

Nonfiction Features

Grades 2&3

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Introduction

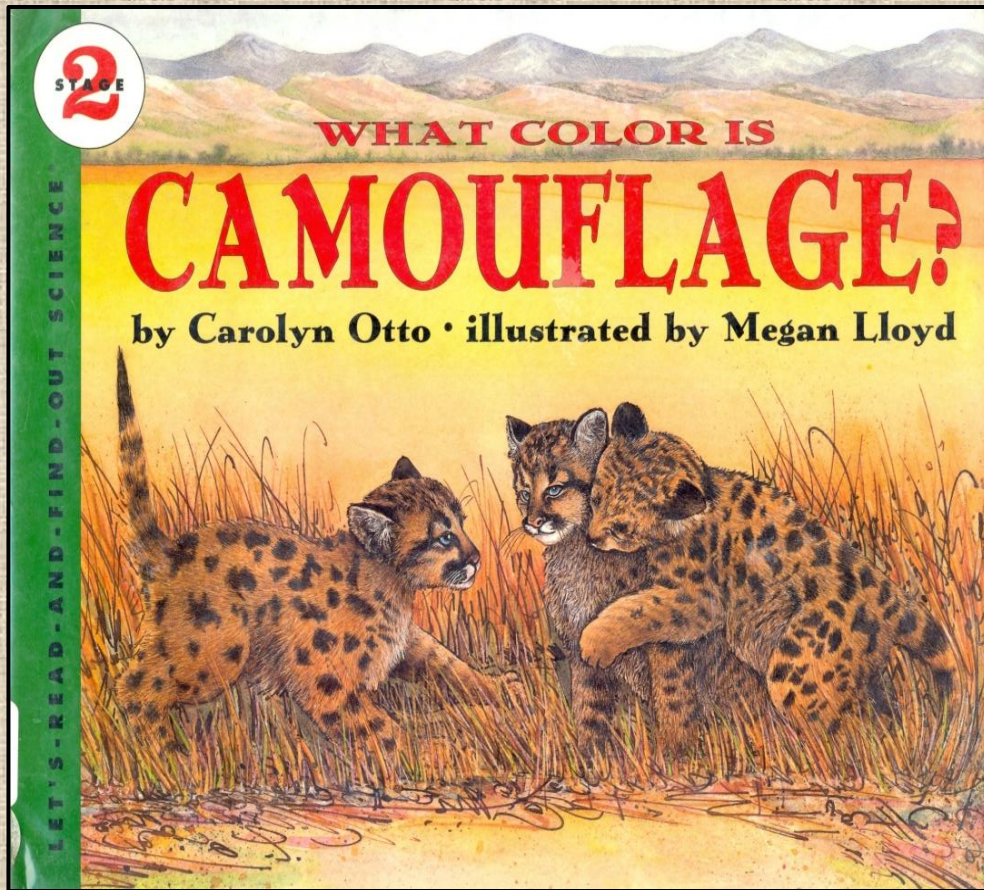
Nonfiction books have features that help us to find and understand the facts and information in them. Good readers learn how to use these features.

Outside Features

Readers look at the following outside features before reading nonfiction books:

- Book Covers
- Book Flaps
- Spine Labels (on library books)

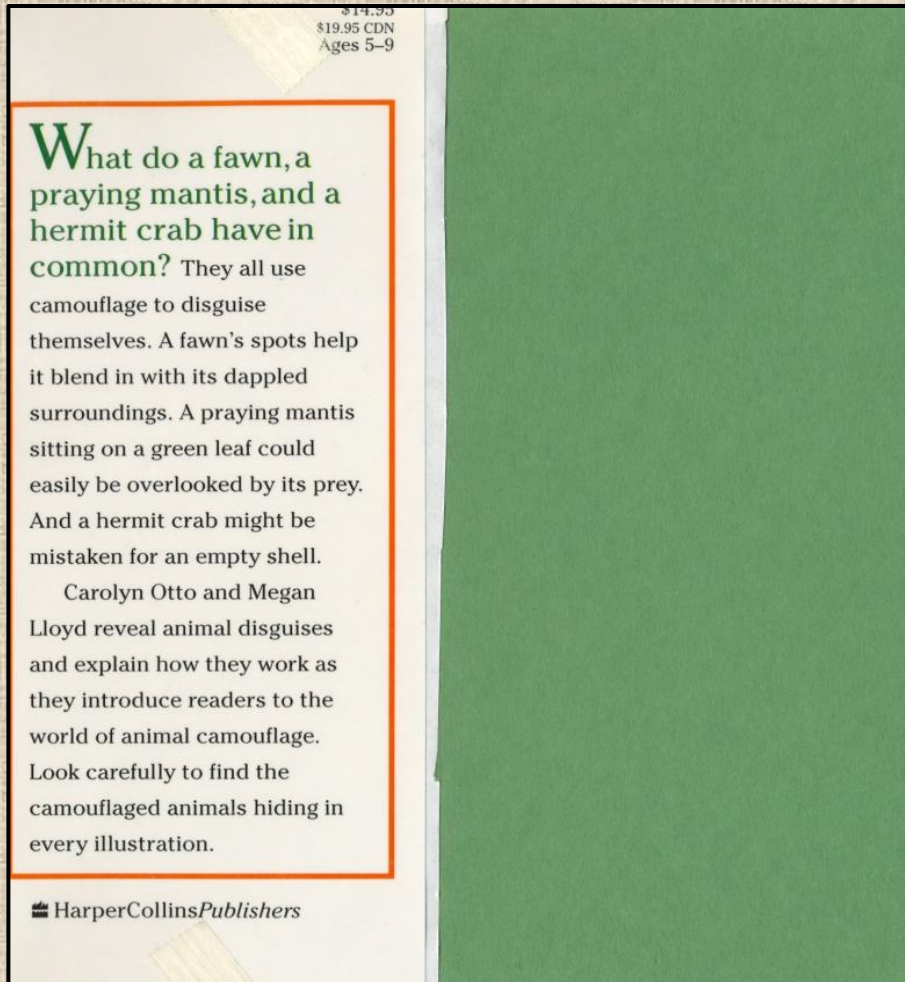
Front Cover



This is the **front cover** of a book.

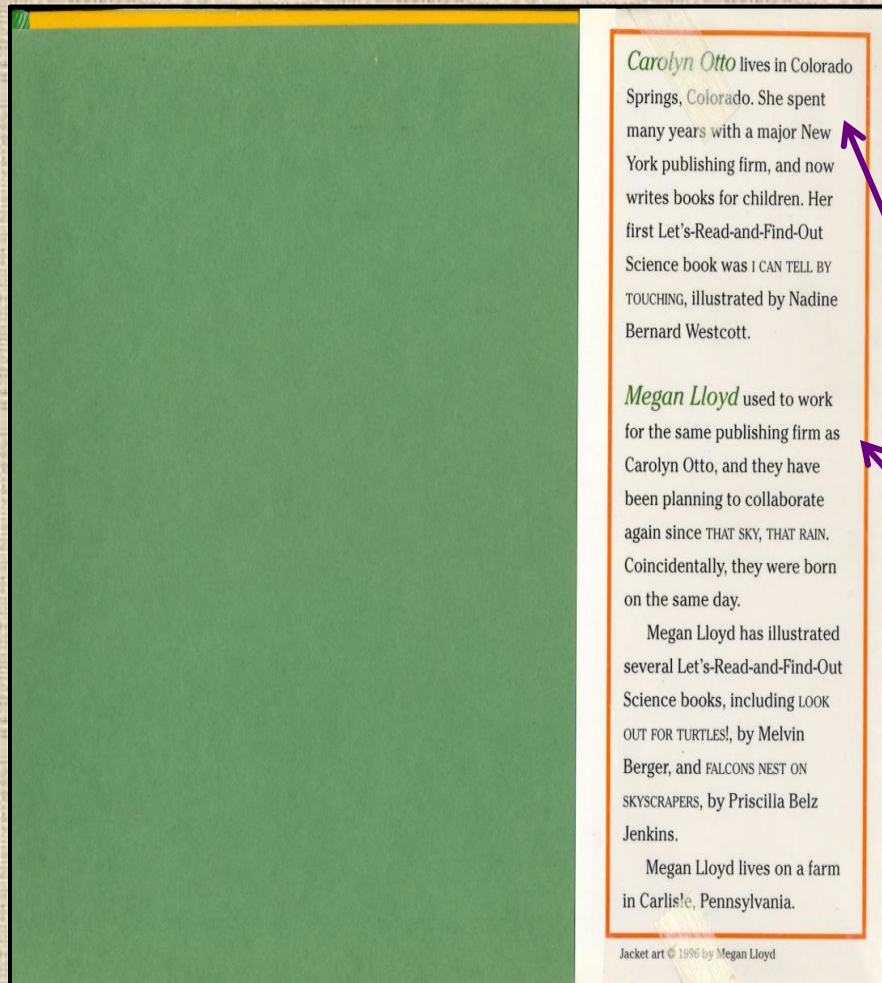
Good readers read the **title** and look carefully at the **illustration**.

Front Book Flap



The front book flap tells us what the book is about.

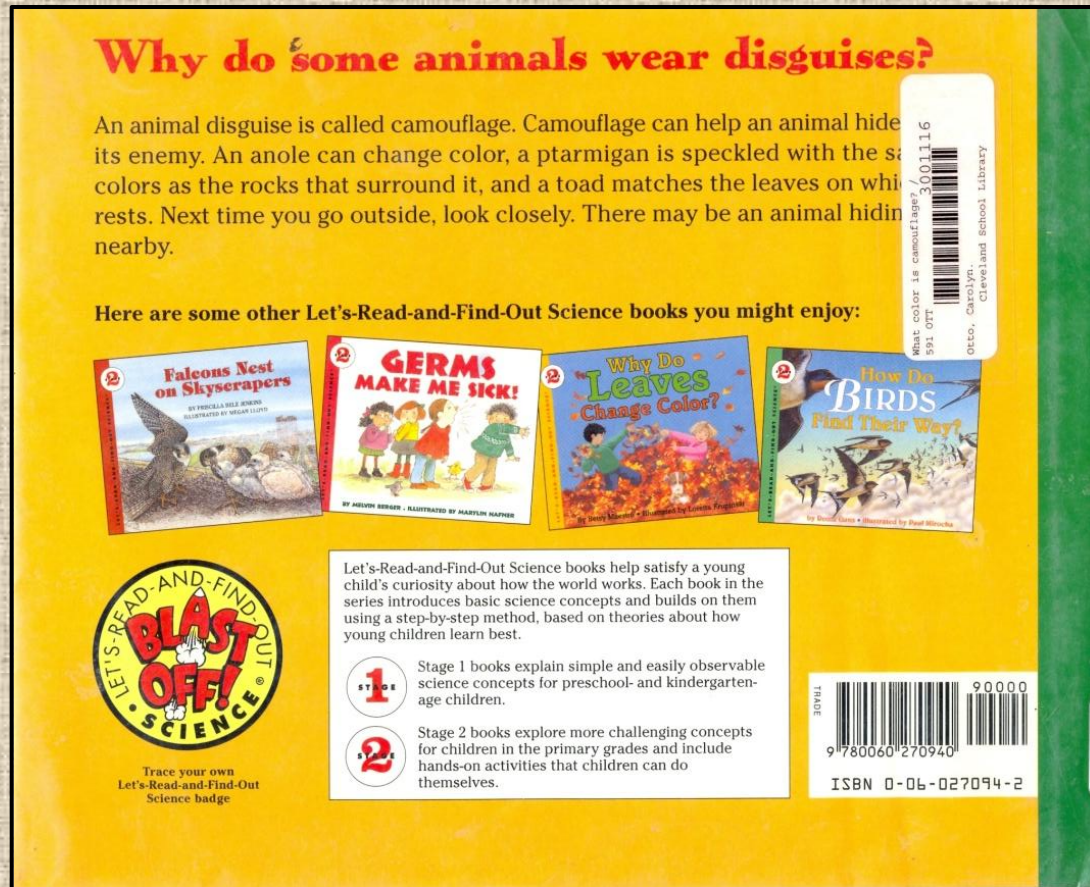
Rear Book Flap



The rear book flap tells us about the author and illustrator.

Back Cover

Sometimes the **back cover** tells us what the book will be about. It often lists or shows other books in the series.

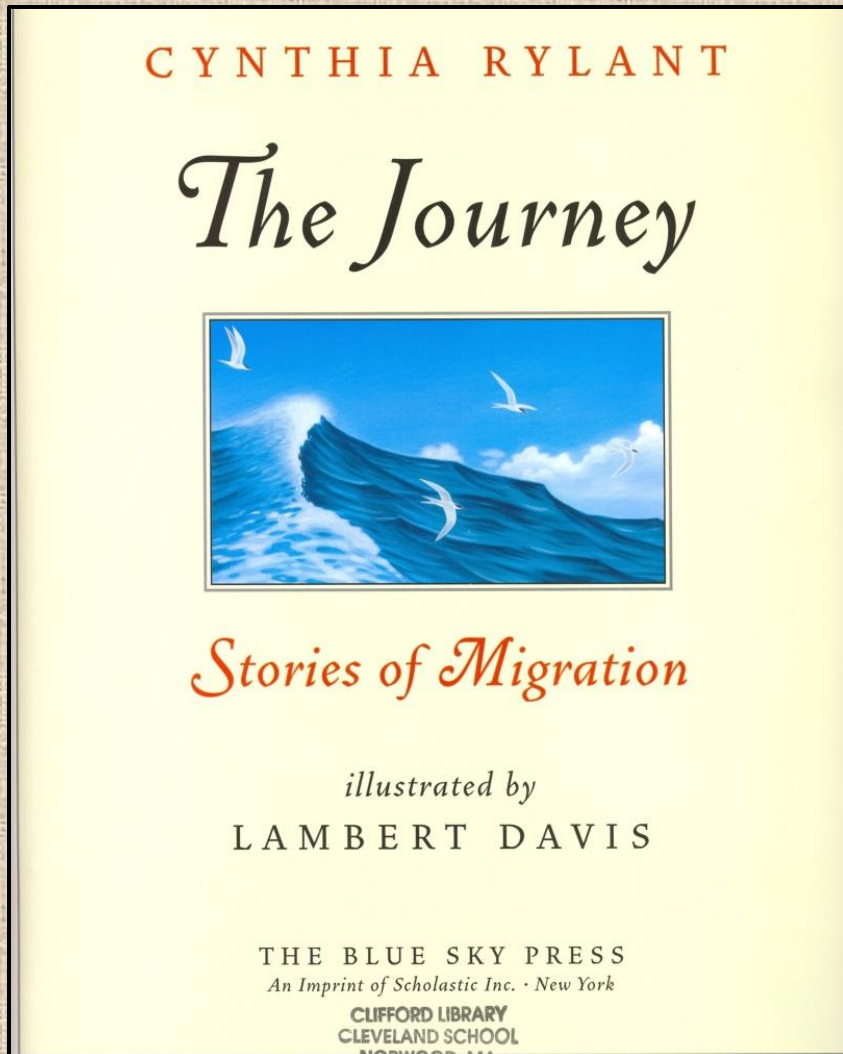


Text Organizers

Readers examine these text organizers before reading the book:

- Title Page
- Contents Page
- Introduction
- Glossary
- Index

Title Page

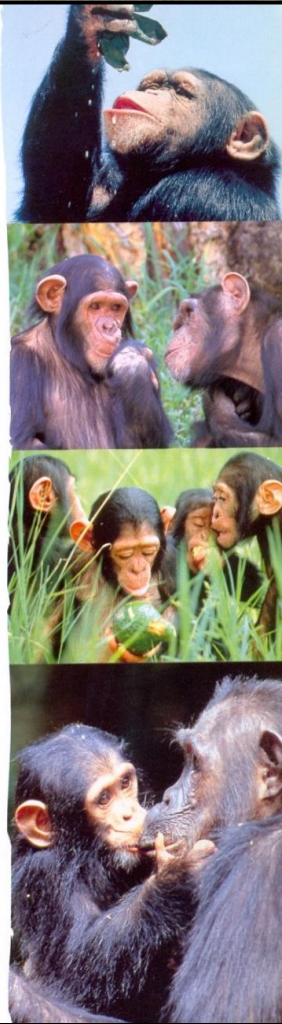


The Title Page
gives the names
of the **author**,
illustrator and
publisher.

Contents Page

Contents

Where Chimpanzees Live	4
Baby Chimpanzees	6
Looking After the Babies	8
Family Life	10
Grooming	12
Growing Up	14
Making Friends	16
Eating	18
Using Tools	20
Rest and Sleep	22
Chimpanzees in Danger	24
People and Chimpanzees	26
Helping Chimpanzees to Survive	28
Further Information	30
Glossary	31
Index	32



The **Contents Page** lists all the chapters in the book. It also lists the Glossary and Index.

The Contents Page tells the reader what each chapter is about.

Introduction

Introduction



MOST creatures live out their lives in the places where they are born. The tiny mouse runs in the fields where his mother ran. The gray squirrel lives in the same tall trees all her life. The cow stays on the farm.

But there are some creatures who do not stay where they are born, who cannot stay. These are the creatures who migrate. Their lives will be spent moving from one place to another. Some will migrate to survive. Some will migrate to create new life. All will be remarkable.

Here are the stories of some of these remarkable travelers. The locust, the whale, the eel, the butterfly, the caribou, the tern—so different from each other but so alike in one profound way: Each must *move*.

The **Introduction** tells the reader what the book will be about.

The Introduction comes after **Contents Page** in the book.

Glossary

Glossary

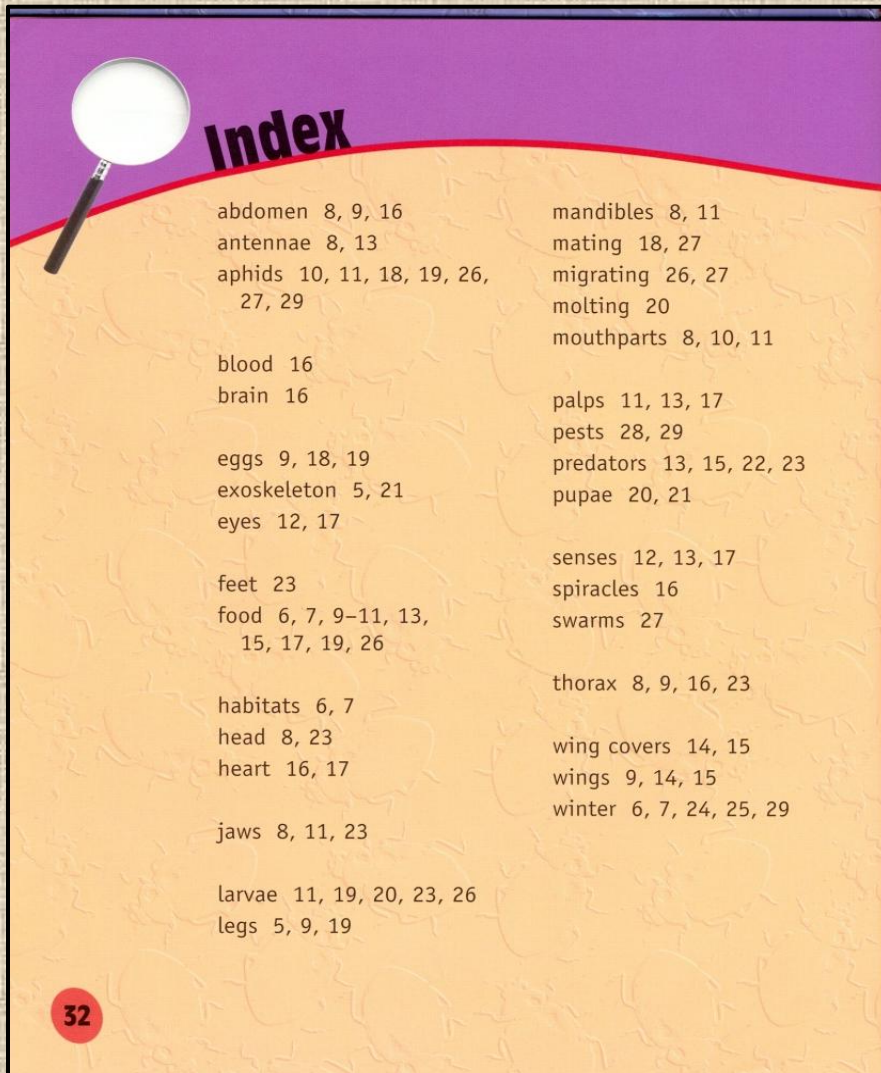
abdomen	last of the three main sections of an insect	molt	when a growing insect splits open its outside skin and climbs out of it; many insects need to molt so they can grow
antenna	(more than one are called antennae) feeler on an insect's head	nutrients	parts of food that are important for an animal's health
beetle	insect with hard wing covers	palp	fingerlike part of a ladybug's mouth
compound eye	eye made up of many parts	predator	animal that kills and eats other animals
exoskeleton	hard outside skin of an insect	prey	animal that is caught and eaten by other animals
fungus	(more than one are called fungi) plantlike living thing that feeds on dead plants and animals	pupa	(more than one are called pupae) stage in a ladybug's life between larva and adult
habitat	place where an animal lives	sense	how an animal knows what is going on around it, such as by seeing, hearing, or smelling
larva	(more than one are called larvae) stage in a ladybug's life between egg and adult	species	type or kind of animal
leaf litter	dead and rotting leaves on the forest floor	spiracle	tiny air hole
mandible	jaw	swarm	many insects moving together
mate	when a male and a female come together to produce young	thorax	chest part of an insect
migrate	move from one place to another, often over a long distance		

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The **Glossary** is located near the back of the book.

The Glossary gives definitions for some words in the book. It lists these words in **alphabetical** order.

Index



The **Index** lists every topic in the book in **alphabetical order**.

The Index shows the **page numbers** where readers can find information on the topics.

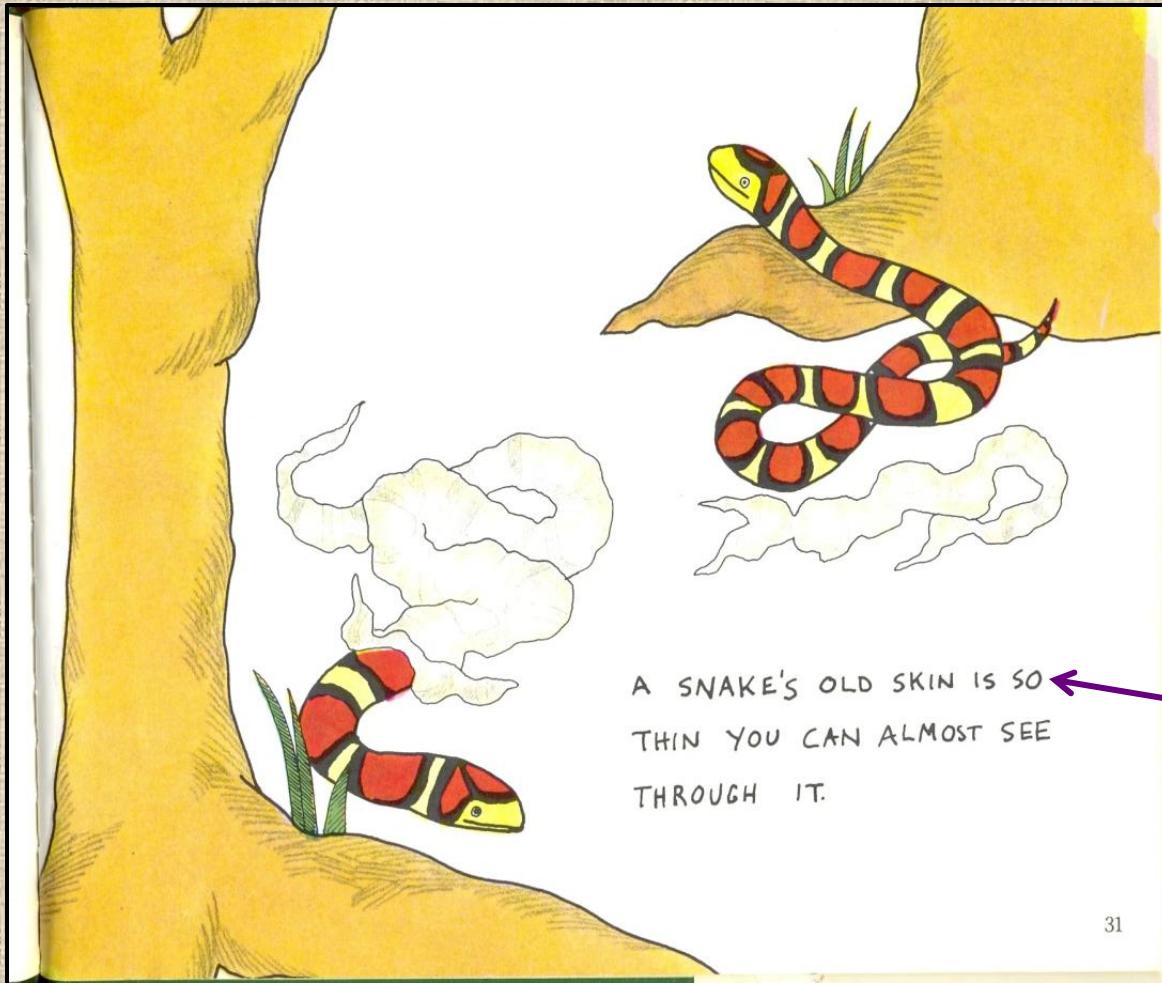
The Index is located at the **end** of the book.

Illustrations

Readers understand information in nonfiction books better with illustrations that show what things look. Illustrations include:

- Drawings – made by the illustrator
- Photographs – taken by a camera

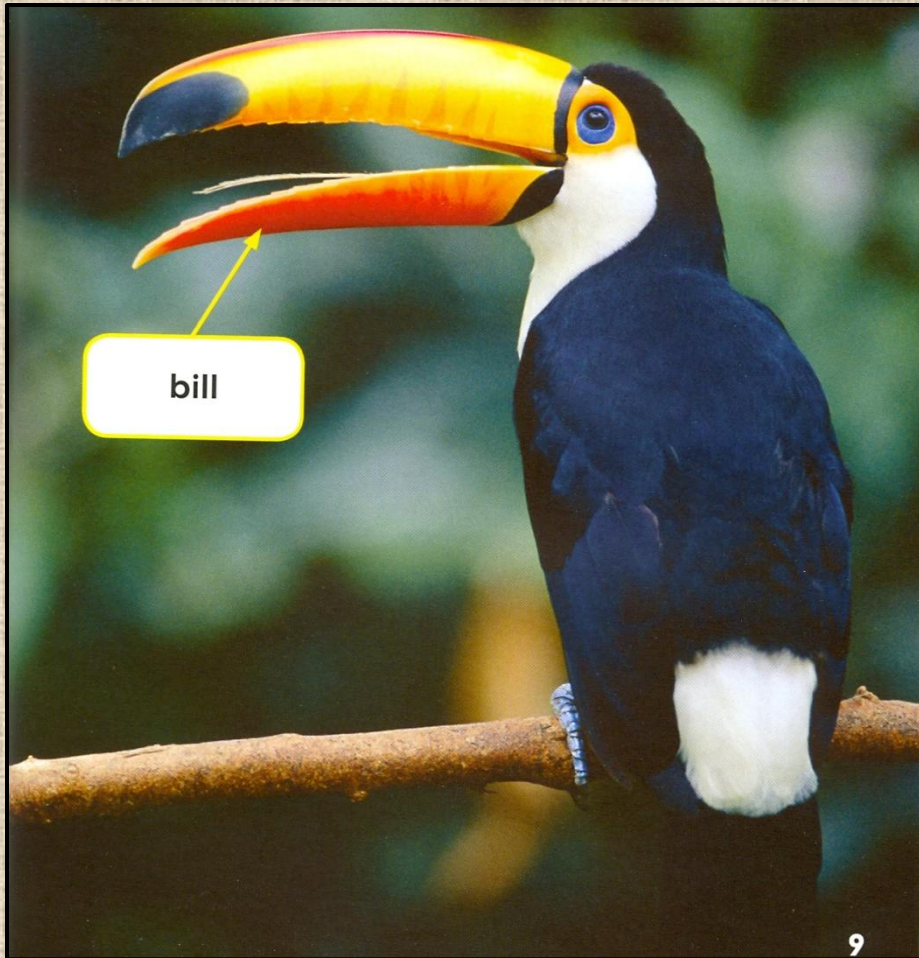
Drawing



This illustration is a drawing. It shows snakes shedding their thin skins.

The caption explains the picture.

Photograph



This illustration is a **photograph** of a toucan bird.

The photograph has a **label** with an **arrow** pointing to the bird's large bill.

Photographs That Compare



Some
illustrations
compare one
object to
another.

Close-up Photograph

BOA EYES

UP CLOSE

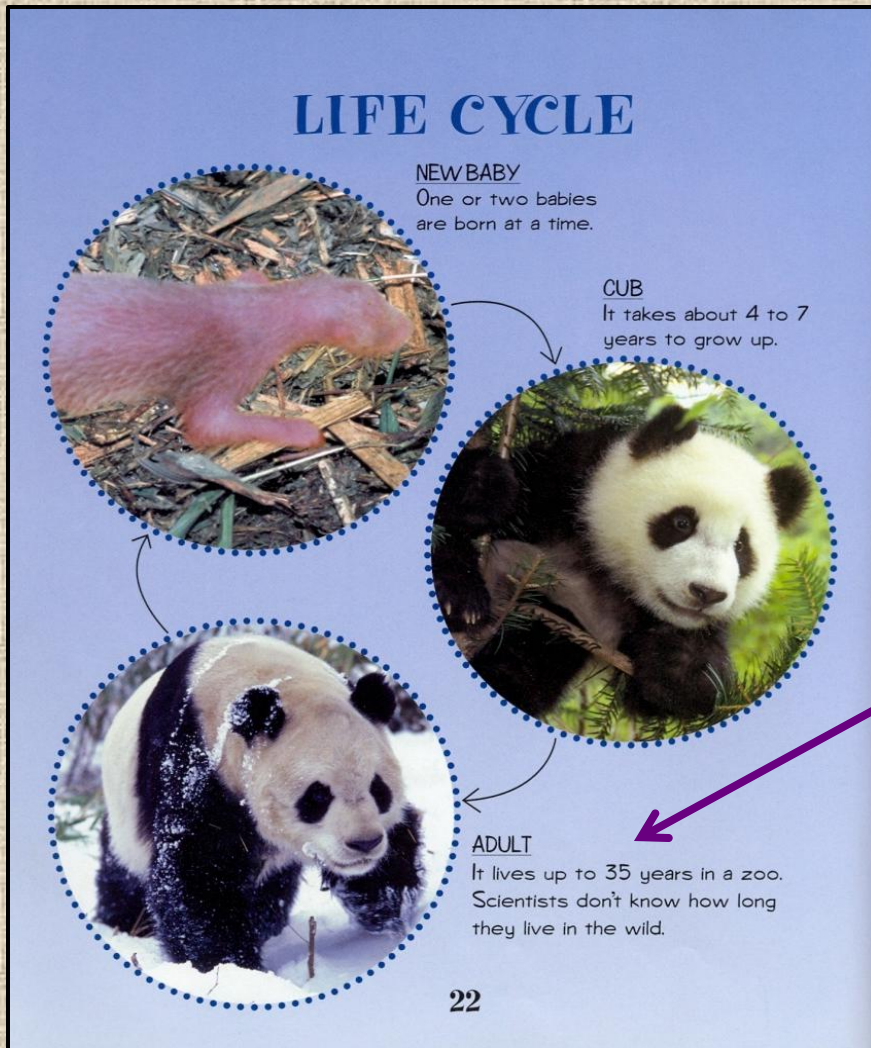


Snakes never blink or close their eyes. They do not have eyelids. Clear skin covers the boa's eyes to keep out dirt and bugs. Snake eyes are always watching.

6

This photograph is a **close-up** of the clear skin that covers a **boa's eye**.

Photographs That Show a Life Cycle



These photographs show the stages in the panda's **life cycle**. The **captions** describe each photograph.

Graphics

Graphics help the reader to see, compare and understand facts. Graphics include:

- Tables
- Charts
- Diagrams
- Maps

Table

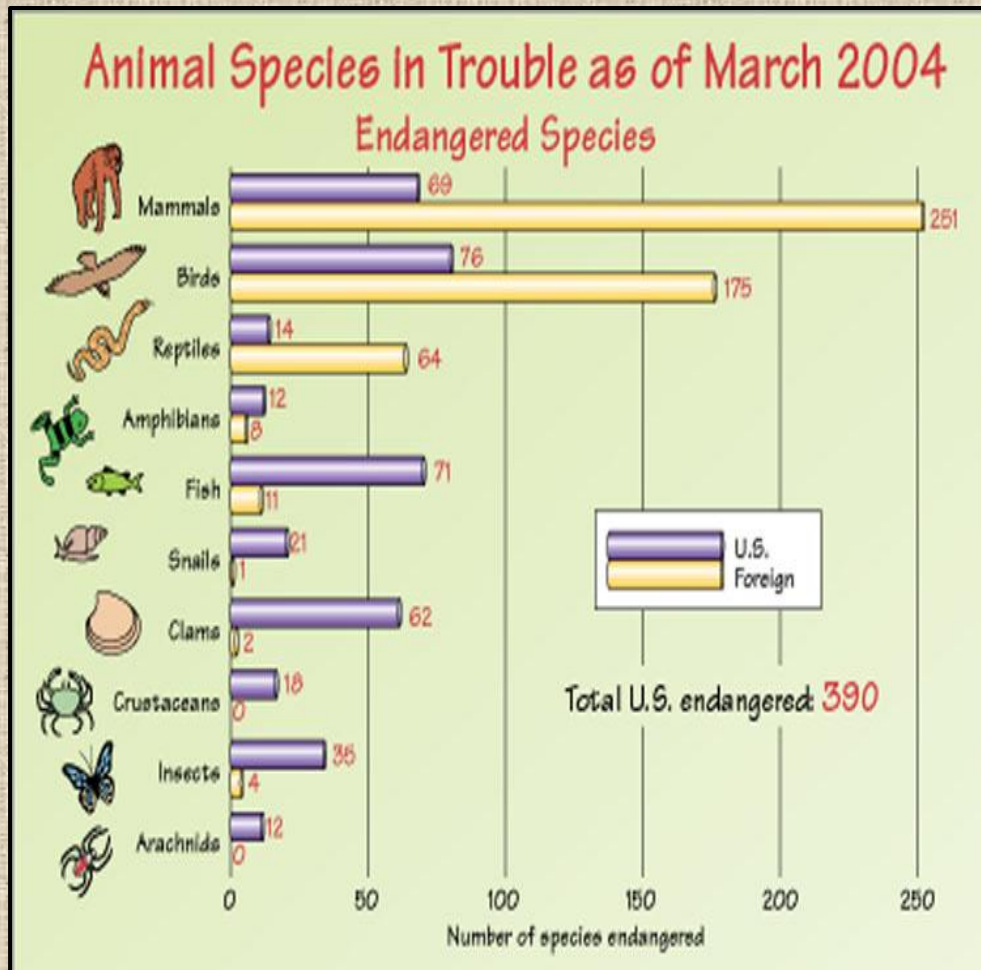
Table : **Length of life of animals**
(from the Animal article)

Mammals	
Buffalo, American	20
Cat	14 ¹
Chimpanzee	30-40
Deer (fallow)	20
Dog	12-20 ¹
Elephant	50-70
Goat, Mountain	14-18
Grizzly bear	25
Hippopotamus	41
Horse	20-30 ¹
Lion	13
Monkey (rhesus)	27-28
Mouse (field)	1
Sheep	10-20
Squirrel	7
Tiger	20
Wolf (gray)	12-16
Zebra	22

This is a **Table**
called **Length of
Life of Animals.**

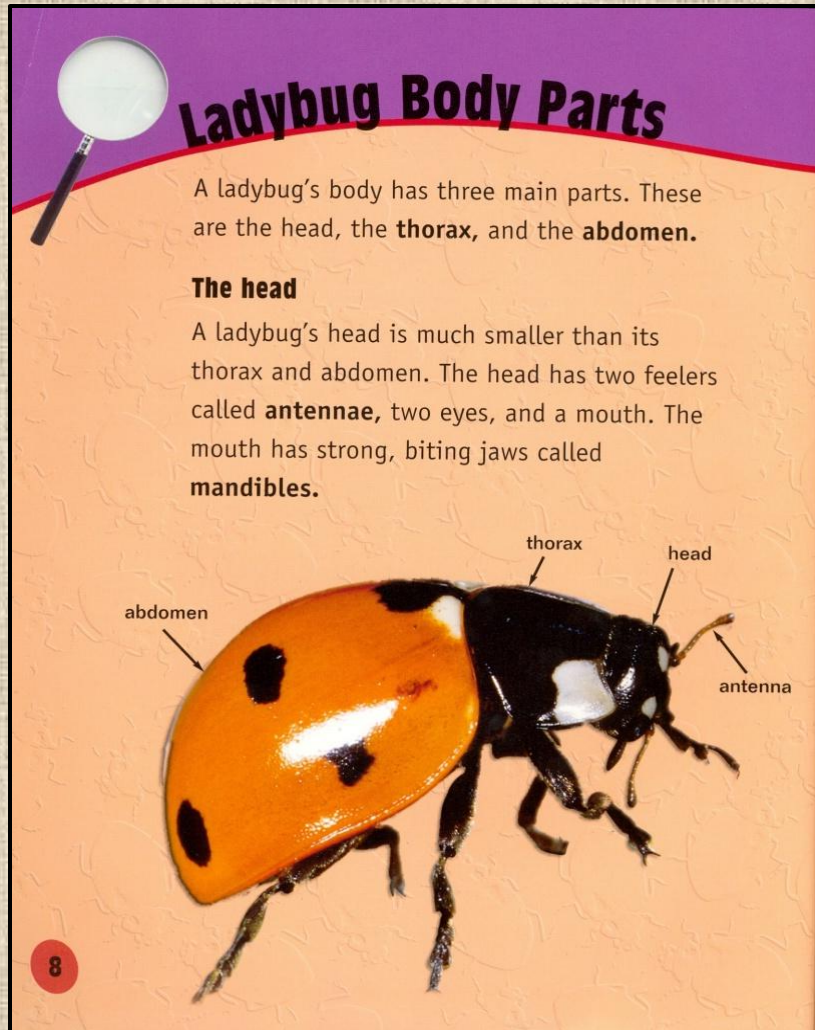
Readers use
Tables to see
and compare
information.

Chart



This chart is a **bar graph**. It shows endangered animals in the U.S. and world.

Diagram



A diagram has labels that tell us what each part is.

This diagram shows the **parts** of a ladybug.

Map



This is a **map**.
Maps show
where things are
in the world.

This map shows
where
chimpanzees live
in Africa.

Print Features

Special print features focus your attention on parts of a nonfiction book. Print Features include:

- Titles
- Headings
- Captions
- Labels

Chapter Title



Chapter Title

What Chimps Look Like

Chimpanzees have dark hair over most of their body. Older chimps can have gray hair on the head and chin, and some chimps may go bald as they age.

6

The chapter
title is **bolded**
and in **larger**
print to call
attention to it.

Heading

Bright eyes

Cats are known for their brilliant eyesight, and eyes that glow in the darkness. When it is dark, cats' pupils expand to let in lots of light so the cats can see. The pupils then narrow again when it is brighter.



Narrow pupils in the light.



Expanded pupils in the dark.

Touch

Whiskers are long, stiff hairs with nerve endings at the roots. Framing the cat's face, these hairs help it to feel its way around, by providing the cat with information about its environment.

Smell

A sensitive nose helps each cat to recognize its home, mate, family, and food. A cat's nose has about 19 million nerve endings in it.

Taste

A large, rough tongue is used for grooming, licking meat from bones, and lapping up water.

SENSITIVE SENSES

All cats are extremely sensitive to vibrations in the air. Some may even sense earthquake tremors and volcano eruptions before they occur. People living on the slopes of Mount Etna, an active volcano in Italy, often keep pet cats as early warning devices. When the cats run away in terror, their owners quickly follow!



13

The heading
"Bright Eyes"
is **bolded** and
in **larger**
print.

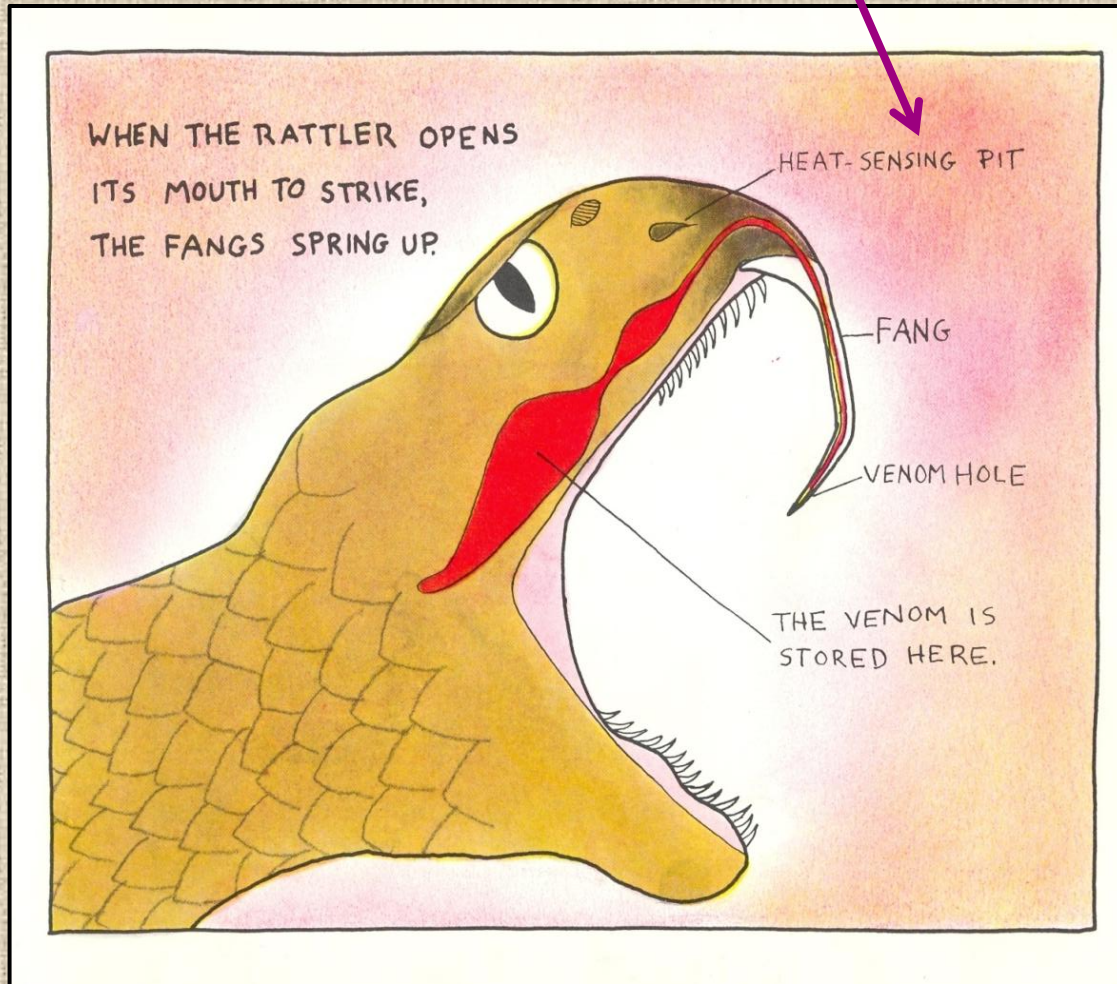
Caption



Adult male chimps
weigh 100 pounds (45.35
kg) on average.

**A caption
describes
this
illustration.**

Labels



This diagram has labels for the parts of the rattlesnake's mouth.

Lists That Help Us

Nonfiction books provide other features to help us. These features include:

- Lists of additional facts
- List of other books to read
- List of websites to visit

Fact List

Pandas cannot survive without respect and cooperation from humans.



With help from humans, pandas have a chance to once again establish themselves in stable bamboo forests. But without human cooperation, these beautiful animals have little chance of surviving in the future.

Panda Facts

Name: Giant Panda, Panda bear or—in Chinese—daxiong Mao (DAH-SHWIN MAHOO)
Scientific Name: *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*
Shoulder Height: 25 to 32 inches (64–81 centimeters)
Body length: 4–6 feet (1.2–1.8 meters)
Tail length: 5–7 inches (13–18 centimeters)
Weight: 170–325 pounds (77–147 kilograms)
Color: Black and white
Reaches sexual maturity: 4 to 5 years
Females mate: Once every 2 to 3 years
Gestation: About 5 months
Litter size: 1 to 2 cubs, though usually only 1 cub survives
Social life: Lives alone
Favorite food: Young, tender bamboo shoots
Habitat: Forested mountains in central China



Nonfiction books often provide **lists** of additional **facts**. Sometimes these facts are in a **box**.

Book and Web Site Lists

LEARN MORE

Books

Doeden, Matt. *Boa Constrictors*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005.

Longenecker, Theresa. *Who Grows Up in the Rain Forest?* Minneapolis, Minn.: Picture Window Books, 2003.

Schlaepfer, Gloria. *Pythons and Boas*. Danbury, Conn.: Franklin Watts, 2003.

Web Sites

Oakland Zoo. *Animals A-Z: Boa Constrictor*.
<<http://www.oaklandzoo.org/atoz/azboa.html>>

San Diego Zoo. *Boa: Quick Facts*.
<<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-boa.html>>

This page has a list of other snake **books** to read.

It also has a list of **web sites** to visit.

Copyright Date



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The **copyright date** tells the reader when the book was published.

The copyright date is found on the back of the **title page**, or at the end of the book.

Conclusion

- Nonfiction books have special features that help the reader to understand the subject better.
- It is important that readers understand these features so they use them in their reading every day.

Source Bibliography – Books

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<http://www.middleweb.com/ReadWrkshp/JK33.html>
- Stein, Barb et al. Reading Nonfiction Part 1. October 22, 2009.
<http://www.iowa-city.k12.ia.us/library/Curriculum/Lit/Lessons/ReadingNonfiction1.htm>
- Stein, Barb et al. Reading Nonfiction Part 2. October 22, 2009.
<http://www.iowa-city.k12.ia.us/library/Curriculum/Lit/Lessons/ReadingNonfiction2.htm>

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