

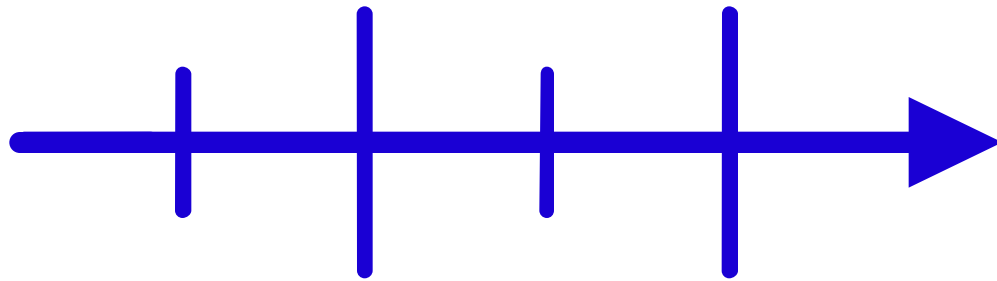
The advanced recount

book

Sue Palmer

Recount text

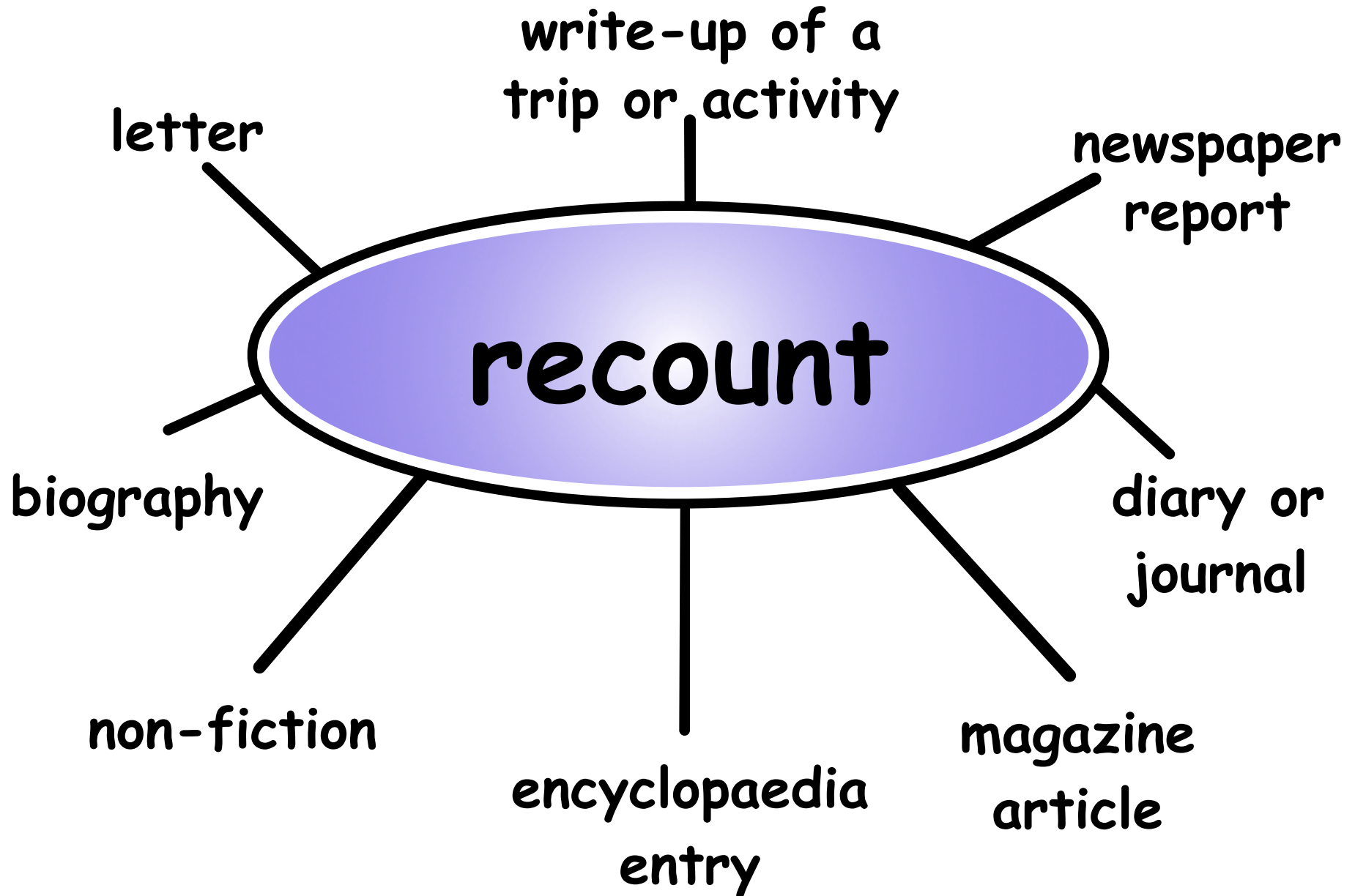
- retells events
- in time order.



(chronological)

These texts are often recounts...

Recount genres



Recount writing needs

Purpose

- to retell events in chronological order
- to interest and inform the reader.

The **genre** of text can also affect the purpose.

- **title** that draws the reader in
- **opening paragraph** - who, what, when, where, (and why should I bother reading this?)
- clear **chronological order** of events, supported by **paragraphing**
- **topic sentence** to start each paragraph
- a satisfying **conclusion**.

A topic sentence sums up the main content of the paragraph.

Recount writing

Audience

- think about the audience for the **genre**
- how much do you know about them (age, interests, prior knowledge)?

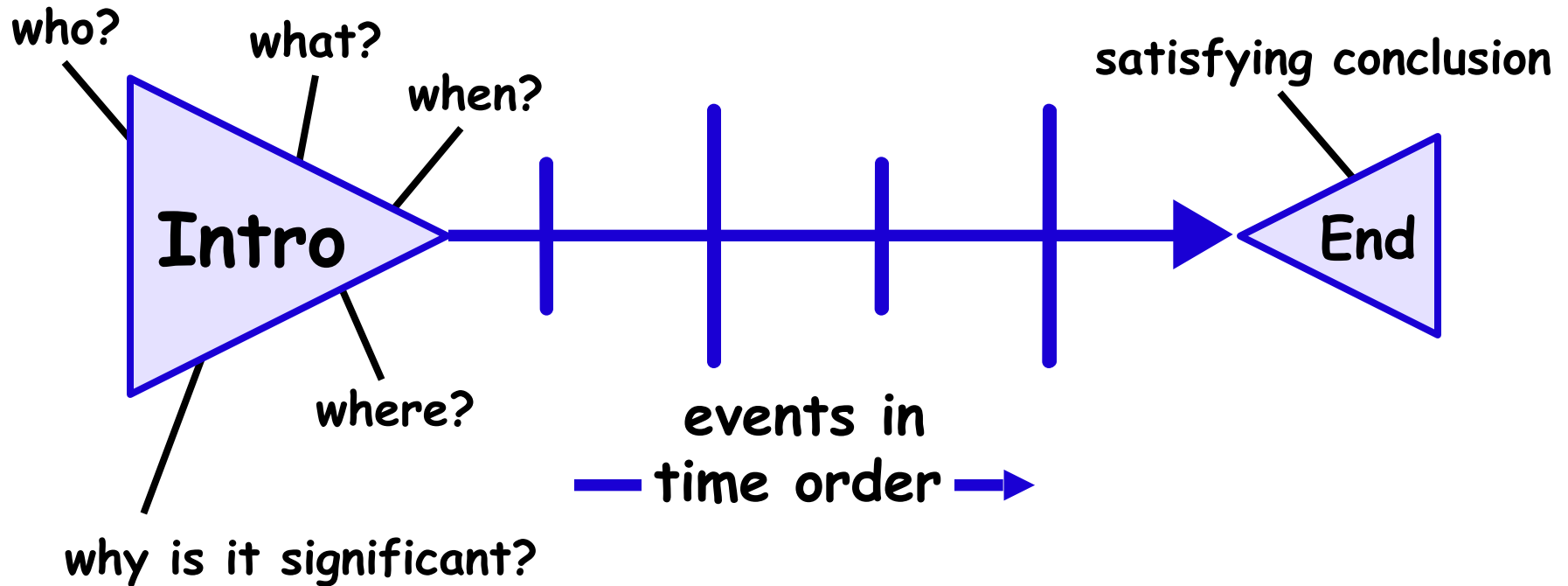
- Use what you know about your audience to decide
- how much **background detail** is needed
 - appropriate level of **formality**.

Where should your text sit along these continua?

informal ← ----- → formal
personal ← ----- → impersonal

The position on each continuum may be different. Impersonal texts are sometimes written informally, and personal texts may be formal.

Planning and organising recounts



When you have made your time-line skeleton notes,
chop them into **paragraphs**.

Recount language features

* past tense

(except references to places/circumstances that are ongoing)

* specific people, places, events (usually **proper nouns**)

* **time connectives** and other devices to show the passage of time

* consistent use of **first or third person**
(personal recounts) (impersonal recounts)

* use of direct **quotations** and/or **reported speech**, where appropriate.

A few weeks later, _____

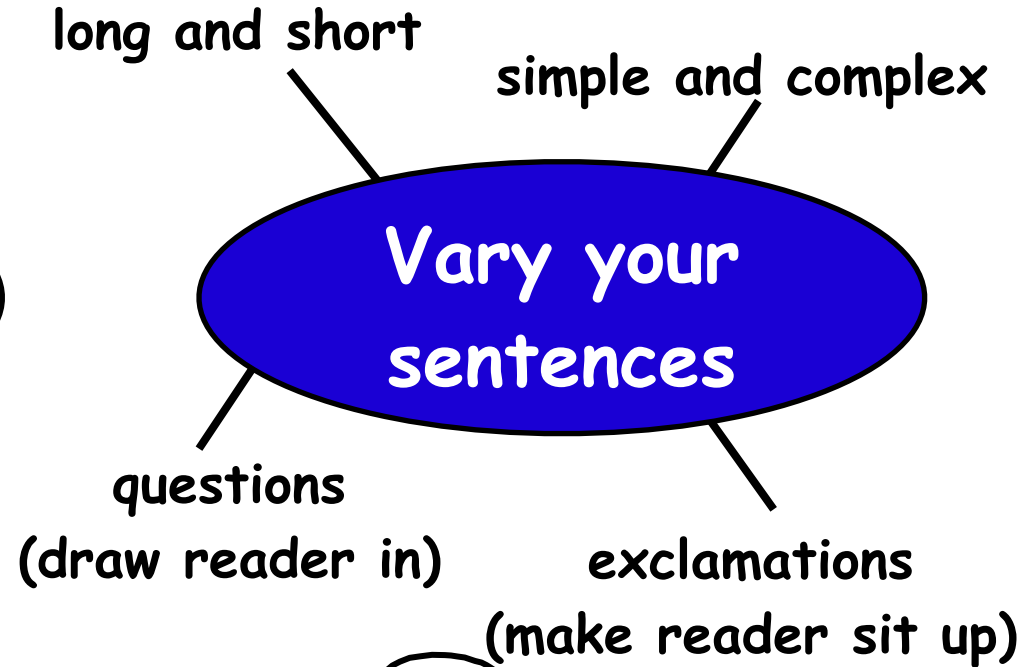
When _____,

Finally, _____

Early in 1666, _____

Several weeks passed.

Lively recount writing



A white speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing towards the bottom right. It contains the text "Use quotations or reported speech" in blue.

Use quotations or reported speech

A white thought bubble with a black outline and three small circles leading to it from the bottom. It contains the text "Think about your readers" in blue, followed by a bulleted list: "• what would catch their attention?", "• what interest them?", and "• talk to them!".

Think about your readers

- what would catch their attention?
- what interest them?
- talk to them!

First person recounts

(it happened to me)

e.g. letter, diary, write-up of trip

These may

- tell about your **feelings**
- give your **opinion** as well as the **facts**
- be **personal** and **informal** in style.

singular

I
me
my
mine
myself

plural

we
us
our
ours
ourselves

Third person recounts

(it happened to someone else)

e.g. newspaper report, non-fiction book

These usually need

- **facts** and **supporting evidence**, e.g. quotes, statistics
- **full names**, **dates** and other background **detail**
- a more **impersonal** writing style.

singular

he/she/it
him/her/it
his/her/its
his/hers/its
himself/herself

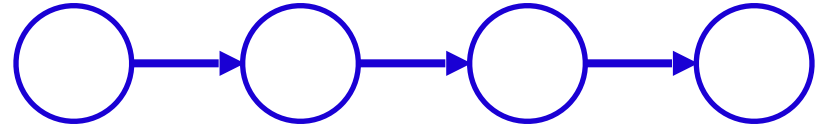
/itself

plural

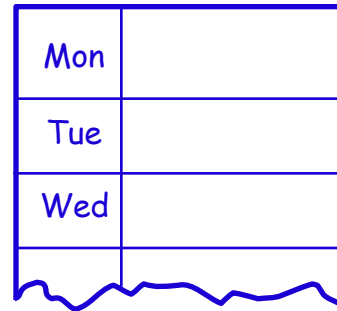
they
them
their
theirs
themselves

Alternative 'skeleton' note-taking frameworks

* flow chart

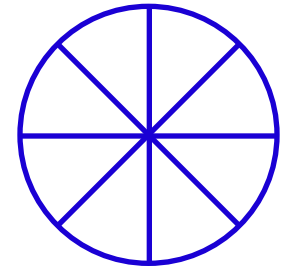


* comic strip

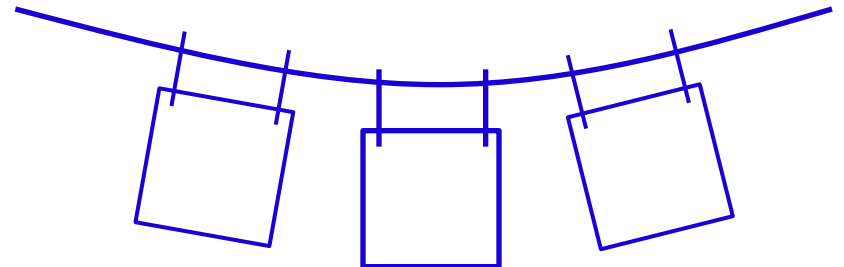


* calendar grid

* clock face



* You could write events on post-its and stick in order...
...or on cards on a washing line.



Examples of 'skeletons' in use

Taken from 'How to teach Writing Across the Curriculum' by Sue Palmer, with many thanks to David Fulton Publishers

A trip to the Eden Project

Last Friday, our class travelled in the school bus to visit the Eden project in Cornwall. It was a long ride to get there so we had to be at school an hour early, at eight o'clock. We brought our breakfast to eat on the bus.

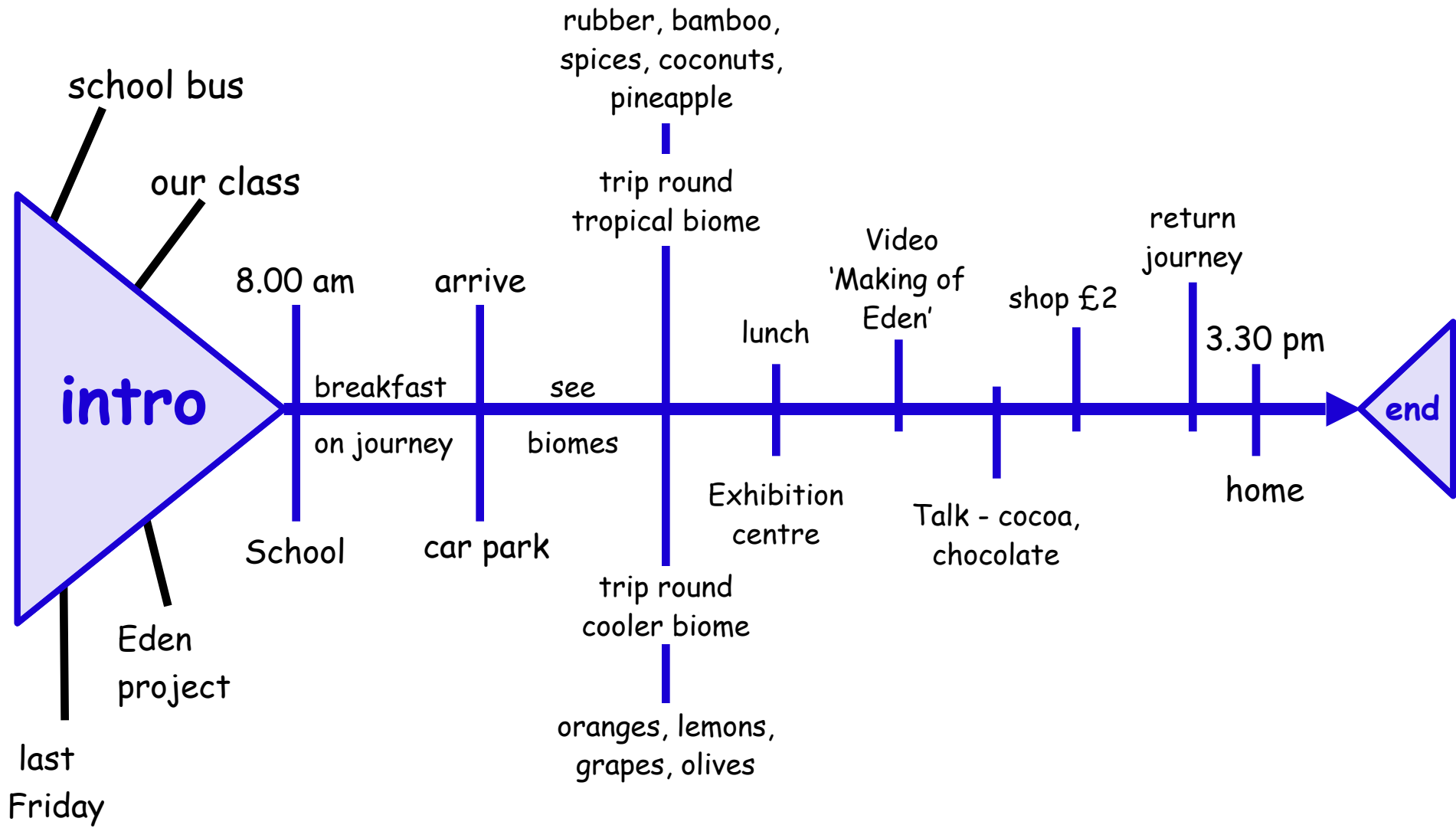
When we arrived at the Eden Project, we could tell it was a big attraction by the size of the car parks, which were carefully laid out and named after fruits - we were in Plum Car Park. As we walked down, we could see the Eden Projects buildings - two enormous plastic domes, built in a dip in the ground.

Mrs Jeffries told us they were called 'biomes' and the dip used to be a claypit, where men had dug out the clay to use for making pots. We spent our morning going round the biomes looking at the plants. One

spices, coconuts and pineapples. There are also displays of buildings and gardens from tropical countries. The other biome is not so warm and among the plants there are oranges, lemons, grapes and olives.

We had our lunch in the exhibition centre, where we watched a video about 'The making of Eden'. The Eden Project was built to show how humans and plants depend upon each other and it cost millions of pounds to build. Next we had a talk about the plants. A lady explained how you get cocoa beans and cocoa milk from a pod and use them to make chocolate.

We were allowed to look in the shop and spend two pounds. I bought some stickers and a postcard of a man building the biomes. Finally, it was time for the long ride home. We were back by half past thr



A taste of Paradise

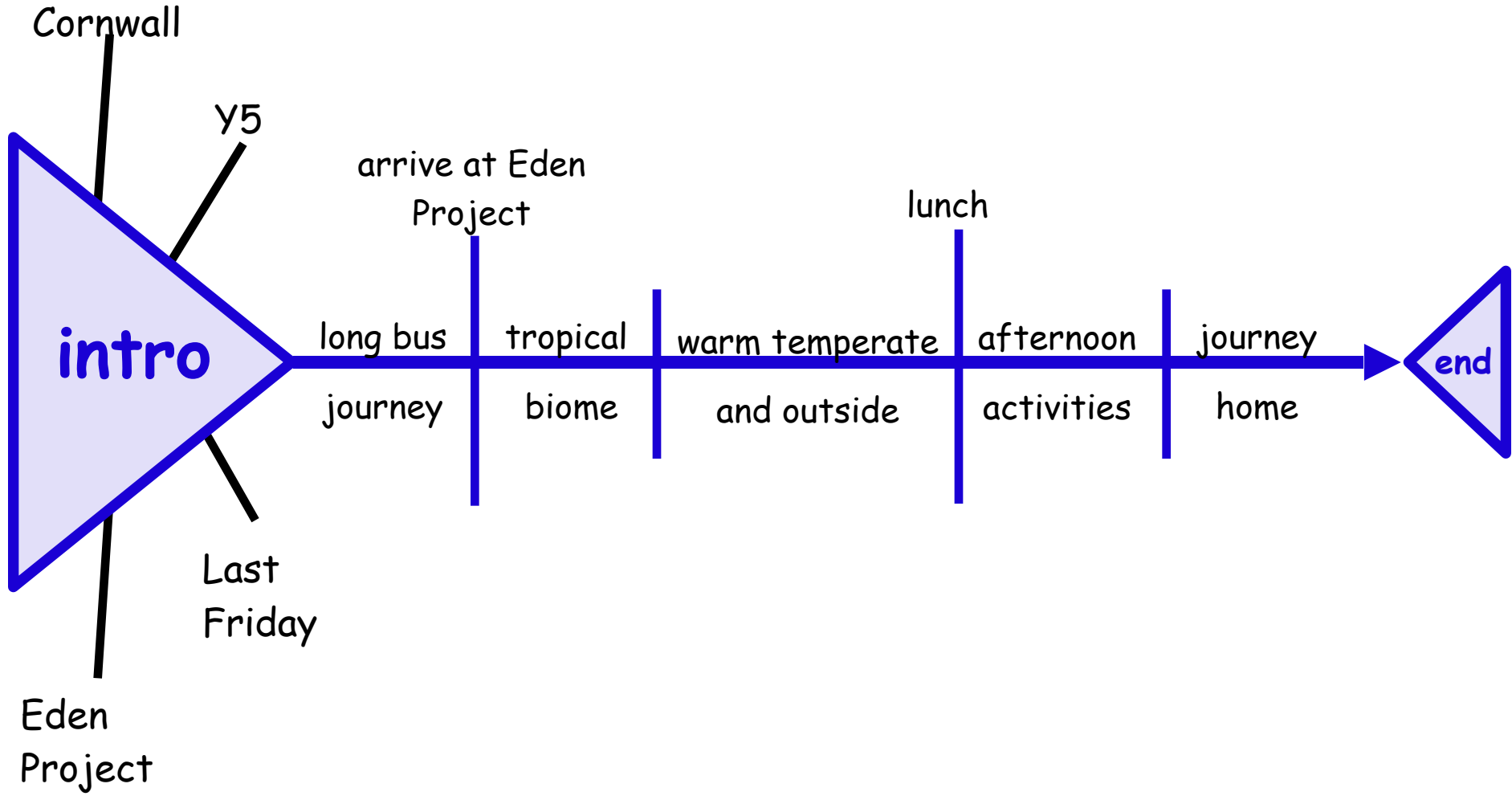
"All this way to see plants grow in a greenhouse!" After hours watching rain stream by the bus windows on the long road to Cornwall last Friday, Year 5 was feeling less than enthusiastic about visiting the Eden Project. Yet as the children made their way across the vast car parks, catching their first glimpse of two huge plastic 'biomes' in a gigantic crater, they began to change their minds.

The Eden Project is the largest greenhouse in the world, big enough to hold the Tower of London and housing more than 135,000 plants. In the humid tropical biome, Year 5 found themselves wandering through a stifling heat beside a tropical waterfall. They saw plants they knew - bananas, pineapples, mangoes, cocoa, rice - not picked and packed on supermarket shelves, but alive and growing. They saw plants they didn't know and hadn't dreamed of. They

- sweets, cosmetics, sports gear...

In the warm temperate biome, the heat was gentler and the air filled with the scent of lemons. Here they saw the plants of California and the Mediterranean: olives, vines, tobacco, cotton, cork and mouth-watering fruit and vegetables. Outside, on the slopes leading up to the exhibition hall, were the familiar plants of the cool temperate zone, and the familiar weather - still raining!

After lunch, there was a film about the building of Eden and a talk from the education department...and then the long drive home. But now as the rain beat down and the windows steamed up, Year 5 could close their eyes and remember Paradise. The scents of jasmine, ginger and pineapple; the sultry tropical heat; the rainbow colours of wild, exotic





The End