

# Learning together

## Visualizing a Text Using a Diagram

ACTIVITY #10

SEQUENCE: STRATEGIES WHILE READING  
2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE — PRIMARY

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### Purpose of the activity

The purpose of this activity is to use overarching ideas (activity #9) to build a diagram of the text in order to better understand how the ideas are organized.

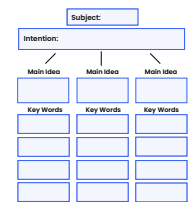


### Relevance of the activity

To help your child understand how the main ideas are organized in a text, creating a diagram can greatly help them «see» the relationships between ideas. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.



### Supplies



### To do this activity, you can use:

- the text “A Voyage Through Forests” and the text diagram (both in the appendix)
- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level

## LET'S GO!

### Explain the activity:



Today we are going to use the main ideas in a paragraph to build a diagram of the text in order to better understand how the ideas are organized.

### Explain why:



Once we have identified the main idea for each of the paragraphs, we must then identify the keywords that are related to that idea. This strategy will help you make connections between ideas and understand how they are organized in the text.

### Explain when:



After reading a paragraph, you can stop and ask yourself: What are the keywords that are related to the main idea of this paragraph? How can I make a diagram of this text in order to present the ideas better?

### Try it together:



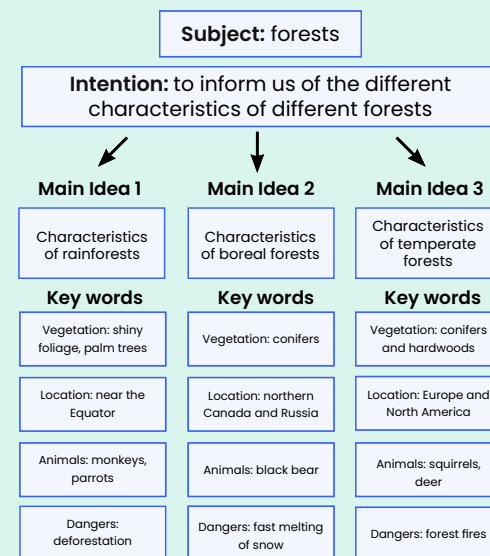
As we saw in Activity 3, there are two main families of texts: narrative texts (texts that tell a story) and informative texts (texts that inform).

### The strategy I am presenting is good for both types of texts.

- In the case of the text *"A Voyage Through Forests,"* it is clear that this is an informative text, as it describes the main characteristics of the different forests in the world.

In the previous activity, we had already identified the main ideas for each of the paragraphs.

To help us represent the text as a whole, we will use a diagram to visualize it.



As you can see, this diagram shows us different elements that are of interest to us.

**1 First, the subject of the text: forests. We can also see the author's intention:**

to inform us about the characteristics of different forests.

**Intention:** to inform us of the characteristics of different forests

**2 Then, we follow three arrows that lead us to three other rectangles.**

These three rectangles represent the three paragraphs, the three main ideas that are directly related to the subject and intention.

**Main Idea 1**

Characteristics of rainforests

**Main Idea 2**

Characteristics of boreal forests

**Main Idea 3**

Characteristics of temperate forests

**3 As you can see, for each of the main ideas, there are key words:**

These are the details that are specific for each type of forest. What do you notice?

It's true: we are comparing the same characteristics: vegetation, where they grow, animals and dangers.

**Key words**

Vegetation: shiny foliage, palm trees

Location: near the Equator

Animals: monkeys, parrots

Dangers: deforestation

**Key words**

Vegetation: conifers

Location: northern Canada and Russia

Animals: black bear

Dangers: fast melting of snow

**Key words**

Vegetation: conifers and hardwoods

Location: Europe and North America

Animals: squirrels, deer

Dangers: forest fires

**Quick tips!**

This strategy can also help you choose the right words, or key words, to write in the margin next to a paragraph.



Now that we have a good picture of the text, the main ideas and the details related to them are clearly identified, it is easier to make links between ideas and to spot them in the text. This gives us a better understanding of how the text is organized.

## A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!  
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.  
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

### Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that they block the sun's rays. Here, there is a lot of shiny foliage. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, where it is always hot and humid? They are home to exotic animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, tropical forests and the animals that live in them are not immune to deforestation.



### Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called taiga, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada and Russia**. In these forests, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live there, such as black bears.



**Temperate forests**

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. Here we find **conifers**, but also hardwoods such as **maple and birch**. This type of forest is found in **Europe and North America**. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer. Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, both big and small! They're the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, we can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,  
**Jean Bouleau**

## Narrative Diagram



## Informative Diagram

