

Varied Fluency

Step 3: Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence], and ellipsis
Layout devices [for example, headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text]

Terminology for pupils:

- Ellipsis

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support understanding the use of paragraphs in non-fiction to organise ideas. Includes two-clause sentences. Up to two options given as support.

Expected Questions to support understanding the use of paragraphs in non-fiction to organise ideas. Includes multi-clause sentences. Up to three options given as support.

Greater Depth Questions to support understanding the use of paragraphs in non-fiction to organise ideas. Includes extended sentences. No options given as support.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

Wild and Windy Weather

Location, Location, Location

The difference between hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, is where they happen. Big storms are hurricanes in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific. They are typhoons in the Northwest Pacific and cyclones in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Tornado Versus Hurricane

Tornadoes and hurricanes look alike. Both have a strong, spinning column of air that can be very dangerous. See the table to compare statistics.

	Tornado	Hurricane
Formed	over land	over oceans
Size (wide)	less than 1 mile	over 100 miles
Wind speeds	300 mph max	200 mph max

Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley is in the United States. It includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. In Spring, cold air masses collide with warm air masses. This helps create up to 500 tornadoes a year.

Safety Tips

It's important to know how to stay safe during a storm. If an alarm has been sounded, follow the advice below:

- Stay away from low-lying areas that flood easily.
- Stay indoors and board up windows.
- Ensure you have lots of tinned food, bottled water and medical supplies.
- Keep a battery-operated torch and radio to hand.

1a. Put a tick or a cross to show whether the sub-heading below could be used as an alternative for paragraph two.

The Difference Between Cyclones and Typhoons



VF

2a. Look at paragraph four. Underline a word or phrase in the first sentence that links to the sub-heading.



VF

3a. Tick the correct function of the main heading.

Summarises what the paragraph is about

Summarises what the whole text is about



VF

4a. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Tornado Alley'.

Every hurricane has its own name.



VF

Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

On Shaky Ground

Why Do Earthquakes Happen?

Earthquakes happen because the earth's surface is made up of large, flat pieces of rock. These fit together like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle. They are called tectonic plates. These plates move very slowly and sometimes they collide. This leads to a sudden release of energy called seismic waves. These waves travel through the earth and cause tremors and shakes.

Destructive Earthquakes

Earthquakes are measured on a Richter Scale. This scale measures the magnitude (the energy it creates) of an earthquake. A strong earthquake can cause the following:

- shocking loss of life
- damage to whole cities
- landslides
- tsunamis

Class	Magnitude
great	8 +
major	7 – 7.9
strong	6 – 6.9
moderate	5 – 5.9
light	4 – 4.9
minor	3 – 3.9

Tsunami!

These happen when there is an earthquake at the bottom of the ocean. This causes waves of water to be forced upwards. The water creates a huge wave called a tsunami. When a tsunami reaches land, it can be deadly. In December 2004, a massive earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean. The resulting tsunamis caused damage in many countries and more than 200,000 people died.

1b. Put a tick or a cross to show whether the sub-heading below could be used as an alternative for paragraph two.

How are Earthquakes Measured?



VF

2b. Look at paragraph one. Underline a word or phrase in the first sentence that links to the sub-heading.



VF

3b. Tick the correct function of the sub-heading.

Summarises what the paragraph is about

Summarises what the whole text is about



VF

4b. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Destructive Earthquakes'.

The strongest earthquake ever recorded had a magnitude of 9.5.



VF

Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

Wild and Windy Weather

Location, Location, Location

The only difference between hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, is where they occur. Massive storms are called hurricanes in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, typhoons in the Northwest Pacific, and cyclones in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Tornado Versus Hurricane

Tornadoes and hurricanes appear to be very similar. Both materialise as a violent, rotating column of air that can leave chaos and devastation in its wake (see the table to compare statistics).

	Tornado	Hurricane
Formed	over land	over oceans
Size	< 1 mile wide	> 100 miles wide
Life span	< 1 hour	> 1 week
Wind speeds	300 mph max	200 mph max

Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley is in the southern plains of the United States. This includes Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. In these areas, during the spring, a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass, which is responsible for creating up to 500 tornadoes per year.

Safety Tips

Areas prone to adverse weather conditions often have a storm warning system in place. Upon hearing the siren, follow the advice below:

- Stay away from low-lying, flood prone areas.
- Stay indoors and board up windows.
- Ensure you have adequate tinned food, bottled water and medical supplies.
- Keep a battery-operated torch and radio to hand.

5a. Tick the sub-heading that could be used as an alternative for paragraph two.

The Difference Between Tornadoes and Whirlpools

 What is the Difference Between a Tornado and a Hurricane?

VF

6a. Look at paragraph one. Underline a word or phrase in the first sentence that links to the sub-heading.



VF

7a. Tick the correct function of the bullet points.

 Summarises what the paragraph is about

Breaks paragraph into easy to read sections

States what the text is about

VF

8a. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Safety Tips'.

If you reside in a mobile home, get out fast and seek shelter elsewhere.



VF

Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

On Shaky Ground

Why Do Earthquakes Occur?

Earthquakes occur because the earth's surface is made up of large, flat pieces of rock that fit together like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle. These pieces of rock are called tectonic plates; the place where they meet is called a fault. The plates move very slowly and sometimes they rub against each other or collide. This creates a rapid release of energy, called seismic waves, that travel through the earth causing tremors and shakes.

Destructive Earthquakes

Earthquakes are measured on a Richter Scale, which gauges its magnitude (the energy it creates). A strong earthquake can cause the following:

- devastating loss of life
- the destruction of whole cities
- landslides
- mudflows
- tsunamis

Class	Magnitude
great	8 +
major	7 – 7.9
strong	6 – 6.9
moderate	5 – 5.9
light	4 – 4.9
minor	3 – 3.9

Tsunami!

If an earthquake happens at the bottom of the ocean, waves of water can be forced upwards. This forms into a huge wave called a tsunami. When a tsunami reaches land, the force of the water can topple buildings and sweep away cars and trees. In December 2004, a massive earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean. The resulting tsunamis crashed into several countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand and more than 200,000 people died.

5b. Tick the sub-heading that could be used as an alternative for paragraph two.

Measuring the Size of an Earthquake



Measuring the Size of a Tsunami

VF

6b. Look at paragraph one. Underline a word or phrase in the first sentence that links to the sub-heading.



VF

7b. Tick the correct function of the table.

Summarises what the paragraph is about

Summarises what the text is about

Displays information in a clear format



VF

8b. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Tsunami'.

Earthquakes occur naturally, although a small number are created by human activity.



VF

Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

Wild and Windy Weather

Location, Location, Location

The only difference between hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, is location. Colossal storms are called hurricanes in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, typhoons in the Northwest Pacific, and cyclones in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Tornado Versus Hurricane

On face value, tornadoes and hurricanes appear similar. Both materialise as a violent, gyrating column of air, capable of leaving carnage and desolation in its wake (see the table to compare statistics).

	Tornado	Hurricane
Formed	over land	over oceans
Size	< 1 mile wide	> 100 miles wide
Life span	< 1 hour	> 1 week
Wind speeds	300 mph max	200 mph max

Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley, located in the southern plains of the United States, includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota. During spring, cold air masses collide with warm air masses, resulting in the formation of 500 (or more) tornadoes per year.

Safety Tips

Vulnerable communities that are prone to adverse weather conditions often have a storm warning system in place. Upon hearing the siren, follow the advice below:

- Evacuate low-lying, flood prone areas.
- Remain indoors and secure all doors and windows.
- Ensure you have adequate tinned food, bottled water and medical supplies.
- Keep a battery-operated torch and radio to hand.

9a. Write an alternative sub-heading for paragraph two.



VF

10a. Find an example of a word or phrase in the first sentence of a paragraph that links to the subheading.



VF

11a. What is the function of the bullet points?



VF

12a. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Tornado Alley'.

Tornadoes rotate clockwise (in the southern hemisphere); this is true of hurricanes too.



VF

Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

On Shaky Ground

Why Do Earthquakes Occur?

Earthquakes occur where the edges of tectonic plates, which cover the Earth's surface, move against each other. Over time, the resulting friction leads to a build up of energy; the pressure becomes too great and it's released as a sudden and violent seismic wave, which travels quickly away from the epicentre (the site directly above the earthquake) and can be felt as far as 300 miles away. Thousands of earthquakes occur each year, but some are more deadly than others.

Destructive Earthquakes

Earthquakes are measured on a Richter Scale, named after the American Seismologist Charles Francis Richter, which gauges its magnitude (the energy generated). A strong earthquake can cause the following:

- devastating loss of life
- the destruction of whole cities
- landslides
- mudflows
- tsunamis

Class	Magnitude
great	8 +
major	7 – 7.9
strong	6 – 6.9
moderate	5 – 5.9
light	4 – 4.9
minor	3 – 3.9

Tsunami!

Should an earthquake occur at the bottom of the ocean, waves of water are forced upwards, forming a devastatingly powerful wave – a tsunami. When a tsunami reaches land, the force of the water can topple buildings and anything else in its path, such as people, cars and trees. In December 2004, a massive earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean. The resulting tsunamis crashed into several countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand and more than 200,000 people died.

9b. Write an alternative sub-heading for paragraph two.



VF

10b. Find an example of a word or phrase in the first sentence of a paragraph that links to the subheading.



VF

11b. What is the function of the table?



VF

12b. True or false? The following sentence should be added to the paragraph under the sub-heading 'Destructive Earthquakes'.

Magnitude is measured with a seismometer; it measures movement in the ground.



VF

Varied Fluency Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

Developing

- 1a. x
- 2a. 'how to stay safe'
- 3a. Summarises what the whole text is about
- 4a. False

Expected

- 5a. What is the Difference Between a Tornado and a Hurricane?
- 6a. '...where they occur.'
- 7a. Breaks paragraph into easy to read sections
- 8a. True

Greater Depth

- 9a. Various answers, for example: Similarities and Differences Between Tornadoes and Hurricanes.
- 10a. Various answers, for example: Paragraph one: '...is location.'
- 11a. The function of bullet points is to break paragraphs into easy to read sections.
- 12a. False

Varied Fluency Paragraphs in Non-Fiction

Developing

- 1b. ✓
- 2b. 'Earthquakes happen because...'
- 3b. Summarises what the paragraph is about
- 4b. True

Expected

- 5b. Measuring the Size of an Earthquake
- 6b. 'Earthquakes occur because...'
- 7b. Displays information in a clear format
- 8b. False

Greater Depth

- 9b. Various answers, for example: How are Earthquakes Measured?
- 10b. Various answers, for example: Paragraph two: 'the destruction of whole cities.'
- 11b. The function of a table is to display information in a clear and easy to read format.
- 12b. True