

Activity 7: spot the underlying pattern

I have picked out the underlying pattern for you by boxing up the structure. This is just a guide and you could add in extra paragraphs, different sections, diagrams etc.

Type of creature	Cave Elves
Opening hook – <i>introduction to what is being written about, to make the reader interested in finding out more. Fascinating fact for interest</i>	Why is it that cave elves have interested elf whisperers over the years? Perhaps it is because the cave elf is such a rare form of elf and little is known about it. Generally, cave elves are only out and about at night. This is because they have grown so used to living in deep, dark caves that they find the sunlight so bright and hot that they can hardly see. A word of warning - do not handle cave elves as they may lash out in defense if they cannot see!
Appearance <i>Information about what the creature looks like</i>	Surprisingly, cave elves are easy to identify as they are the smallest elf in the world being about the size of small cats. Unfortunately, their children are often mistaken for rats. They wear broad-brimmed hats to keep the sun from their faces and leather clothes. The adult cave elf is a dark green colour which enables it to hide in shadows as well as trees, hedgerows and tall grass. They often wear cloaks, sturdy boots and have long beards and pointed ears. However, juveniles are born with a yellowish tinge and red hair which they lose after their 100 th birthday.
Habitat <i>Information about the area the creature lives in</i>	Cave elves are found in most mountain ranges and hills where there are plenty of hiding holes. Almost all cave elves live in large groups in underground caverns where they feel safest. However, a minority live as hermits. When out and about foraging for food, they will keep to the shadows and this makes them very difficult to identify. They live in harmony and train mice as their pets. The mice are treated in the same way that humans look fuss over dogs or cats.
Behaviour <i>Information about what the creature does</i>	Whilst most elves are renowned for their magical abilities and precious stones, the cave elf shows no interest in gold, silver or any other valuable stones. They are only interested in playing chess and wiling away their time holding quiz shows and tending to their indoor pot plants. These shy and gentle creatures are vegetarians and grow their own fruit and vegetables on mountain sides close to the entrance to their dens. Cave elves present no danger to humans and several have made friends with shepherds who are often out at night tending to their flocks.
Ending – involving the reader	Our 'save the cave elf' campaign has been concerned for many years that these delightful creatures might be mistaken for other less pleasant types of elf and therefore become hunted. David Battenburg suggests that where cave dwellings and caverns have been discovered, it is important to ensure that the location is kept secret. Our advice is that to preserve these mysterious and gentle creatures, all elf lovers living near caves should make sure that vegetable and fruit peelings are left out during snowy weather.

Activity 13: planning

Now you are going to organise your ideas into a boxed-up planner to help structure your writing. Remember, to pick extra topics other than appearance, habitat and diet. I have left four blank sections for extra sections. I have also left the right-hand column blank so you can bullet point in your ideas. Do NOT write the whole text in the right hand column – use bullet points to list ideas. This is a planner.

Structure of information text	Plan your ideas using bullet points
Type of creature	
Opening hook – to make the reader interested in finding out more. <i>Fascinating fact for interest</i>	
Habitat <i>Information about the area the creature lives in</i>	
Appearance <i>Information about what the creature looks like</i>	
Diet <i>Information about what the creature eats</i>	
Behaviour <i>Information about what the creature does</i>	
Ending – involving the reader	