

HERRINGBONE TECHNIQUE EXPLANATION

This graphic organizer is used to help students identify the main idea and the related supporting ideas of a lesson, text or concept. It contains six questions that help students organize the details of the text. The visual pattern of the herringbone creates a framework for students to sort the information.

1. Students label all of the lines of the herringbone with the six questions as shown on the sample organizer.
2. Remind students to look for and identify the answers to the six questions while they are reading the text or listening to the presentation. Remind students that the question “Who?” will not always be answered with a person’s name, or proper noun. Discuss which topics may be considered a character or subject of a text.
3. After reading, students should fill in the answers to the six questions.
4. After all six questions have been answered, students should create a main idea sentence from the information they have organized. This main idea can be written across the backbone of the herringbone, or for easier readability, as a sentence at the bottom of the page.

Note: Stress that the main idea always includes specifically **“Who...did what.”** Some of the other information may be included but is not necessary to create a main idea sentence.

HERRINGBONE TECHNIQUE ORGANIZER

