

Nonfiction Text Structures #3

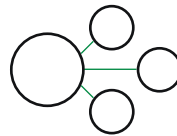
Description

Nonfiction writers use the description text structure to explain a topic, idea, person, place, or thing by listing characteristics and examples.

Description Signal Words

characteristics are, for example, directions, another, in addition

Description Visuals



Directions: Read the passage, underlining signal words that offer clues about the text structure.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is a historic trail from Mexico City, Mexico, to San Juan Pueblo, near Santa Fe, New Mexico. This road boasts many interesting characteristics. For example, the name means “The Royal Road of the Interior Land” in Spanish.

In addition to its interesting name, this road was the longest road in North America at one time. Just how long is El Camino Real? The trail is about 1,600 miles long. Parts of the trail were used by Native Americans around 1000 A.D. as a trade route. They would travel to tribal settlements along the trail to trade goods.

The Native Americans were just one of many groups that have relied on El Camino Real as a trade route. For instance, in 1598, the Spanish used the trail to send over 500 settlers to northern New Mexico. This made the trail an official Spanish trade route, which would be used for the next 300 years. Today, several modern highways cover parts of the historic route, though large sections are on city streets, as well.

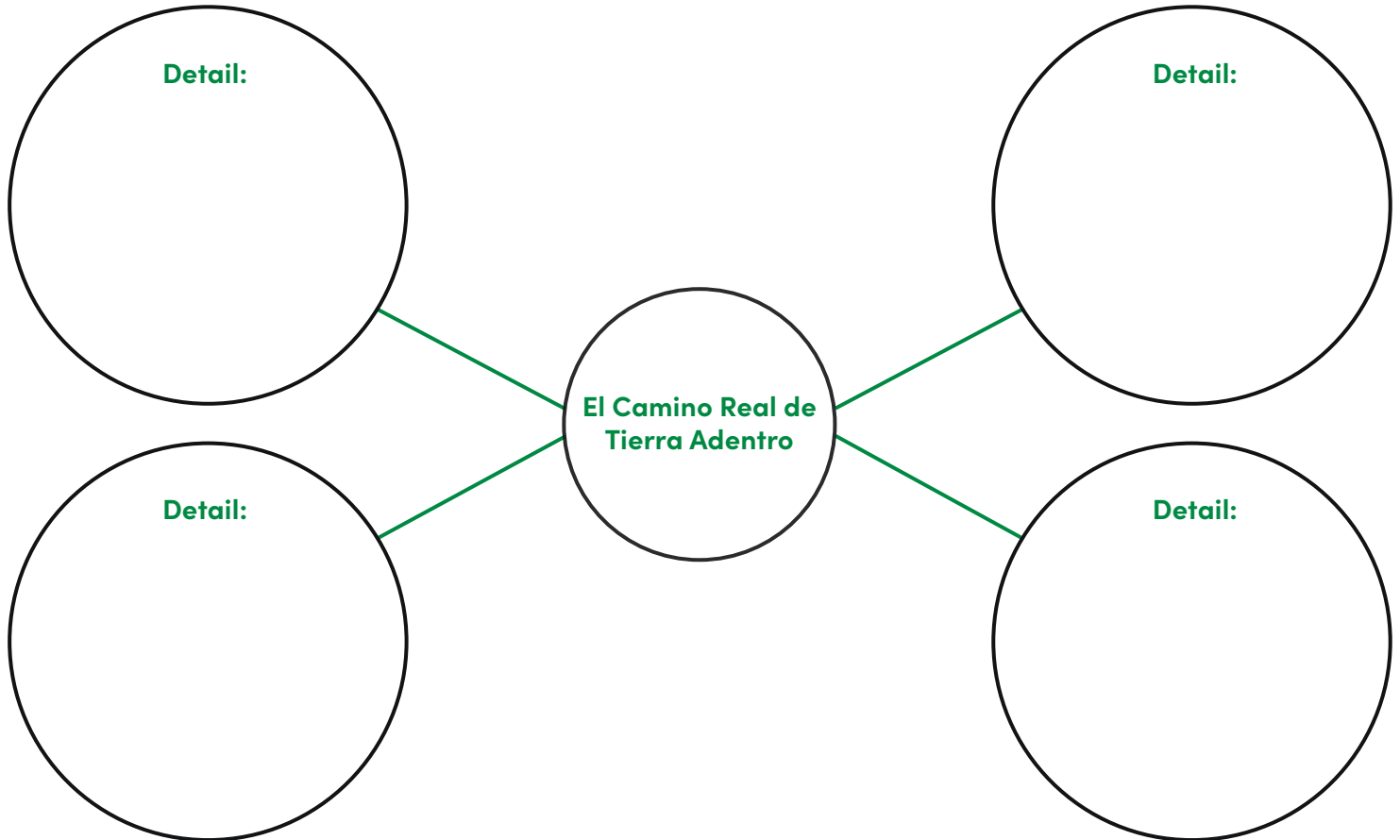
Historic Centre of Zacatecas, part of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.



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Directions: Refer to the passage when completing this chart.



List the signal words in this passage. (Hint: Look for words that show description.)

Name two groups of people that used El Camino Real as a trade route.
