

Features of Non-chronological Reports

Sub-headings

Each main paragraph has a sub-heading. These tell the reader what each paragraph is about.

Paragraphs

Non-chronological reports are organised into paragraphs. Each paragraph focuses on a different aspect of the subject being discussed. Many non-chronological reports have an introductory paragraph that introduces the subject and gives some basic facts about the topic.

Technical vocabulary

Sometimes, more specialised vocabulary is used in reports – words and phrases that are specific to the subject that is being written about.

Formal language

Another feature of non-chronological reports is factual, formal language. The purpose of this type of report is to give facts, not opinions.

Heading

A non-chronological report needs a large, eye-catching heading so that the reader knows what the report is about.

What is a Sloth?

A sloth is a mammal found in the rainforests of Central and South America. There are two types of sloth – two-toed sloths and three-toed sloths. 
Appearance

Sloths have long limbs, round heads and tiny ears. They have long, sharp claws for climbing trees and hanging from branches. Their fur often has a green tinge caused by the algae that grows on it. This algae can help camouflage the sloth, and hide it from predators such as eagles, snakes and jaguars.



Habitat

Sloths are arboreal animals – this means that they spend most of their time in trees. They eat, sleep and even give birth hanging upside down from branches. Sloths only come down from the trees to go to the toilet!

Diet

Sloths mostly eat leaves, twigs, buds and shoots, but they have been known to occasionally eat insects and birds. They have an extremely slow digestive process which takes up most of their body's energy – one leaf can take a sloth 30 days to fully digest!

Movement

Sloths move extremely slowly. They travel through the trees at an average speed of just four metres per minute, and are even slower on the ground. They are however, good swimmers and can move up to three times faster in the water.

Did you know...?

- Sloths can only eat about half a pound of food a day (that's a third of a kilogram)
- Sloths have 1000000000 bacteria in their gut and 12 hours a day
- They go to the toilet once a week!

Images

Non-chronological reports can include images such as photographs, illustrations or labelled diagrams to show pictures of the subject.

Captions

A caption is a short sentence or phrase which describes or explains the image it is written underneath.

Fact box & bullet points

Lots of non-chronological reports have boxes with interesting facts, which are organised into a bullet-pointed list. This makes it quick and easy for the reader to read.

Present tense

Non-chronological reports are usually written in the present tense (unless they are about something that has happened in the past).