

Year 4 Non-Fiction Writing: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to non-fiction writing can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring non-fiction writing together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child would benefit from more practise writing non-fiction texts or they are confident with this text type and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

language features of non-fiction writing



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Non-Fiction

What Is Non-Fiction Writing?

Non-fiction writing is factual writing or writing that's based on real events. It's the opposite of fiction – writing that describes imaginary people, settings and situations.

Non-fiction writing can take different forms. In year 4, your child will study a selection of non-fiction text types, for example instructions, recounts (writing about what happened in the order it happened in), reports (a description of the characteristics of something), explanations (a technical explanation of how something happens or works) and persuasive writing (convincing someone to do something).

By year 4, children are expected to be able to plan their non-fiction writing giving it a structure so that it is informative and clear to follow. They should use an increasing range of vocabulary and sentence structures to convey information as well as to organise their writing into paragraphs. They should also use other simple organisational devices, where appropriate, such as headings and sub-headings. By this stage, children are expected to write for a purpose by considering the intended audience for their writing, editing and improving their work at the end and proofreading for spelling and punctuation errors.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with non-fiction writing, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child build up and develop their non-fiction writing skills.

Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Read a range of non-fiction texts with your child, such as biographies, diaries and encyclopedias. Make a list of things learned and create a quiz to test the rest of the family.

Interview Time

Ask your child to think about their favourite author. Imagine they were about to interview them for a newspaper or magazine. What ten questions would they ask them? How do they think the author would respond? Can they role play the interview with you?

Create a Poster and Be a Critic

Encourage your child to think about their favourite non-fiction book. Can they create a poster to advertise and encourage other children to read the book? Can they write a book review of something they've read recently, whether fiction or non-fiction?

Be a Reporter

Ask your child to think of an event from a story they've read. Can they turn it into a newspaper article? What would the headline be? How can they make it seem dramatic?



Step 1

Language Features of Non-Fiction Writing

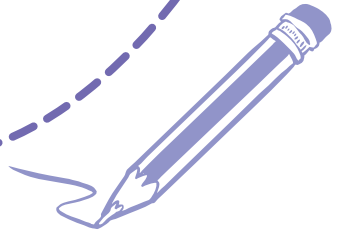
Non-fiction writing often requires the use of more formal words and phrases than fiction. By year 4, children should be more aware of the purpose of and audience for their writing. This, in turn, should have an impact on the type of words they include, for example technical language relevant to the subject as well as using descriptive and factual words and phrases for effect. Take a look at these non-chronological reports with your child as examples of how to incorporate precise word choices into their writing.



Organising Non-Fiction Writing

At school, your child will be learning how to write and incorporate different types of sentences into their non-fiction writing, such as complex sentences (where a sentence has a main and a subordinate clause), e.g. 'after a while, the children started writing.' In year 4, they will continue to use paragraphs as a way of grouping writing about the same topic together, as well as headings and sub-headings to organise their ideas. Different non-fiction texts have different features and organisational requirements; these information cards detail the features of each one.

Step 2



Step 3

Planning Non-Fiction Writing

By this stage, your child should be able to create a solid plan showing the form their non-fiction writing is going to take. There are six non-fiction genres: recounts, instructions, reports, explanations, persuasion and discussion. Each of these take on different forms – this pack contains planning ideas and sheets to help your child create the perfect plan for writing



Writing and Editing Non-Fiction Writing

Now your child is ready to write their non-fiction text incorporating key features and language specific to the genre. By year 4, children should be building their self-editing and evaluation skills, carefully checking a piece of work at the end and thinking about ways to improve it. They may be asked to assess their writing against success criteria (or checklists) and peer-review other children's writing using the same list. You could take a look at this set of checklists to help.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!