

# Learning together

## Taking Visual Clues into Account

### ACTIVITY #8

SEQUENCE: STRATEGIES WHILE READING —  
UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT 2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE - PRIMARY

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### Purpose of the activity

The purpose of this activity is to get your child to observe visual clues (headings, subheadings, bold words, italics, tables and graphs) in a text to identify the main ideas.



### Relevance of the activity

These clues allow the reader to quickly identify the main ideas of the text and to increase understanding of certain passages that are more complex.



### Supplies



**You can use the text in the appendix:**

■ *A Voyage Through Forests*

**You can also use:**

- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level

## LET'S GO!

### Explain the activity:



Today, we will look at the visual clues in a text to help us identify the main ideas in the text.

### Explain why:



Visual clues give you an overview of the main ideas: information that is important in the text. In other words, the author intentionally attracts your attention by using these visual cues.

### Explain when:



These clues help us both to prepare for reading, as we discussed in the reading preparation activities, and also to better understand the main ideas as we read.

### Try it together:



In the introductory activities, we have already gotten an overview of these clues to help us predict the subject of the text and to activate our knowledge to identify the reading intention.

When reading, these same clues allow us to better understand how the ideas are organized and to locate information more quickly.

### Let's take the text "*A Voyage Through Forests*" as an example again.

This text presents us with different visual clues:

- the title,
- subheadings,
- images,
- five separate paragraphs,
- bold words.



In this text, we understand that there are three overarching ideas or three main ideas: tropical forests, boreal forests and temperate forests. So that means if I'm looking for information specific to one of these types of forests, I could use these subheadings to find the right information.

In each of these paragraphs, there are words in bold:

- **jungle** and **near the equator**,
- **conifers**, **Russia** and **Canada**,
- **conifers** and **hardwood**,
- **Europe** and **North America**.

These words in bold all have one thing in common: They give us clues about the type of trees found in each of these forests and where they grow in the world.



The images also show one of the aspects that is addressed in each of the paragraphs: the types of trees found in each of these forests.

- For example, in the case of tropical forests, the trees are described as being **“so high that they block the sun’s rays”** and that **“there is a lot of shiny foliage.”**

It is not clear what type of trees they are, unlike the other paragraphs. Thanks to the image, I understand that the jungle is mainly composed of palm trees.

In short, visual cues help us to prepare our reading, to better depict the organization of ideas and to check our understanding.

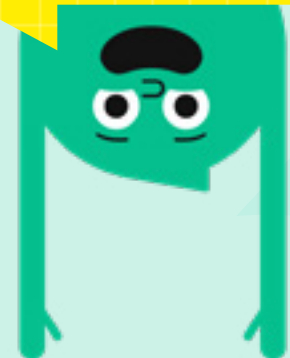
### Let’s go looking for graphic clues in our books at home:

To search:

- **Title**
- **Subheadings**
- **Illustrations**
- **Diagrams, tables, plans or schemas**
- **Words in bold or italics**
- **Word lists or added in the margin (often refers to the definition of a word)**

### Quick tips!

Did you know that visual clues in a text can also be used to make predictions and activate our knowledge on the subject?



## 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**

