

## Lesson 22

# Interpreting Visual Information

### Learning Target

By figuring out information that is shown in charts or other visuals, you will gain a clearer understanding of a topic in an informational text.

- **Read** While reading informational texts, you often see photos, **diagrams**, and **time lines**. These **visuals** explain ideas about a topic that words alone cannot. You also might see **graphs** with **quantitative** information in the form of numbers or other data.

If you come across a special text feature, figure out its purpose. Ask yourself: What information does it give? How does it work together with text details to add to your understanding of the topic?

**Read the text, and study the bar graph. Figure out how the graph helps you understand the text.**

A few months ago, I helped my science teacher set up a fish tank. The tank has three types of fish. We put in just two of the largest type of fish and many of the smaller types of fish. The tank is large enough to follow this rule: Each fish needs about one gallon of water to be healthy.



► **Think** Were you able to **interpret**, or figure out, the information in the text and graph? From the details, you should have a good idea of how many fish are in the tank and what kinds of fish live in it. Use the passage and the graph to fill in the chart below.

What the Text Says	What the Graph Shows
"The tank has three types of fish."	

► **Talk** Compare the information in your charts. What inference can you draw about the minimum number of gallons the tank should hold? Use information from the text and the graph. Draw a picture of the fish in the tank to help you answer.

**🎯 Academic Talk**

Use these words to talk about the text.

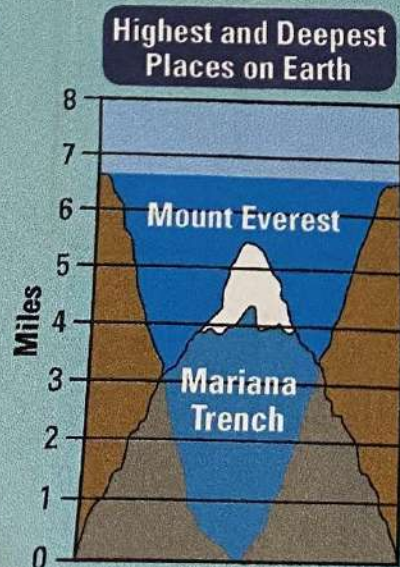
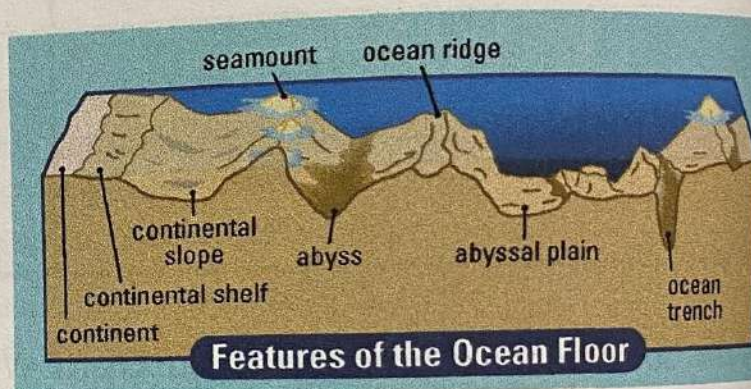
- diagrams
- time lines
- visuals
- graphs
- quantitative
- interpret

## Read

# Features of the Ocean Floor

by Connie Rather

- 1 Picture this: You're in a submarine right next to a continent. Looking down, you see a part of the ocean floor called the **continental shelf**. Now, head out to sea. The ocean floor drops away to form the **continental slope**. You might pass through a range of **seamounts**, or volcanoes rising from the ocean floor. In time, you'll reach the **abyssal plain**, a dark realm with deep valleys called **trenches**. Finally, you might encounter long, snakelike **ocean ridges** that rise from the ocean floor. They connect to form a long chain of underwater mountains around the planet.



- 2 The deepest ocean trench in the world is the Mariana Trench in the Pacific. It is one of the most difficult places to reach on Earth. It is so deep that if Mount Everest, one of the tallest mountains in the world, were picked up and put at the bottom of the trench, the mountain would still be covered with water!

## Close Reader Habits

Study the diagrams as you reread the text. **Circle** the title of each diagram. Think of how the title connects the diagram to the text.

## Explore

How do the text and diagrams work together to provide information about the ocean floor?

## Think

- 1 Use information about the abyssal plain and the Mariana Trench to complete the chart below. Identify what you learned from the text and what you learned from each diagram.



Look for information, data, or details in the diagrams that the text does not provide.

What the Text Says	What the Diagram Shows
<p>abyssal plain</p> <div></div>	<p>"Features of the Ocean Floor"</p> <div></div>
<p>Mariana Trench</p> <div></div>	<p>"Highest and Deepest Places on Earth"</p> <div></div>

## Talk

- 2 Share your chart with a partner. What information came from the text, the "Features of the Ocean Floor" diagram, and the "Highest and Deepest Places on Earth" graph? Why do you think the author presented certain information visually rather than in words?

## Write

- 3 **Short Response** How do the diagram, graph, and text work together to give you information about the Mariana Trench? Use evidence from each to support your response. Use the space provided on page 360 to write your response.

**HINT** Make sure to clearly state where your evidence comes from, the text or a diagram.