

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exploring Text Structures

"Text structure" is the term for how an author organizes information. Authors use different text structures to achieve different purposes, and one piece of writing can often have multiple text structures.

Directions: Common text structures are listed in the boxes on the right. Use the information in these boxes to help you answer the questions below about the text structures in "Lost in Death Valley."

1. How do the descriptions in the section "Blazingly Hot" contribute to the article?

2. Find one section or passage from the article that uses a cause-and-effect structure. Identify the section and explain how you know it has that kind of structure.

3. What problems and solutions are described in the section "Grim News"?

Description or List

Includes details to help you picture or get to know a person, a place, a thing, or an idea

Cause and Effect

Explains *why* something happened (cause) and *what* happened as a result (effect)

Problem and Solution

Presents a problem and explains how it is solved

Compare and Contrast

Presents the similarities and/or differences between two items, such as a pair of events, time periods, ideas, or places

Sequence of Events

Describes events in the order in which they happen (This is also called chronological order.)

4. Identify one text structure that is used in the section "The Search Begins." Explain your answer. Which words or phrases helped you identify this structure?

5. In the section "Looking Back," what is the author's purpose in explaining what has happened to the women since their ordeal?
