

Mastering Paragraphs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise a piece of writing into logical paragraphs using topic sentences.

Max the Monkey is trying to organise his notes about his jungle home. A paragraph should focus on one main idea. Read the jumbled text below and rewrite it into three clear paragraphs. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Max loves his home in the canopy. He spends his mornings leaping from branch to branch to find sweet mangoes for breakfast. His fur is thick and brown, which helps him hide from the bright sun. He has a long tail that helps him balance when he swings through the trees. Sometimes he finds shiny pebbles in the river. He likes to arrange these pebbles into patterns to practise his maths. It is important to keep the jungle clean, so he always picks up any rubbish he finds.

Word bank: furthermore · in addition · consequently · meanwhile · on the other hand · firstly · finally

1. Identify the three main topics in the passage. Which sentences belong with 'Max's daily activities', 'Max's physical appearance', and 'Max's hobbies'? (3 marks)

2. Write a topic sentence for the paragraph about Max's appearance. (2 marks)

3. Why is it important to start a new paragraph when writing about a different topic? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the section about Max's hobbies as one clear paragraph, including at least one word from the word bank. (3 marks)

5. If Max wanted to add a new paragraph about his best friend, what would be a good topic sentence to introduce this new idea? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Max's jungle home, with three distinct areas labelled to show where he does his three different activities: eating, swinging, and playing with pebbles.



Extension challenge: Write a fourth paragraph for the text about Max's dream of travelling to the mountains. Remember to use a transition word from the word bank to link it to the previous paragraphs.