



Reading Corner

Main Idea & Details Part 1

What is a main idea?

A main idea is what the text is mostly about.

What are details?

Details are sentences that tell more about, describe, or explain the main idea.

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then, use the graphic organizer to record the main idea and three supporting details.

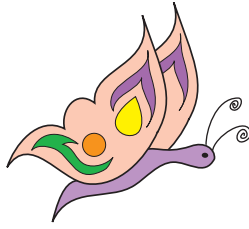
You probably know sharks have very sharp teeth, but did you know they never run out of them? If a shark loses a tooth, another moves forward from within the shark's jaw, where it keeps a nearly unlimited supply of replacement teeth. This way, it's almost impossible for a shark to end up without a full set of teeth. This is a phenomenon unique to the shark. No other animal in the world has teeth quite like the shark's. A shark can go through as many as 20,000 teeth in its lifetime!

Detail → _____

Detail → _____

Detail → _____

Main Idea → _____



Reading Corner

Main Idea & Details Part 2

What is a main idea?

A main idea is what the text is mostly about.

What are details?

Details are sentences that tell more about, describe, or explain the main idea.

Directions: Read each paragraph. Then, use the graphic organizer to record the main idea and three supporting details.

You know that butterflies are insects that glide through the air on colorful wings. Did you know they are also masters of disguise? For example, the Viceroy butterfly has evolved to look almost exactly like the Monarch, a poisonous butterfly that predators know to avoid. Though the Viceroy itself is not poisonous, birds and other predators steer clear, mistaking it for the Monarch. The Buckeye sports "eyespot", target-shaped spots resembling eyes, on the tips of its wings. Predators will aim for an eyespot, believing it to be the head of the Buckeye, but will instead end up with just a wing tip, allowing the Buckeye to escape.

Detail → _____

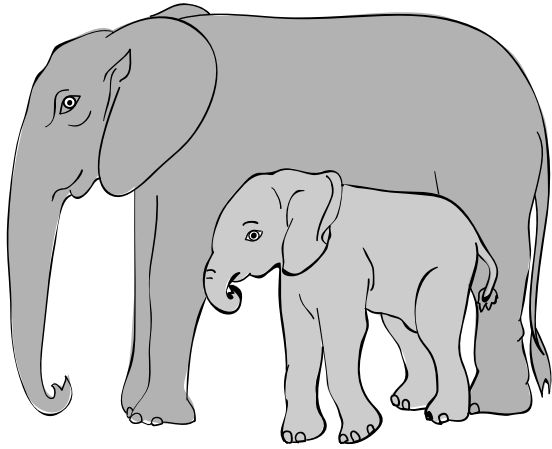
Detail → _____

Detail → _____

Main Idea → _____

Find the Main Idea

Find the main idea in the paragraph below. Write the main idea in your own words in the space provided. Then, write a concluding sentence for this paragraph.

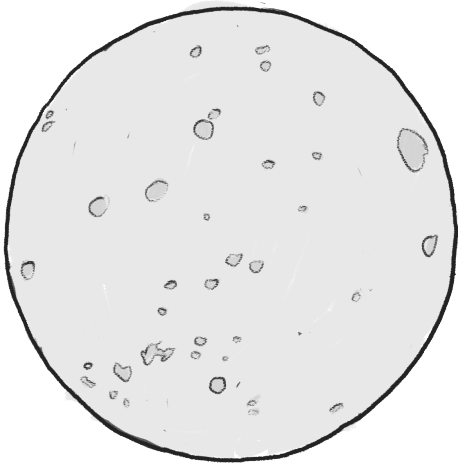


Elephants are the largest living land mammals. The Asian Elephant, also known as the Indian Elephant, can weigh up to 11,000 pounds. The African Elephant is even bigger, weighing as much as 20,000

pounds. The elephant's gestation period is 22 months, the longest of any mammal, because baby elephants weigh an average of 260 pounds at birth. The largest elephant ever measured was 13 feet tall and weighed 24,000 pounds!

Main idea:

Concluding sentence:



Find the Main Idea: **The Moon**

Find the main idea in the paragraph below. Write the main idea in your own words in the space provided. Then, write a concluding sentence for this paragraph.

The moon is the Earth's only natural satellite, and we can look outside on a clear night to see it. Our moon is not the only moon in the Solar System, though. There are over 300 other moons! Even though we can clearly see the moon at night, it is about 238,857 miles away from the Earth. However, the moon seems very close by when you consider that the sun is about 92,955,817 miles away. The moon goes through phases over a month's time. The moon phases include: **New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter, Waning Crescent.**

Main Idea: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Find the Main Idea

Native American Foods

Directions: Complete each of the following steps. Then, fill out the Main Idea chart on the next page.



Underline the main idea in red.



Underline supporting details in blue.



Underline an interesting piece of information in purple.

Native American Foods

Native Americans ate a wide variety of foods before there was any contact with Europeans. Tribes like the Iroquois, Algonquin, and Cherokee grew corn, beans, and squash as a major part of their diet. These three foods were called the three sisters and were often grown together. Both corn and squash were only found in North and South America before trade with Europe.

Many other tribes were hunter-gatherers, who did not farm. Some followed herds of buffalo, deer, or other game for food, and picked berries or other edible plants. Others, in the north and on the coast, hunted seal and other sea life and ate sea plants. No one knows exactly what was eaten when the Wampanoag had their famous meal with the Pilgrims, but it was likely they ate squash, corn, beans, or deer.

Modern-day native people eat variations of traditional foods. Some foods, such as fry bread, are still an important part of Native American social gatherings.



Find the Main Idea

1) What is the main idea of this reading passage?

2) List three details from the text that support this main idea.

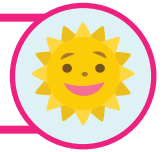
a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



Main Idea at the Movies



Name: _____

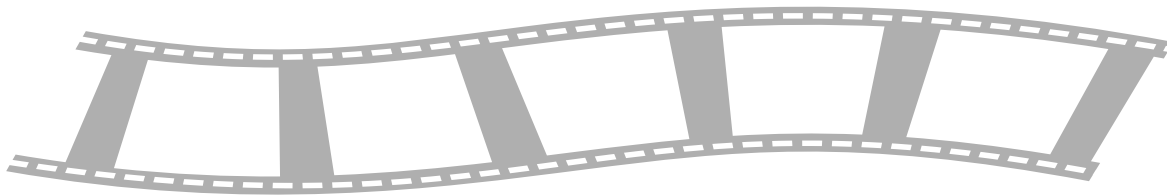
Date: _____

Priscilla is a screenwriter in Hollywood. Although her screenplays are full of interesting details, she is having a hard time coming up with good titles. A helpful producer explains that she should read the whole script, and then decide what it is all about. Priscilla should then come up with a title that describes the main idea.

Directions: Come up with a title for each of the movies described below.

Example: A young mermaid falls in love with a human and longs to grow legs so that she can meet him.

The Little Mermaid



1. There is a big race being held in a small town and all the kids want to win. A shy boy who has never been very fast starts training with a tough coach and overcomes many obstacles to win the race.

2. Penny, a golden retriever, is lost in foreign country when her owners bring her along for a family vacation. She sees lots of amazing sights all over the world as she tracks down her owners, who are also searching for her.

3. Matilda wants to be a famous singer, but she has a terrible singing voice. She keeps trying to get record deals by tricking music executives into listening to her sing, but it never works--until one day when she arrives at Portkey Music Company, where an eager new intern, who is pretending to be the head executive, accidentally gives her a record deal.

4. A huge storm is threatening to destroy a tiny island community. All of the people who live there overcome their differences and band together to save their home. In the process, they learn to understand one another and the significance of their island home.

