



Battle of the Wilderness Text Structures Name _____

Read each paragraph and determine its text structure. Below are the text structures

Cause and effect | Problem/Solution | Compare/Contrast | Sequential

1. Union General Ulysses S. Grant wanted to quickly move his army through the thick forests of Virginia to reach open ground, but Confederate General Robert E. Lee met him in the Wilderness and forced a battle. The thick underbrush made it hard to see, and the smoke from gunfire and forest fires caused confusion. As a result, many soldiers were shot by accident, and some were trapped in burning areas. These dangerous conditions led to high casualties on both sides, especially for the Union Army.

Text Structure _____

2. The Battle of the Wilderness took place over two days. On May 5, 1864, the fighting began as Union and Confederate soldiers clashed in the dense forest. Throughout the day, both sides pushed back and forth without gaining a clear advantage. The battle continued into May 6, with more chaotic fighting and even parts of the woods catching fire. By the evening of the second day, Grant chose to move his army southeast toward Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Text Structure _____

3. Fighting in the Wilderness created a major problem for both armies. The thick trees and tangled brush made it almost impossible to see the enemy or move troops easily. To solve this, some commanders tried to rely on sound to direct their men or used local guides to navigate the forest. Even though these solutions helped a little, the environment still made it one of the most difficult battles of the war.

Text Structure _____

4. The Battle of the Wilderness and the Battle of Antietam were both bloody clashes in the Civil War, but they were very different in how they were fought. Antietam was fought mostly in open fields and around a creek, while the Wilderness took place in dense forests. Antietam was the bloodiest single-day battle, while the Wilderness lasted two days with heavy confusion and fires. Both battles ended without a clear victory, but each showed how deadly the war had become.

Text Structure _____

Answers

1. Cause and Effect
2. Sequential
3. Problem/Solution
4. Compare/Contrast