

English home learning 24.01.22

**SPAG TASKS.**

This week we will be looking at active and passive voice. Use the link below to watch the video on what both terms mean.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1\\_IRU6zx9g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1_IRU6zx9g)

1. Write a title of *Active Sentences* then copy the sentences underneath that are in active voice.
2. Write a title of *Passive Sentences* then copy the sentences underneath that are in passive voice.

à The dragon was eating the knight.

à The cat was being stroked by the evil Professor.

à The girl was riding the horse.

à The father was hanging out the washing.

à The lamppost was being sniffed by the dog.

à The teacher tripped over the football.

à The aardvark was mending the bicycle.

à The broom was being flown by Harry.

à The phone was being used by Mr. Bell.

à The child was opening the present.

Can you change each one around, so active to passive and passive to active.

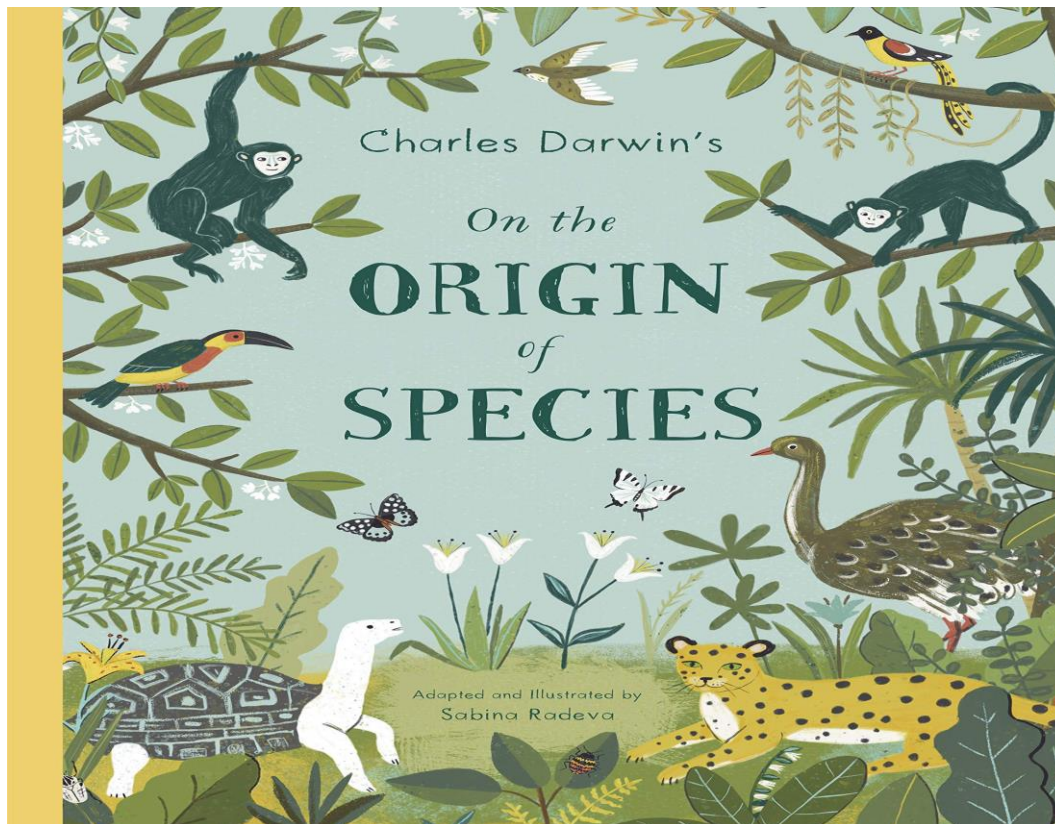
Complete this active and passive grid related to our text.

## Active and Passive Voice

Passive	Active
Polar bears are insulated in the bitterly cold water by a thin layer of blubber	
	Sharp curved claws grip the ice, ensuring safe and secure movement on this slippery surface
They are camouflaged by their pigment-free fur, which reflects the sun and appears white	
	Large paws cover their muzzles, which can radiate heat
Respite from the icy winds is provided by shelters dug into the ice	

## English

In English we will be looking at the book below:



**You are able to read the book and look at its beautiful images on the year 6 class pages. It is in two parts.**

Over the next few weeks we will be looking to create:

**Writing Purpose:** To explain animals that have adapted over the years that is informed from our science work.

**Writing Outcome:** To write an explanation of how an animal has adapted to its environment.

Below are some key words and phrases from the example text which is also below (a modelled example of an explanation text). Research what they mean. Try writing them in sentences. Can you find any synonyms or antonyms of each word?

## Vocabulary Teaching: From Example Text

### Words

adaptation	alteration	plummet	impenetrable
navigate	inhospitable	blubber	traction

### Phrases

masters of adaptation	radiate heat	hollow core
unforgiving icy waters	pigment-free	conserve the most heat possible

Read the example text below. It's a really great example of an explanation text.

## **E** Example Text: Explanation Text

### **How Polar Bears Came To Be**

#### **Amazing Adaptation**

Animals thrive in a variety of habitats around the world because they have managed to change over time to benefit from the environment in which they find themselves. This change is called adaptation. An adaptation is an alteration in the animal's body or behaviour which helps it to survive in its habitat. Habitats consist of many different elements: the kinds of food and plants that grow in it; the climate and other animals that may be predators or competitors. Animals must learn to adapt to each of these factors in order to ensure the survival of the species. This fact sheet will explain how majestic polar bears came to look and behave the way they do.

#### **Fantastic Fur**

The fur of these magnificent beasts means that they are superbly adapted to the harsh conditions of the North Pole. In this inhospitable region of the world, temperatures frequently plummet to a deadly  $-46^{\circ}\text{C}$ , yet polar bears thrive here. They are protected from the cold by a dense insulating underfur that acts like an impenetrable winter coat. The fur prevents almost all heat loss – in fact, adult males can quickly overheat when they run. Surprisingly, the fur is not white, as is commonly believed – it just looks that way. The reason for this is because each hair shaft is pigment-free and transparent with a hollow core that scatters and reflects light.

#### **Supportive Skin**

Polar bears have black skin over a layer of fat with an average thickness of 11.4 centimetres (4.49 inches) so that they are protected even when swimming through the icy waters of their region. This blubber is essential: wet fur is a poor insulator. This is why mother bears are usually reluctant to swim with young cubs in the spring as they do not yet have enough fat to protect them.

#### **Protective Paws, Claws, Ears and Tail**

Polar bear paws are ideally suited to the Arctic conditions as they are designed to help navigate the land and the sea. Measuring 30 centimetres across (11.81 inches), they aid movement on the ice due to footpads on the bottom of each paw. These soft bumps (papillae) grip the slippery surface and ensure a confident and secure walk. Further physical features which equip them for life in the cold are their thick, curved, sharp claws (ideal for catching and holding prey) which help to gain traction too. Their small, round ears and short, compact tails also help them to conserve the most heat possible. They truly are the masters of adaptation!

#### **Shielding Shelters**

Refuge is also provided by shelters on bitterly cold days. These impressive bears often dig deep pits in snow banks so that they can curl up in a tight ball to shield themselves from the ferocious Arctic winds. Sometimes they cover their muzzles (which radiate heat) with their thickly furred paws, thus defending themselves from the extreme cold.

#### **Saving their Surroundings**

It is apparent that polar bears have adapted to their icy habitats with ease. Physical adaptations have allowed these animals to survive, where other creatures would perish. If polar bears are to continue to thrive, we must hope that ever increasing signs of global warming do not threaten the lands of these marvellous creatures.

Using the example text complete the grid below.



## Sentences:

### What is the tune of the Example Text?

Sentence	Effect on Reader
The majestic polar bear is a prime example of an animal superbly adapted to the harsh conditions of the North Pole.	
In this inhospitable region of the world, temperatures can plummet to a deadly -46 degrees Celsius	
Surprisingly, the fur is not white, as is commonly believed, it just looks that way.	
They are protected from the cold by a dense insulating underfur that acts like an impenetrable winter coat	
Polar bears have black skin over a thick layer of fat that can measure up to 11.4 centimetres (4.49 inches)	
They truly are the masters of adaptation!	

Use the example text above to answer these comprehension questions. Try to answer in full sentences where possible.

Paragraph	Suggested Questions:
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does adaptation mean?</li> <li>• What are the different elements of a habitat?</li> <li>• Why must animals learnt to adapt to their environment?</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which word tells the reader that the polar bear is well adapted to its environment?</li> <li>• Why has the word '<i>deadly</i>' been chosen to describe the harsh conditions of the North Pole?</li> <li>• Why has the author compared the fur of the polar bear to an '<i>impenetrable winter coat</i>'?</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 reasons why polar bear feet help them to survive the icy landscape.</li> <li>• What does the sentence, '<i>They truly are the masters of adaptation!</i>' mean?</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find and copy 3 words that help the reader to understand how cold it is in the Arctic.</li> <li>• Why do polar bears curl up tight in the snow shelters?</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why has the word '<i>impressive</i>' been chosen to describe polar bears in this paragraph?</li> <li>• Why do they cover their muzzles with their thickly furred paws?</li> </ul>
Whole Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 3 reasons why polar bears are the masters of adaptation.</li> <li>• Why might the author choose this animal when writing an explanation about animal adaptation?</li> </ul>

When we write our explanations texts next week we may be able to include some of the year 5/6 spelling words:

Physical

Equip

Explanation

Temperature

Average

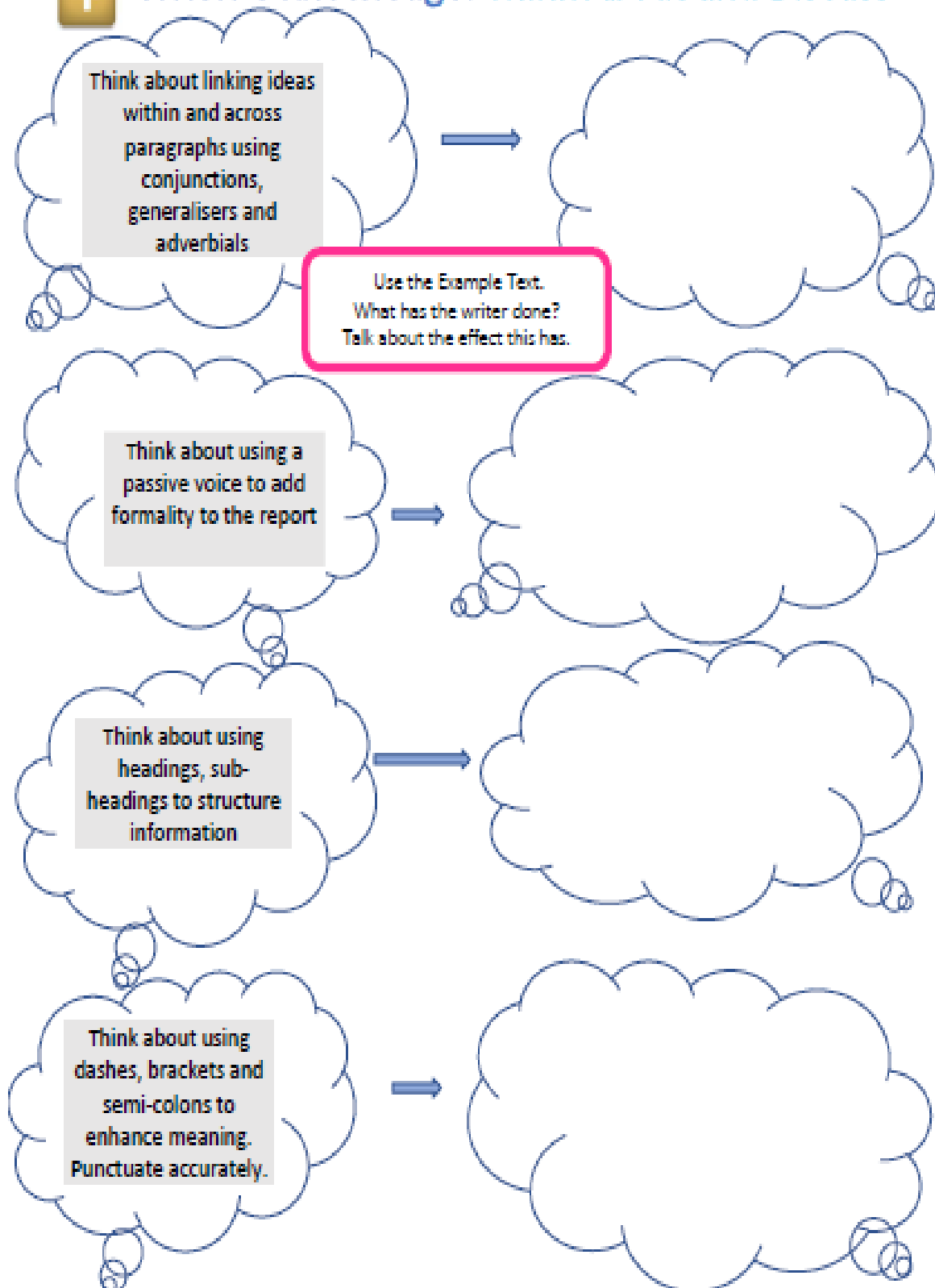
Use a template like the one below to research these words and learn how to spell them. We want them to stick in our brains forever.

## Vocabulary: Ways to learn new Words

Words that are similar:	Words that are opposite:
Words that are in between	
Define it:	
New Word	Say it in lots of different sentences.
Spell it – lots of times!	Draw it & Act it
Write it in a sentence.	

Using the example text, can you find examples of the things listed below?

## **Writer's Knowledge: Think About and Discuss**



Shaded thought bubbles indicate the grammar expectation of this unit and for this year group's standard.



## Writer's Knowledge: Think About and Discuss

Think about using paragraphs to organise the information



Use the Example Text.  
What has the writer done?  
Talk about the effect this has.

Think about using technical vocabulary to add precision



Think about using complex sentences (multi-clause) to combine information effectively



Think about using sentences to show cause and effect

