

Subtitles and Subtopics

Subtitling of a long text highlights the main ideas. The text is divided in subtopics; these are phrases, short sentences that focus the subject and theme of the paragraphs or the sections. Subtitling and writing subtopics is important for both reading and writing. These are study skills that help in organizing our writing and scaffolds our reading of the text. Sometimes it breaks the monotony of reading or writing a long text as well.

Steps for writing Subtopics

Anuja and her team have to write an article on ***Clean Ganga*** for their school magazine. The article is based on the study of following questions.

Step -1

- How much is the Ganga polluted?
- What causes pollution in the Ganga?
- Does the government do anything to clean up the pollution?
- How does the pollution in the river affect plant or animal life?
- How does the pollution in the river affect people?
- What steps have been taken to educate devotees and visitors on the cleansing of Ganga?
- Are devotees/ visitors satisfied with some changes in the old practices being followed?

Step -ii

Identification and selection of words that label the above questions such as;

Statistics-data How much is the Ganga polluted?

Causes What causes pollution?

Solutions Does the government do anything to clean up the pollution?

Effects How does the pollution in the river affect plant or animal life?

Effects How does the pollution in the river affect people?

Perceptions What steps have been taken to educate devotees and visitors on the cleansing of Ganga? Are devotees/ visitors satisfied with some changes in the old practices being followed ?

Step iii

Writing the categorizing/ labelling words for subtopic headings, these are linked to the subject of the article- *Clean Ganga*.

1. Statistics about river Ganga
2. Causes of Pollution
3. Effects of pollution
 - 3.1 Plants and animal life
 - 3.2 People and medical risks
4. Pollution and some solutions
5. Educating devotees and visitors on keeping Ganga clean

See point -3, you can make sub heads of the subtopics as well.

Let us Write

Subtitling and Subtopics

Read the following text carefully.

How Did Tribal Groups Live? By the nineteenth century, tribal people in different parts of India were involved in a variety of activities. Some were jhum cultivators. Some of them practised jhum cultivation that is, shifting cultivation. This was done on small patches of land, mostly in forests. The cultivators cut the treetops to allow sunlight to reach the ground, and burnt the vegetation on the land to clear it for cultivation. They spread the ash from the firing, which contained potash, to fertilise the soil. They used the axe to cut trees and the hoe to scratch the soil in order to prepare it for cultivation. They broadcast the seeds, that is, scattered the seeds on the field instead of ploughing the land and sowing the seeds. Once the crop was ready and harvested, they moved to another field. Some were hunters and gatherers. In many regions tribal groups lived by hunting animals and gathering forest produce. They saw forests as essential for survival. The Khonds were such a community living in the forests of Orissa. They regularly went out on

collective hunts and then divided the meat amongst themselves. They ate fruits and roots collected from the forest and cooked food with the oil they extracted from the seeds of the sal and mahua. They used many forest shrubs and herbs for medicinal purposes, and sold forest produce in the local markets. The local weavers and leather workers turned to the Khonds when they needed supplies of kusum and palash flowers to colour their clothes and leather. Some herded animals. Many tribal groups lived by herding and rearing animals. They were pastoralists who moved with their herds of cattle or sheep according to the seasons. When the grass in one place was exhausted, they moved to another area. The Van Gujjars of the Punjab hills and the Labadis of Andhra Pradesh were cattle herders, the Gaddis of Kulu were shepherds, and the Bakarwals of Kashmir reared goats. Some took to settled cultivation. Even before the nineteenth century, many from within the tribal groups had begun settling down, and cultivating their fields in one place year after year, instead of moving from place to place. They began to use the plough, and gradually got rights over the land they lived on. In many cases, like the Mundas of Chottanagpur, the land belonged to the clan as a whole. All members of the clan were regarded as descendants of the original settlers, who had first cleared the land.

1. Now write the subtitle. Remember the subtitle should present the main idea of the text briefly.
2. Divide the text in paragraphs/ sections
3. Write the appropriate subtopics to sections/ paragraphs. You may select from the following or write subtopics in your words.
 - i. Jhum Cultivators
 - ii. Animal Herders
 - iii. Hunters and Gatherers
 - iv. Cultivators
4. Write a suitable title for the text.

