

LO: To write diversity paragraphs

Look at our model text introduction. What features (toolbox) have we explored?

Diversity

There is little variety in terms of plants in the taiga. The majority of trees are conifers, which is why the taiga is referred to as the coniferous forest. Conifers - including pines, spruce, hemlock and fir - are evergreen and don't drop their leaves in autumn. This means there are few nutrients in the soil, which is why there is not much variety in the vegetation. Interestingly, taiga trees have many adaptations for surviving their environment which include a conical shape to allow snow to slip off easily as well as leaves with waxy protective coatings to lock in moisture.

Like plants, there are not many animals in the taiga. Of the ones there, brown bears are the top predator, hunting everything from deer to fish. Because of the climate, many animals of the taiga migrate to warmer areas or hibernate during the long, cold winters. Others have special adaptations including thick fur or feathers and the ability to change colour according to the season. Whilst there are not many animals in the taiga, there are millions of insects resulting in birds migrating there to feed off them.

- sub-title
- paragraph
- topic sentence
- definitions
- additional information
- parenthesis
- examples
- technical language
- mix of simple and complex sentences
- wide range of connectives
- use of generalisers

Look at the notes. Which idea(s) would be best for the topic sentence? Remember, a topic sentence introduces the **main idea** of what the paragraph is about. Additionally, more specific details follow a topic sentence. Think **big** idea to **smaller** ideas.

Diversity

- Tremendous diversity of habitats and species.
- Vegetation types – forests and woodlands, savannas, shrublands, and grasslands; mosaic (see definition) landscapes.
- Forests – broadleaf evergreen trees and coniferous forests
- Shrubland – dense thickets of evergreen sclerophyll shrubs and small trees called chaparral
- Harbours about 48,250 known vascular plants – 20% of world total.
- Exceptionally high numbers of rare and local endemic plants.
- Much of woody vegetation is sclerophyll
- Sclerophyll vegetation has small, dark leaves covered with a waxy outer layer.
- Waxy outer layer retains moisture in dry summer months.
- Many plants are pyrophyte (see definition)
- Native people used to use fire to clear brush and trees = plants adapted.
- Common animals – coyotes, mule deer, praying mantis and ladybugs
- Most animals are nocturnal.

Using

the model text to guide you, the grammar we have explored recently (connectives and parenthesis), your toolbox and the research/information about the Chaparral biome

write your own diversity paragraphs.