Informational Texts 101!
What is an informational text?

Informational text is “..designed primarily to explain, argue, or describe rather than to entertain.”

(from Harris, et al. The Literacy Dictionary, IRA, 1995)
Purpose of Informational Texts:

- To acquire information
- To satisfy curiosity
- To understand our world more fully
- To understand new concepts and expand vocabulary
- To make connections to our lives and learning
- To write good nonfiction
- To have fun 😊

(from Stephanie Harvey. *Nonfiction Matters*, Stenhouse, 1998)
Informational text...

- gives information
- gives necessary explanations to understand the information
- shows what is and is not important
- often uses narrative(story) elements to make it interesting

Informational text may have some or all of the following features:

- Table of contents and index
- Photographs and realistic, accurate illustrations
- Captions to describe photographs, illustrations
- Maps and diagrams
- Glossary (words with definitions)
- Footnotes
- Bibliographies