

Name:	Date:
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Reading: Analyze Text Information

Practice

Texts about the same topic can contain very different information. Someone writing about music, for example, could write about how music is composed, why people make music, or a favorite kind of music. It is important, then, to **analyze text information** to determine a text's main idea and the author's purpose. Here are some things to look for when you analyze text information:

- What does the author want you to understand? (main idea)
- How does the author support the main idea? (supporting details)
- Is the author trying to describe or explain something, to persuade readers to take a position, or to tell a story? (author's purpose)

Read the following excerpt. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Visit Mexico!

Mexico has beaches, mountains, history, culture, and so much more! It is a foreign country on our own doorstep, filled with charm and excitement.

Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, is a special treat. It is the oldest city in North America. Built more than 450 years ago by the Aztecs, visitors can still see ancient pyramids in a bustling, modern city.

1. What is the main idea of this brochure?

2. What details support the main idea?

3. What is the author's purpose? Explain your answer.

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Assess

Read this excerpt from an atlas entry. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Mexico

Quick Facts

Capital: Mexico City

Major Language: Spanish

Population: 109,000

Location

Mexico forms a link between the United States, to its north, and Central America, to its south. The Pacific Ocean borders Mexico on the west, while the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea form its eastern border.

Place

Mexico is a narrow country with large mountain ranges near its East and West coasts. Because it lies on several of Earth's tectonic plates, Mexico has many volcanoes and has been rocked by major earthquakes.

Region

Mexico's terrain is so varied that it has several climate zones. The south has a tropical climate, while the north is more temperate. The north also has many dry areas, while the south has a higher annual rainfall. In addition, the climate in the mountains varies by altitude, with the lowest temperatures in the highest mountains and the highest temperatures near the coasts.

1. What is the main idea of this atlas entry?

2. What details support the main idea?

3. What is the author's purpose? Explain your answer.

4. What might you expect to see in the rest of this entry?
