

Teaching Sixth-Grade **Nonfiction Text Features**

Using *The Great Rhino Rescue: Saving the Southern White Rhinos* from the **Sandra Markle’s Science Discoveries** series

Features that help students understand how an informational text is organized:

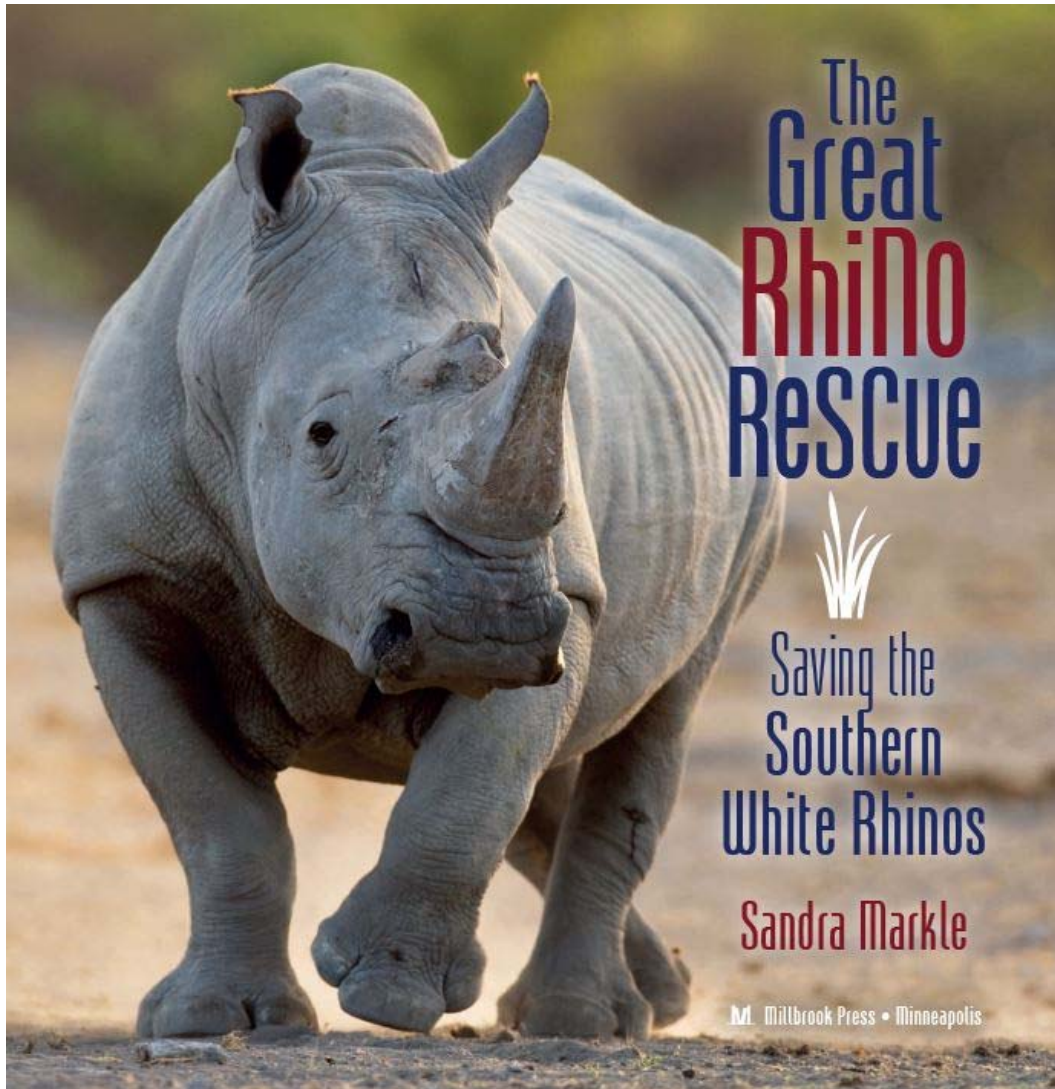
FEATURE	PURPOSE
Title page	Confirms title, author’s name, and publisher
Contents Page	Identifies the topics to be presented and their order
Chapter name, heading, or subheading	Helps students identify main topics on a quick pass through the text
Glossary	Defines new and important words
Further reading and websites	Helps students expand their knowledge of the topic by listing other informational texts in print or on the Internet
Index	Lists the main ideas in the text, with page numbers to help students find them

Visual aids that help students understand informational texts:

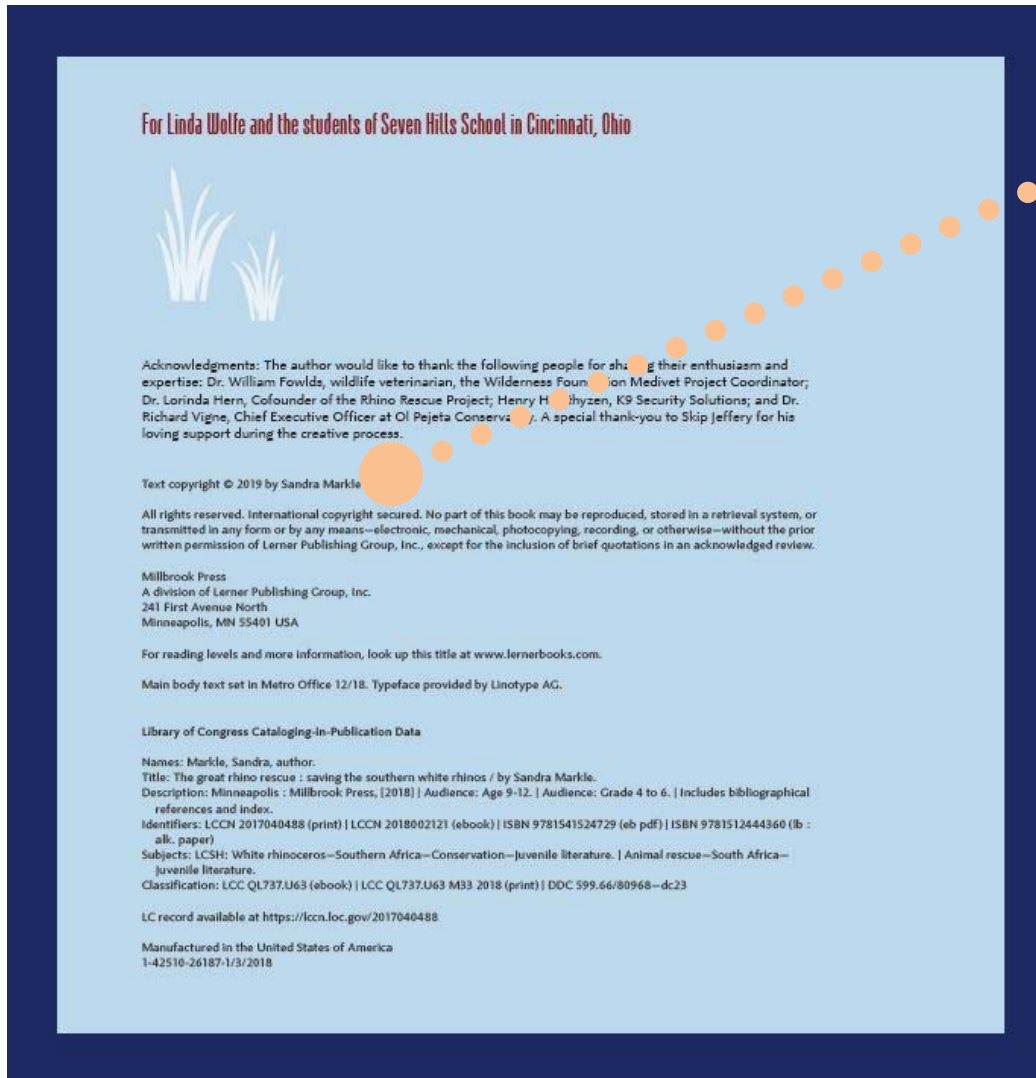
VISUAL AID	PURPOSE
Photo, drawing, or illustration	Shows how something in the text looked or might have looked
Diagram/Graph	Gives a more detailed view of a complex topic/shows how bits of information on the same topic relate to one another
Map	Puts the places in the informational text in the context of space and time

Features that point out important or additional information:

FEATURE	PURPOSE
Copyright page	Tells students how current the information in a book is
Pull quote	Highlights an important main idea or quotation from the text
Bold print	Tells students a word is new and important; sometimes a glossary term
Caption	Points out what’s in a photo, a drawing, or an illustration and relates it to the informational text; often gives more information
Label	Identifies important points of interest in a diagram or photograph
Sidebar	Boxed or other highlighted bits of information that relate but are not the same as the main informational text; likely not a main idea
Source Note	Tells the student where the quoted material came from



TITLE PAGE: This page tells you the title, author, and publisher of the book.



COPYRIGHT YEAR

COPYRIGHT PAGE:

This page tells you the year in which the book was published. This may be important for report writing when you need up-to-date information. On this page, you can also find the address of the publisher.

CONTENTS PAGE:

This lists the chapters by chapter title and the pages on which they begin. It also lists features, such as a glossary or index, that are in the back of the book.





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PHOTOS:

The photos or pictures in a book show what the words, or text, describe. Looking at photos can help you understand the meaning of the text.

CHAPTER TITLE: This tells you what topic will be discussed in the chapter. Chapter titles often give you the main ideas of the book.

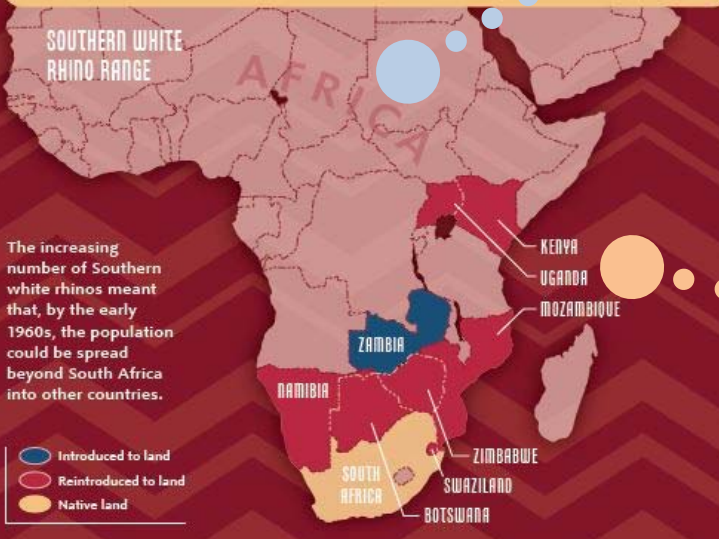


The fireball sun is low in the sky. Though night is coming, hot air still shimmers over the savanna in South Africa's Kruger National Park. A large female Southern white rhino plods through the lengthening shadows while her young calf trots beside her.

MIRACLE

In 1895 a group of fewer than one hundred Southern white rhinos was discovered—some accounts say fewer than fifty. That there were any at all was a miracle. So where were these remaining rhinos? And how did they manage to survive?

The surviving Southern white rhinos were discovered living in KwaZulu-Natal (now Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park) in southeastern South Africa. This area had been set aside and reserved as a royal hunting ground for the king of the Zulu people. No one dared to go there without the king's permission. Hunters also stayed away because the region was infested with disease-carrying insects.



The increasing number of Southern white rhinos meant that, by the early 1960s, the population could be spread beyond South Africa into other countries.

- Introduced to land
- Reintroduced to land
- Native land

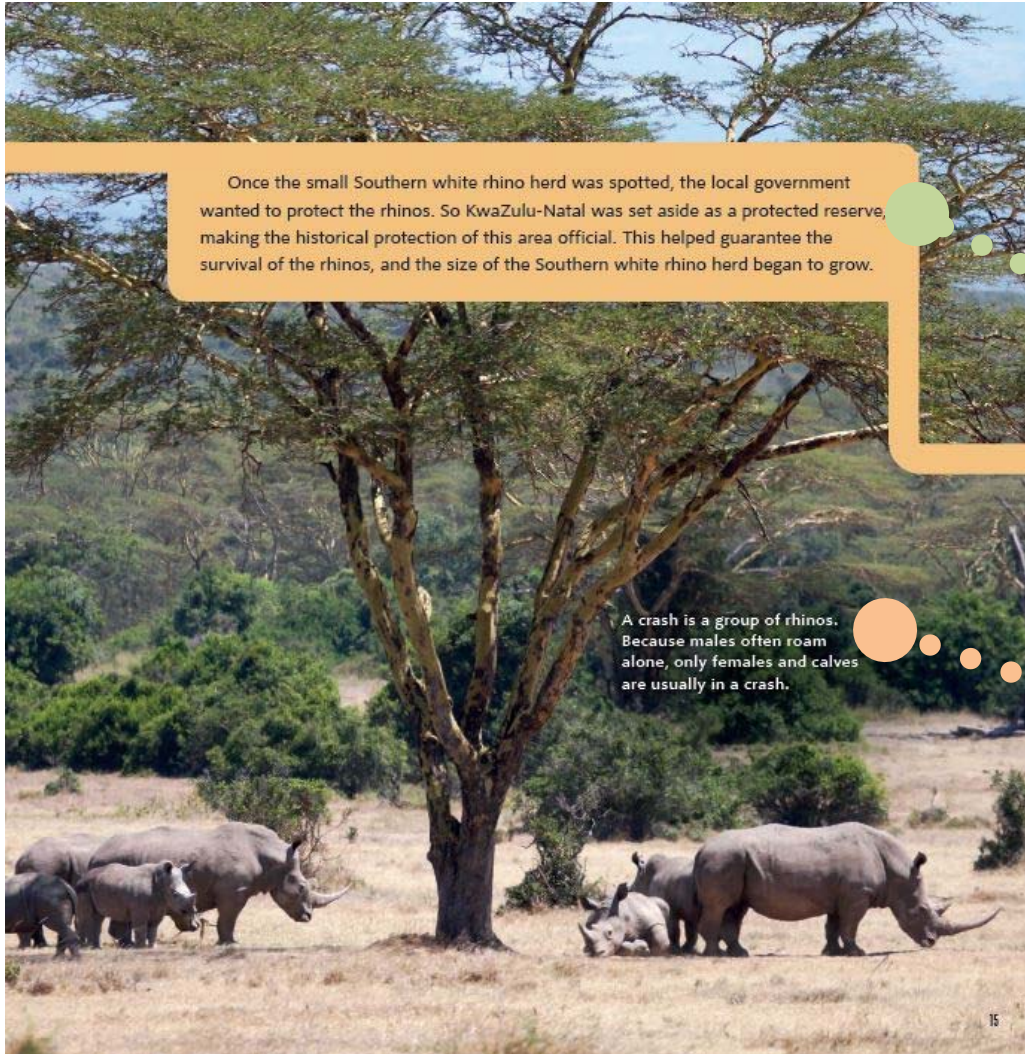
Labels on map: KENYA, UGANDA, MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, SWAZILAND, BOTSWANA

Data retrieved from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



MAP: Puts the places in the informational text in the context of space and time.

LABELS: These are words on a diagram or photo that point out important parts of the diagram or photo. On a map, labels name important features, such as rivers or cities.



TEXT OR MAIN TEXT: These are the words on a page that describe the main ideas of the book. Main text is usually smaller than chapter titles or headings.

CAPTION: These words tell you what is in the picture on the page. A caption is usually close to the picture it describes. Sometimes a caption will tell you if the picture is a photo or a drawing. A caption may also give you additional information that is not in the main text.

GRAPH:

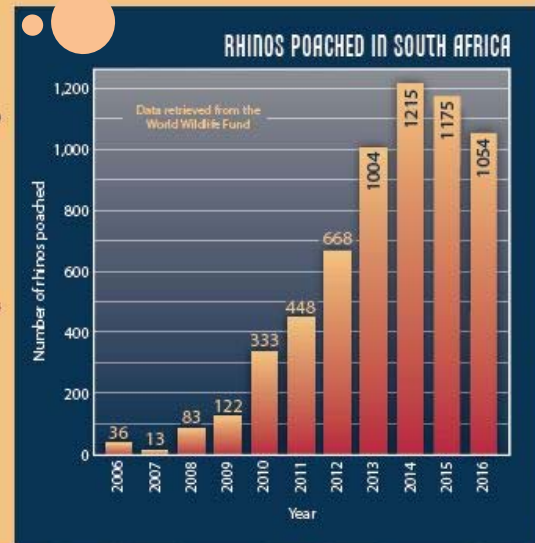
These show how bits of information on the same topic relate to one another.



Not all the rhinos killed were Southern white rhinos. The other main kind of rhino living in Africa—black rhinos—were also attacked for their horns. But the Southern white rhinos were the hardest hit because there were more of them and, compared to black rhinos, they are usually very calm. Poachers could more easily sneak up close before the rhino ran away or charged to attack.

The result was Southern white rhinos were in danger of becoming extinct yet again—this time because of their valuable horns. Something had to be done to rescue them. But what?

The most reliable records of rhino poachings are kept in South Africa, which has the largest population of both wild black rhinos and white rhinos. These records show that increased security is helping to reduce poaching.



TIMELINE:

This list at the end of the book captures the dates on which important events that are mentioned in the main text took place.

Timeline

Note: Population numbers reported come from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission African Rhino Specialist Group.

- 1895 While Southern white rhinos were earlier believed to be extinct, a small group of fewer than 100 (some report as few as 50) is discovered in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.
- 1926 Kruger National Park opens in northeastern South Africa.
- 1929 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 150.
- 1960 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 840.
- 1968 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 1,800. The first legal hunt is held in South Africa.
- 1973 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is founded and increases control of rhino trophy hunting.
- 1980 Many countries make it illegal to buy and sell rhino horn, beginning a decade of slowed demand for rhino horn.
- 1984 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 3,800.
- 1989 The amount trophy hunters are willing to pay for a rhino peaks at 92,000 rand (one South African rand and one US dollar were nearly equal at that time).
- 1988 Sweetwaters Game Reserve is founded on the Ol Pejeta Ranch in Kenya, Africa, to protect black rhinos and other wildlife. Over time, it expands and becomes Ol Pejeta Conservancy.
- 1990 People practicing traditional Chinese medicine stop prescribing rhino horn, beginning a decade of even less demand for it.
- 1991 The South African government passes the Theft of Game Act, allowing landowners to claim rhinos identified with a brand or ear tag even if they leave their property and to be compensated for any killed by poachers.
- 1995 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 7,563.
- 2001–2007 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos rising from 11,670 to 17,474.
- 2008 Rumors begin spreading that drinking powdered rhino horn can cure cancer.
- 2010 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 20,170.
- 2013 The IUCN reports the number of Southern white rhinos to be at 20,405. This is a much smaller increase than previously recorded.
- 2017 South Africa's Constitutional Court overturns a ban on trading rhino horn within the country, but the ban on international trade remains.

What is one thing you would like to be able to add to this timeline in the future?

SOURCE NOTES:

This is a list of all the books, magazines, and other resources from which the author borrowed specific quotations.

GLOSSARY:

This is a list of the book's unfamiliar or important words or phrases with a definition after each term.

Source Notes

- 28 William Fowlds, telephone interview with author, March 23, 2017.
- 30 Lorinda Hern, telephone interview with author, April 20, 2016.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Henry Holsthyzen, telephone interview with author, May 11, 2016.
- 33 Ibid.

Glossary

calf: baby rhinoceros

dehorning: cutting off a rhino's horn

dung: an animal's solid waste droppings

ecosystem: a community of animals that interact within a natural environment

extinct: wiped out, no longer having any living members

habitat: natural home environment of a plant or animal

parasite: a living thing that lives in or on another living thing at that host's expense

poachers: hunters who try to capture or kill animals illegally

predator: an animal that hunts and eats other living things in order to live

prey: an animal that is hunted and eaten for food by another animal

savanna: a grassy plain with a few scattered trees

species: one kind of living thing

territory: an area over which an animal normally travels in search of food or a mate

tranquilize: to use a drug to put an animal to sleep temporarily. The drug is often given by a syringe or dart.

Find Out More

Check out these books and websites to discover even more:

Carson, Mary Kay. *Emi and the Rhino Scientist*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Share the real-life work of scientist Terri Roth with one Sumatran rhinoceros in the Sumatran jungle.

Kessler, Cristina. *Our Secret, Siri Aang*. New York: Philomel Books, 2004.

This fictional story is told from the perspective of Namelok, a Maasai girl in modern Kenya, who witnesses the birth of a black rhino and vows to protect it from poachers.

Newman, Patricia. *Zoo Scientists to the Rescue*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2017.

Explore how zoo scientists are studying black rhinos to learn how to better protect them in their natural habitat.

Pope, Kristen. *Black Rhinos*. Avon, MA: Child's World, 2015.

Take a closer look at this species of endangered rhino. Compare how it is similar to white rhinos and how it is different.

San Diego Zoo—Southern White Rhino Calf Explores New Habitat

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb2m_ZwkVcQ

Don't think rhinos are cute? Check out this newborn in action.

Save the Rhino For Kids

https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino_info/for_kids

This site includes lots of facts as well as a sewing pattern for making a tiny rhino of your very own.

You Would Never Guess This Is What a Rhino Sounds Like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNCC6ZYI3SI>

Check out this video to hear the many noises baby white rhinos make.



FURTHER READING: This is a list of books and websites on the same subject as the book you just read. This list is at the end of your book. It can be helpful in doing research for reports.

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INDEX: This is a list of the main ideas in the book, with page numbers to tell you where to find them.