



Text Complexity Analysis of

Caribbean Bat Species Need 8 Million Years to Recover... (title)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 9-10

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.) The author wants to inform readers how studying Caribbean bat species has led to an understanding of how long it may take other species to recover from extinction waves. The author also alludes to how human impact has led to the loss of species.

Text Structure: (Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.) The text is straightforward, and no headings are used to break apart the article. The online version has multiple images with captions (not essential).

Language Features: (Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.) The article contains simple, complex, and compound sentences. There are a variety of domain-specific words used (*extinction, biodiversity, evolution, ecologically diverse*), and few have context clues to discern meaning. Academic vocabulary is also used (*staggering, colonization, fates*).

Knowledge Demands: (Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.) Students should understand the theory of evolution, the process of natural selection, and geographic isolation. An understanding of how the evolution of species may differ on islands and continents as proposed by Charles Darwin would help students make deeper connections with the text.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text: This informational text is intended to support reading in the content area. The article discusses how Caribbean bat species are ideal for understanding the implications of extinction and its effects on species. The article suggests that the geographic isolation of these species helps scientists to understand the causes of extinction and how long species may need to recover from natural and human impact.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): Above 11-12

The text falls above the 11-12 grade band according to a quantitative reading measure.

Considerations for Reader and Task

Below are factors to consider with respect to the reader and task.

Reading this text would benefit students most at the end of an evolution unit. At that time, the concepts of natural selection and speciation would have been taught and presented as a review for this lesson.

Potential Challenges this Text Poses:

Prior to reading, students should have an understanding of geographic isolation and speciation, as the article does not provide this. In addition, the teacher may wish to use this article after discussing Charles Darwin and “his” finches, as it would serve to deepen students’ understanding of the text.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: The content is appropriate for 9th and 10th grades in regards to evolution and human impact on biodiversity. The quantitative score is high due to domain-specific words; however, these vocabulary terms can be made manageable for 9th and 10th graders.