



Fast fact-finding

Read the passage below.



Sky Colours



Have you ever wondered why the sky appears deep blue and at sunset turns almost white? Or why some sunsets are fiery red and others appear yellow? The reason is that the structure of particles in the atmosphere is constantly changing. Every colour in the sky comes from the Sun. Sunlight is white, which means it is a mix of every colour in the rainbow. But as it passes through the atmosphere, gases, dust, ice crystals, and water droplets split it into the various colours, bending some colours more than others. The colours are not dependent on which colours are reflected and which are absorbed. Clouds appear blue because gases in the air reflect mostly blue light from the Sun. The sky gets pink when extra short or immature sunlight reflects off clouds, filtering the blue. Sunsets are yellow (or red, if the air is dirty) because the Sun's rays have to travel so far through the lower atmosphere that all the yellow light is absorbed.

From *How the Sun Works* by Dr. Mark

Underline all the main points in the paragraph above. Then answer these questions in complete sentences.

What colour is sunlight?

Why is the sky blue?

What do you notice about the first four words? Why do you think they are set out this way?

What kind of sentence introduces the passage?

Which word in the sentence is, however, and which sentence tell us that this piece of writing does more than simply tell facts? What else does it do?
