

Aims

1. To write clear instructions
2. To make use of sub heading and numbering

Resources

- ❖ Previous teachers notes on the teachers portal.
- ❖ Web link: <http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/rock.htm>
- ❖ Activity sheets:
Writing Instructions

Introduction

This is an activity in which children will be asked to think about how to write a clear, sequenced set of instructions in order to assist other people to work through step by step and reach an outcome.

Activities and points for discussion

- ❖ Look at a range of instructional texts. Do they all have a goal at the beginning of them? How is this goal presented? Is it in the form of a statement? ie “How to ride a bike”
- ❖ Why is a list of materials given? How does this prepare the reader?
- ❖ How will you separate any items you include in a list?
- ❖ Are the instructions non-chronological or chronological? Is this important? Why?
- ❖ Look at the language used. Which tense are the instructions written in?
- ❖ Write in the imperative. Discuss the impact of the verbs used.
- ❖ Are there adjectives used? Is there a reason for this? When would you include adjectives?
- ❖ The sentence length is short in instructions. Why is this?
- ❖ How is each step or instruction separated? Is this helpful? Is there another way to separate each step? Would you use numbers or bullet points for certain types of instruction?
- ❖ Are the instructions clear for the kind of reader they are intended for? Has the author thought about the audience?
- ❖ Have images been used? Were they needed to help with the instructions, or were they used for illustrative purposes only?

Follow Up

- ❖ Look at a set of instructions that has been written. Can sentences be linked together using linked phrases.
- ❖ Do the instructions have sections within them? Add sub headings to make the instructions clearer to navigate for the reader.
- ❖ Write instructions for Lady Sherwood’s steward within the Kids’ Castle (http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle/fm_sher2.html).
- ❖ Write a recipe that would be used in the kitchens at Kids’ Castle (http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle/fm_kitch.html).
- ❖ Write monster recipes. See the examples in the monster motel.

Children’s writing and scanned pictures can be sent to kotn@ntu.ac.uk