Understanding



MY TURN

Write brief comments to answer the questions. Look back at the text.

1. What makes this text an informational text?

Handwriting practice lines for question 1, consisting of a solid blue top line, a dashed blue middle line, and a solid pink bottom line.



2. Why did the author include a glossary?

Handwriting practice lines for question 2, consisting of a solid blue top line, a dashed blue middle line, and a solid pink bottom line.

3. How are prairie dogs and burrowing owls alike? Include text evidence.

Handwriting practice lines for question 3, consisting of a solid blue top line, a dashed blue middle line, and a solid pink bottom line.

Use Text Features and Graphics

Authors choose text features and graphics to help readers locate, or find, information.

- **Headings** tell the topics of the text.
- **Photos** show what the text describes.
- **Captions** tell what a picture shows.
- **Bold words** are words to learn and remember.



MY TURN

Go to the Close Read notes. Underline text features. Use features and graphics to locate information to complete the chart.

Text Feature Author Used	Information I Found
label on a photo	It helped me find the burrow in the photo.



Make and Confirm Predictions

Use headings, labels, captions, and other text features to predict what a text will be about. As you read, confirm or correct your prediction.



Go back to the Close Read note on the second page of the text. Follow the directions to highlight the text. Use your predictions and the evidence you highlighted to complete the chart.

Text Features	I predicted...	Now I know...
Title		
Photos		
Bold words		

Reflect and Share

Write to Sources

Think about everything you learned about prairies this week. Write a paragraph explaining how plants and animals work together on a prairie to help each other survive.



Use Facts to Develop a Point

When you write an informational paragraph, be sure to use facts. The facts should relate to the main topic of your paragraph.

- Decide on the main point of your paragraph.
- Find facts in the texts you read that support your point.

Write a sentence that tells your main point. In your own words, write facts that help develop your main point.

Weekly Question

What patterns can we see on a prairie?

I can use language to make connections between reading and writing informational text.

My Learning Goal



Academic Vocabulary

Synonyms are words that mean the same or almost the same thing. You can find synonyms in a book or online source called a thesaurus.




MY TURN Use a thesaurus. Write a synonym for each of the words.

Word	Synonym
behave	act
proof	
identification	
different	

Read Like a Writer, Write for a Reader

Authors choose words for specific purposes. An author uses descriptions to help you create mental images of people, places, and things to make a text come alive.

Description	What I Picture in My Mind
<p>“A rattlesnake shakes its tail to warn its enemies.”</p>	<p>I picture the snake moving its tail back and forth very quickly.</p>

 **TURN and TALK** Discuss the descriptive words in this sentence: **You watch a prairie dog dive into a hole.** How does the author help you picture prairie dogs?

Rewrite this sentence using more descriptive words:
Deer eat grass and other things.

Spell Words with Long a: ai, ay, ea

Long a can be spelled ai, ay, and ea.



MY TURN

Sort and spell the Spelling Words by their long a vowel pattern. Then write My Words to Know.

ai

brain

ea

My Words to Know

ay

Spelling Words

- pay
- break
- brain
- great
- paint
- Sunday
- Monday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

My Words to Know

- air
- change

Irregular Plural Nouns

Irregular plural nouns do not follow a spelling rule to become plural. Look at these examples.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
child	children
fish	fish
foot	feet
mouse	mice
tooth	teeth



MY TURN

Edit this draft by crossing out the incorrect plural nouns and writing the correct word above. The first one is done for you.

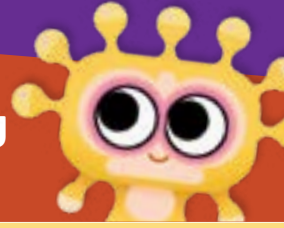
children

The ~~childs~~ in my classroom are writing a story together. It is about a family of mouses. The story is funny. It tells how each mouse likes to use its foots to play games and likes to use its tooth to hold a fishing pole and catch fishes.



I can use elements of informational text to write a list article.

**My
Learning
Goal**



Topic and Main Idea

An author chooses a **topic** to write about. The **main**, or **central**, **idea** is the most important information about that topic.

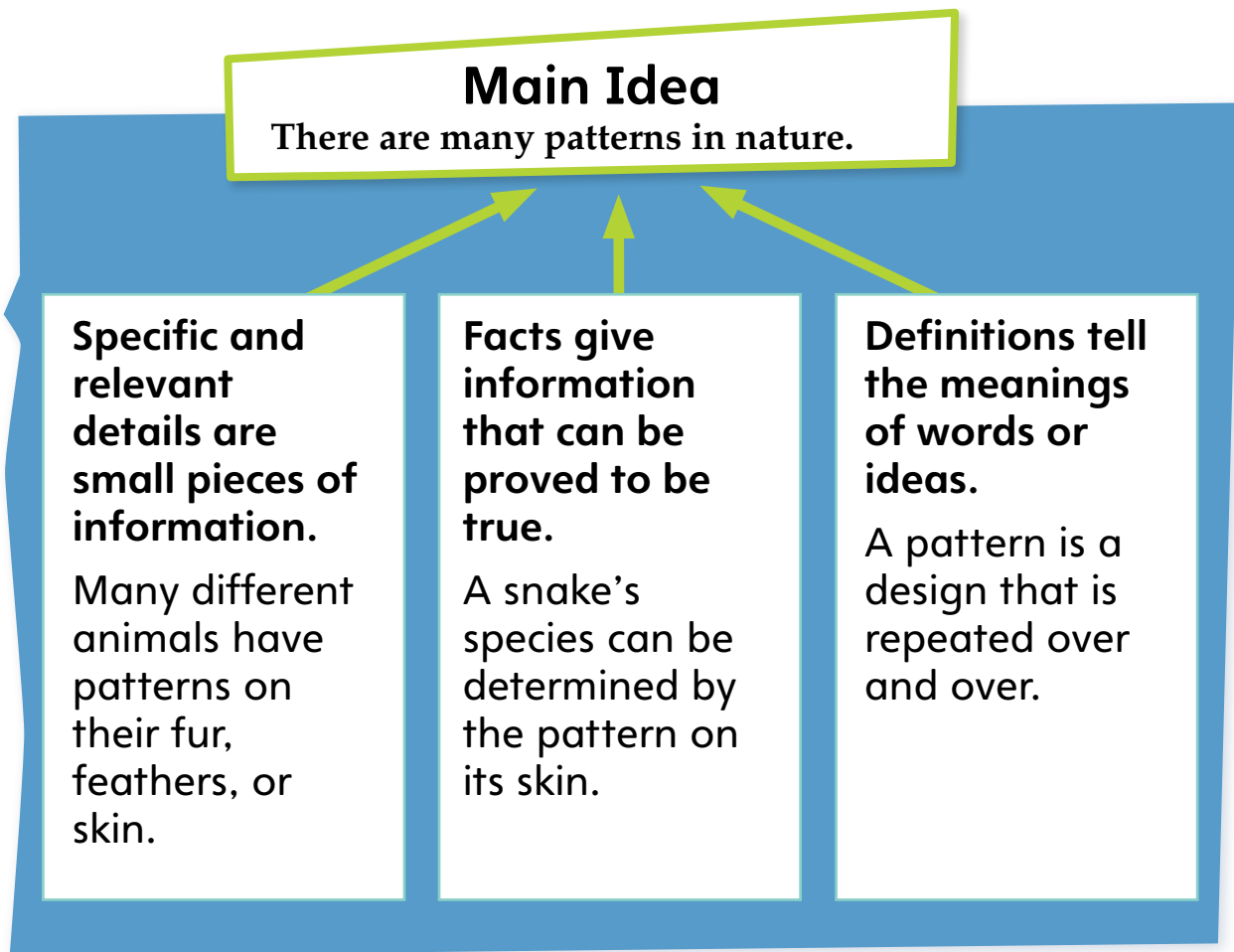


MY TURN Fill in the chart below using informational texts from your classroom library.

Title	Topic	Main Idea

Develop Details

An author uses information to support the main, or central, idea. Examples might include specific and relevant details, facts, and definitions.



MY TURN In your writer's notebook, plan the details for your list article. Use your plan to develop a draft.



Graphic Features



MY TURN

Read “The Oak Tree.” Draw two graphic features that illustrate, or show, what the text is saying. Underline the sentences that your graphic features tell about.

The Oak Tree

A tall oak tree grows from one small round acorn. The tree stands next to the lake across from our school. Its green leaves reach up to the sky.

In the fall, the leaves change. They turn many colors and then fall.

The big tree stays in the winter without leaves. In spring, green leaves grow back.

Graphic Feature 1

Graphic Feature 2