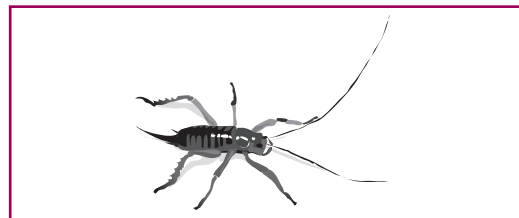


Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Note: There is an English on-line unit to link to this text <http://english.unitecology.ac.nz/resources/units/insects/home.html>



WETA

**Classification**

Weta are insects. They belong to the same family as grasshoppers and crickets. There are many different types of weta, which are found in different parts of the world, but the largest weta in the world is found in New Zealand. The scientific name of this giant weta is *Deinacrida*, which means "demon grasshopper".

**Appearance**

Weta have a hard outer covering. Male weta have big heads. Female weta have a long spine called an ovipositor at the back which looks like a sting, but is actually for laying eggs. The ears are not on the head, but on the front legs. Weta use two curved sensors at the back of the body, to check out the environment by sensing vibrations. These sensors are called cerci.

**Habitat and behaviour**

Weta live in rotting wood and in holes in trees and sometimes come inside houses. They are more often seen at night than in the day. They are omnivorous, which means they eat both animals and plants, but they prefer other insects.

**Predators**

Many animals such as tuatara and rats like to eat weta. Also many birds such as kiwi, weka, and ruru enjoy eating weta. Some species of weta are becoming endangered in New Zealand as their forest habitat is destroyed.

**Language Features**

Use of timeless present, typical of much scientific writing, e.g. belong to, have looks like

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. ears, head, ovipositor, weta

Use of action verbs, e.g. eat, come out

Use of relating verbs, e.g. Weta have big heads.

Use of phrasal verbs e.g. to check out the environment

Use of passive voice, e.g. are found

Use of general nouns, e.g. holes

Use of technical language, e.g. *Deinacrida*, ovipositor, cerci

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. different parts of new Zealand, both animals and plants

Use of compound and complex sentences

Use of topic sentences to organise bundles of information, e.g. Weta have a hard outer covering. Many animals such as tuatara and rats like to eat weta.

Use of repeated naming of the topic as the beginning focus (grammatical theme) of the clause, e.g. Weta are, Weta live, Weta have

Text Structure - Information Report Title

General statement - identifies and classifies subject

Description - includes, habits, appearance, habitat, behaviour