Summarizing informational text

Rebuild a Cause-and-Effect Summary

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Keep the main ideas and essential details. Use your own words. Leave out opinions and small details that do not explain the whole text.

Example A class sorted tools, labeled boxes and assigned helpers. Summary: the class organized its supplies and made a plan to keep them ready.

Read the exhibit account. Connect causes to changes, remove distracting details, and write a balanced summary. Other accurate wording is acceptable.

The Exhibit That Changed Shape

[1] The invention club prepared an exhibit of its unfinished designs. Members first arranged sketches by the dates they were drawn. A yellow folder held the earliest pages, and a green folder held the latest ones. During a preview, visitors could follow the dates but struggled to connect a sketch with the problem it addressed.

[2] The club reorganized the exhibit around three design questions. Each section paired early sketches with later versions and a short note explaining a change. A visitor could now compare attempts at the same problem without searching through every dated page. Members kept the dates in small captions rather than using them as the main arrangement.

[3] At a second preview, visitors asked more questions about design choices. Some still wanted clearer labels on the smallest drawings. The club kept the question-based arrangement and planned to enlarge those labels before opening the exhibit to other classes.

1. Complete the cause-and-effect connection: Visitors struggled to connect sketches to problems, so the club ...

2. Remove one unnecessary detail from this summary note and explain why: 'The yellow and green folders held dated sketches that visitors struggled to connect to problems.'

3. Write a two-sentence summary that connects the organizational problem, the change, and the second preview.

4. Which ending is more accurate: 'Every visitor understood every design,' or 'The club kept the new structure while planning a label improvement'? Explain.

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Responses and feedback: Rebuild a Cause-and-Effect Summary

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. ... grouped sketches around design questions and paired earlier and later attempts with notes about changes.

Reasoning: First locate the difficulty in paragraph 1. Then select the reorganization in paragraph 2 that directly addresses that difficulty, rather than merely noting the folder colors.

2. Remove the folder colors. Revision: Visitors struggled to connect the dated sketches to the problems they addressed. The colors do not explain the difficulty or the solution.

Reasoning: First identify which information establishes the organizational problem. Then remove color information because the main relationship between dates, sketches, and design questions remains clear without it.

3. After visitors struggled to connect dated sketches with design problems, the club reorganized its exhibit around questions and changes between versions. The second preview brought more questions about design choices, although small labels still needed improvement.

Reasoning: First combine the problem and response as a cause-and-effect relationship. Then include the observed change in visitor questions and the remaining label issue without adding praise or a guaranteed final result.

4. The second ending is accurate because the club kept the question-based arrangement and planned larger labels; the passage never measures every visitor's understanding.

Reasoning: First compare each ending with paragraph 3. Then reject the universal understanding claim and keep the actual decision and unfinished work.