

Teaching Sixth-Grade **Nonfiction Text Features**

Using *Mysteries of Easter Island* from the **Ancient Mysteries (Alternator Books™)** Series

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

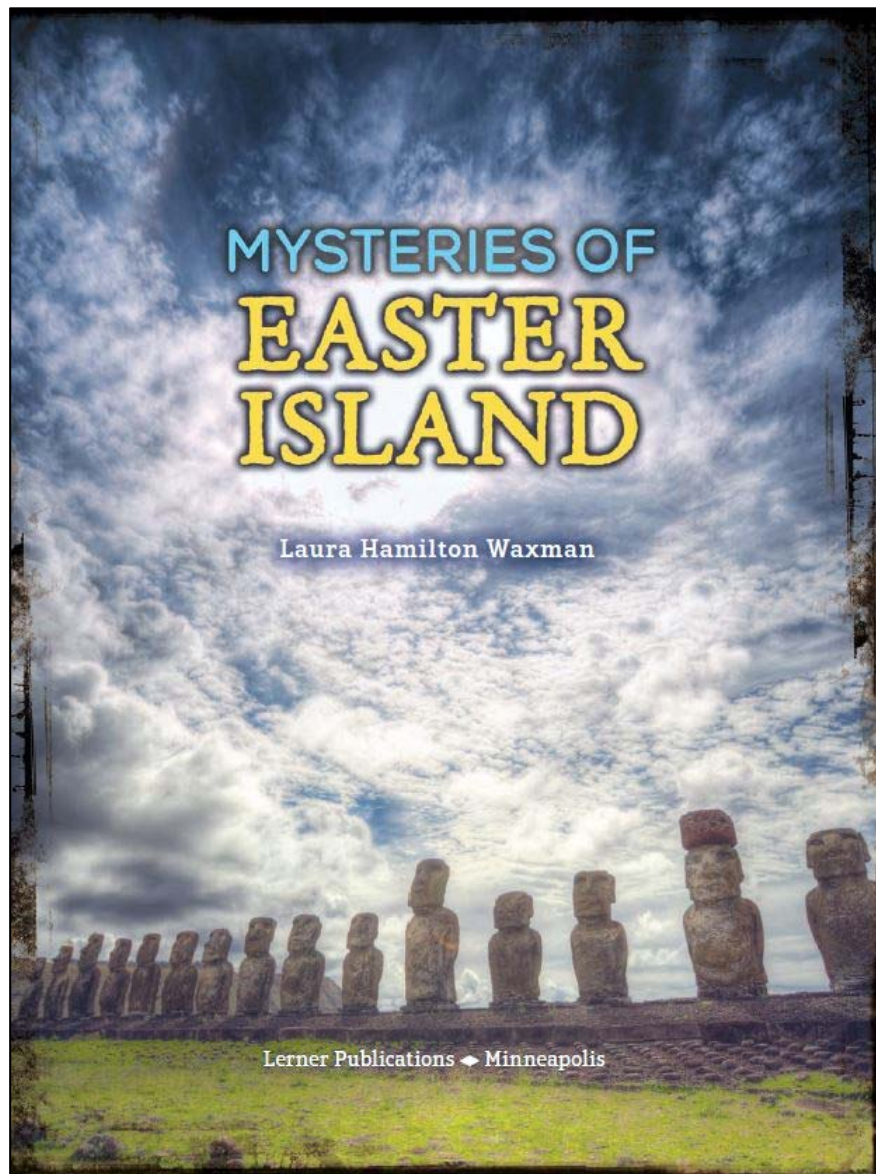
FEATURE	PURPOSE
Title page	Confirms title, author’s name, and publisher
Table of Contents/Contents Page	Identifies the topics to be presented and their order
Chapter name, heading, or subheading	Helps students identify main topics on a quick pass through the text
Glossary	Defines new and important words
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
Graph	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
Bold print	Tells students a word is new and important; sometimes a glossary term
Pull quote	Highlights an important quotation or idea from the text
Italic Print	Tells students the word is supposed to stand out. It may be for emphasis or because it is a book name, newspaper, movie title, foreign word, or the directional for a photo or illustration.
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 otherwise highlighted bits of information that relate to but are not the same as the main informational text; likely not a main idea
Timeline	A chart or list that helps students understand the sequence of events in the informational text
Source Note	Tells the students where the quoted material came from



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

COPYRIGHT YEAR

COPYRIGHT PAGE:

This page tells you the year 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.

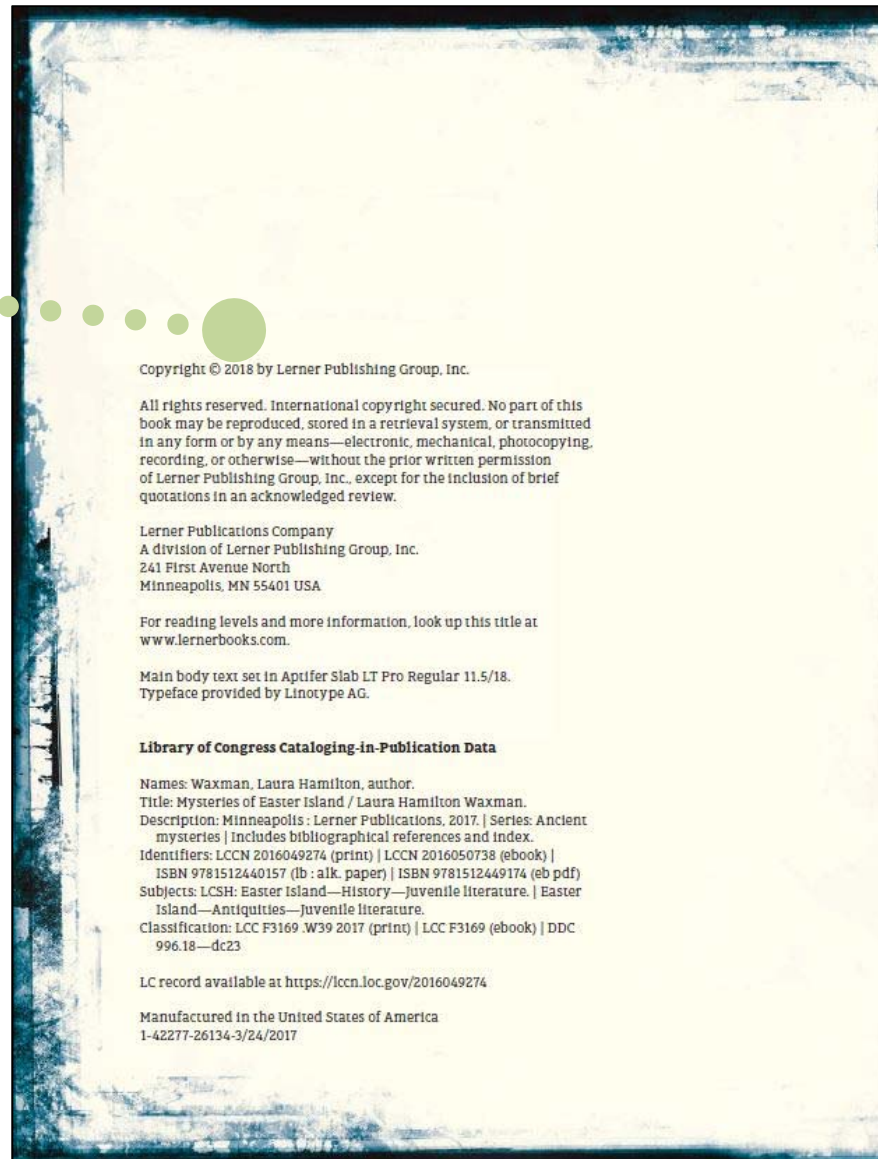


TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE:

This lists the chapters in your book by chapter title and the pages on which they begin. It also lists features, such as the index, that are at the end of the book.

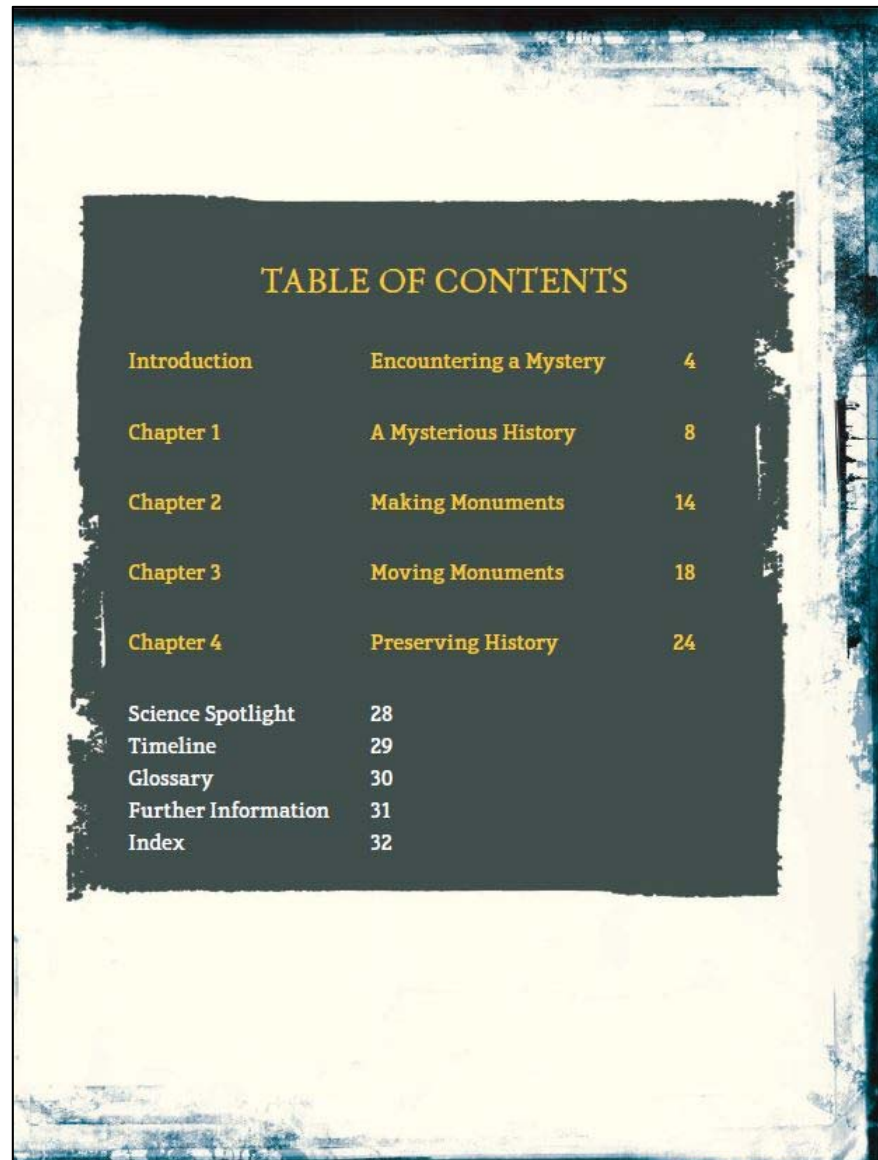
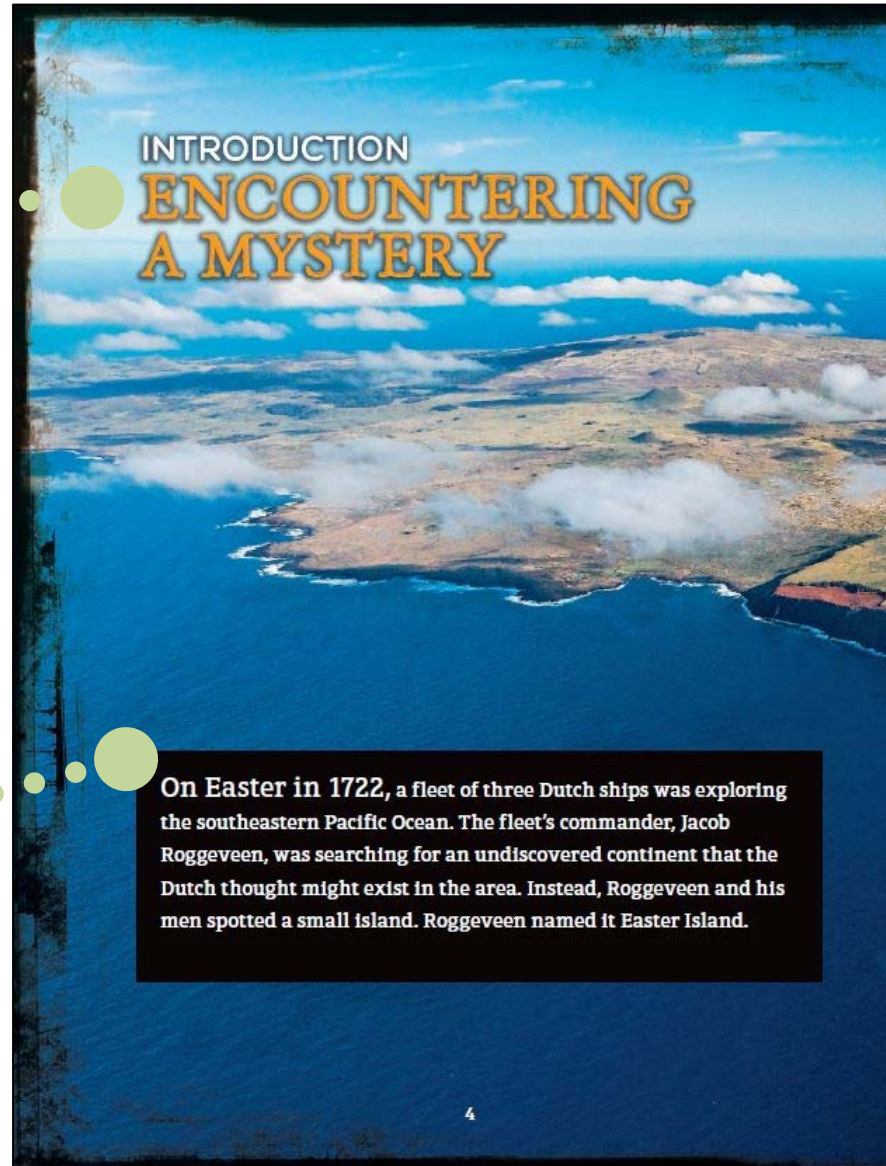


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CHAPTER TITLE: This tells you what topic will be discussed in the chapter. Chapter titles often give you the main ideas of the book.

TEXT OR MAIN TEXT: These are the words and sentences that discuss and explain the main ideas of the book. Main text looks different from chapter titles or captions.



MAP:

This flat drawing shows the shape and features of a place, such as a country, a state, or a city.

COMPASS ROSE:

This is a symbol on a map that shows you where to find the four directions—north, south, east, and west.

LABELS:

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



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.

SIDEBAR:

These are short bits of text with their own headers. They are usually boxed and separated from the main text. Sidebars give additional information.



Markings are visible on the torso of a statue Heyerdahl dug up in 1955. He thought that these markings were similar to markings found on objects from South America and that this meant the people of Easter Island were South American.

DIG DEEP!

The statues whose torsos are buried underground have been protected from wind and rain. An archaeologist named Jo Anne Van Tilburg is working with islanders to dig around those statues to try to learn more about their origins. Van Tilburg found markings on the statues that appear to be canoes. She believes the markings were a kind of signature. They may have shown who made the statue or whose ancestor the statue honored.



HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS:

These separate the main text into smaller chunks of information. A heading tells you what the section below is about.

CAPTION: These words tell you more about the picture on the page. A caption is usually close to the picture it describes.

BOLD PRINT: This tells students a word is new and important; sometimes you can find the definition in the glossary.

CARVING STONE

The islanders probably built the statues inside an old volcano known as Rano Raraku. Ash from the volcano hardened to create stone that chipped away easily, making it ideal for sculpting. A person would still need sharp tools to carve it, though. The ancient islanders did not have any metal tools. But archaeologists have uncovered ancient stone tools, which means that the islanders knew how to make and use **chisels**. One study revealed that twenty people could carve a statue in one year with stone tools.



An archaeologist examines a *toki*, a stone handheld chisel used to carve the statues.

TIMELINE:

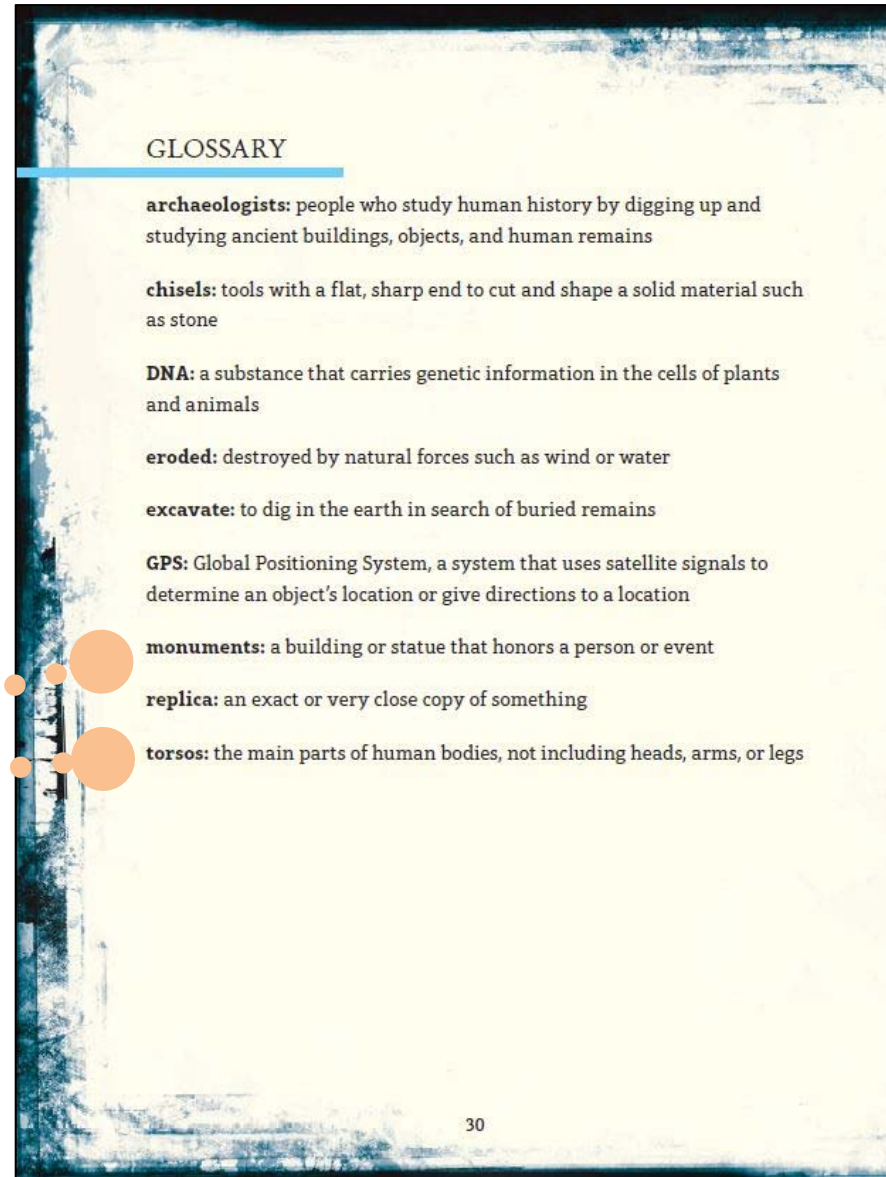
This list at the end of the book captures the dates on which important events that are mentioned in the main text took place.



GLOSSARY:

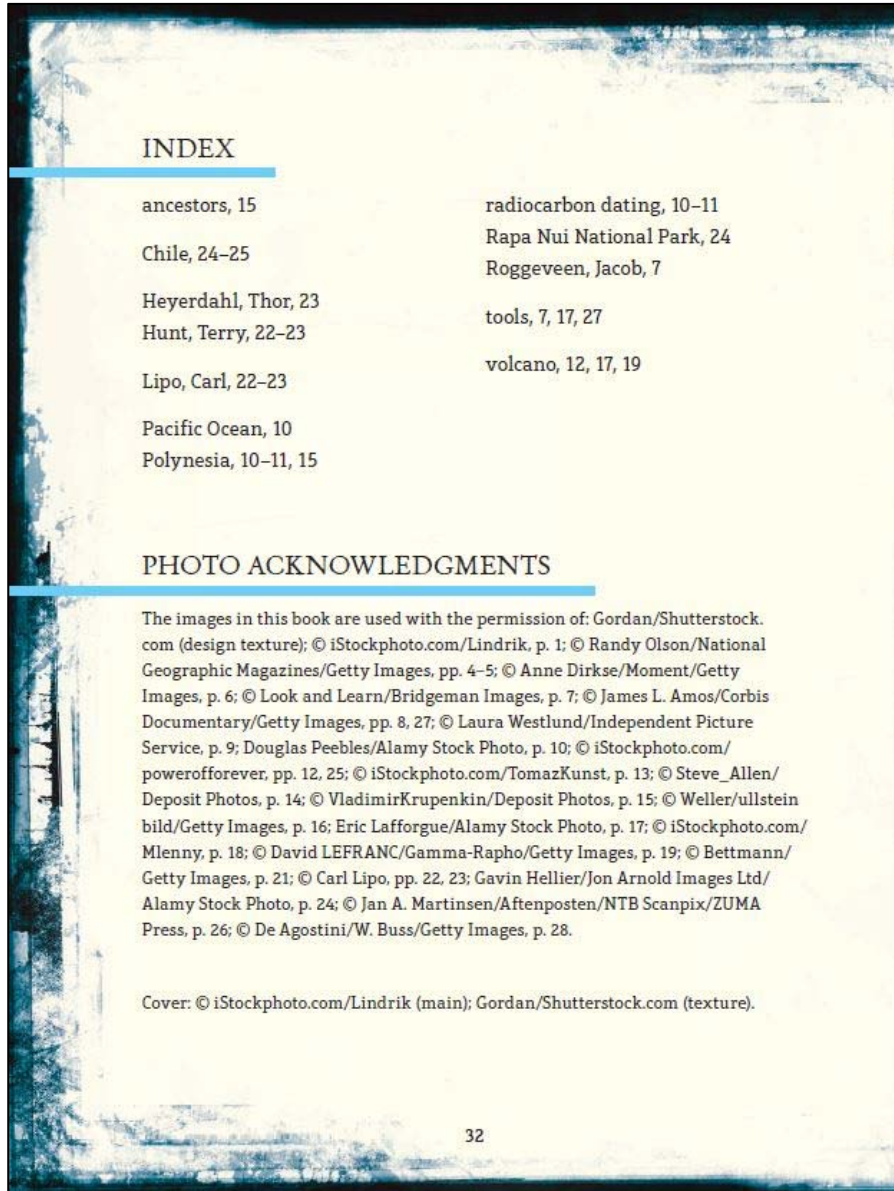
This list calls out the important words in a book. The glossary proves the meaning, or definition, of the word. You can find the glossary near the end of the book.

BOLD PRINT





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.