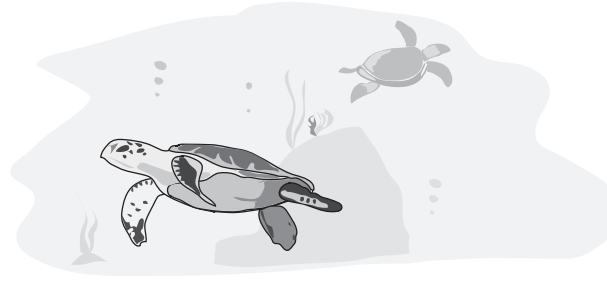


Note. This more complex text can be written as a scaffold (see Writing - 19/a) with gaps left for sentence beginnings or key phrases and the rest of the text modelled by the teacher.

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1



Text Structure - Description

General statement - identifies and classifies subject

Description - including appearance, habitat, food, reproduction

TURTLES

Turtles are members of the reptile family of animals. There are more than 200 different types of turtles. Terrestrial turtles, which live on land, are sometimes called tortoises.

Turtles have hard shells on their backs. The upper section of the shell is called the carapace. It is joined at the sides to the plastron, or the lower section. Turtles have small eyes, little noses, four legs and short webbed feet.

These animals do not have teeth. Turtles eat things such as plants, fish, frogs and insects.

Marine turtles live in rainforest rivers and streams but they leave the water to bask in the sun and lay their eggs. The females lay their eggs on land, in holes in the ground. When the baby turtles hatch, they crawl down to the water.

Language Features

Text organised from most general classification to more specific details.

Use of general nouns, e.g. turtles
Technical nouns e.g. plastron, carapace

Use of timeless present, typical of much scientific writing, e.g. are, have, live

Use of linking verbs, e.g. are, have

Use of action verbs to build information, e.g. live, eat, bask

Use of adjectives to describe, e.g. hard, small, short, webbed

Sentences and statements used throughout the text.