



Finding the main idea and key details

Identify the main idea of a nonfiction text and find key details that support it

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS · GRADE 3 · 45 MIN

e^x	e^{-x}	$\sinh x$	$\cosh x$	$\tanh x$
1.0000	1.0000	.00000	1.0000	.00000
1.1052	.90484	.10017	1.0050	.09967
1.2214	.81873	.20134	1.0201	.19738
1.3499	.74082	.30452	1.0453	.29135
1.4918	.67032	.41075	1.0811	.37994
1.6487	.60653	.52110	1.1276	.46215
1.8221	.54881	.63665	1.1855	.53701
2.0138	.49659	.75858	1.2552	.60437
2.2255	.44933	.88701	1.3374	.66405
2.4596	.40657	1.0210	1.4331	.71633
2.7183	.36788	1.1752	1.5430	.76159
3.0042	.33287	1.3356	1.6681	.80051
3.3201	.30119	1.5095	1.8090	.83366
3.6693	.27125	1.6984	1.9668	.86177
4.0552	.24360	1.9043	2.1431	.88539
4.4817	.21813	2.1293	2.3352	.90511
4.9530	.19490	2.3756	2.5477	.92164
5.4739	.17368	2.6456	2.8288	.93544
6.0496	.15430	2.9422	3.1077	.94688
6.6859	.13657	3.2682	3.4119	.95622
7.3891	.12034	3.6269	3.7470	.96401
8.1662	.10538	4.0219	4.1199	.97044
9.0250	.09147	4.4571	4.5372	.97577
9.9742	.07843	4.9370	5.0059	.98011
1.023			5.5569	.98366
2.182			6.1323	.98666
3.464			6.7690	.98900
4.880			7.4735	.99100
6.445			8.2527	.99266
8.174			9.1146	.99399
0.086		10.018	10.068	.99500
2.198		11.076	11.122	.99599
4.533		12.246	12.287	.99666
7.113		13.538	13.575	.99722
9.964		14.965	14.999	.99777
3.115		16.543	16.573	.99811
6.598		18.285	18.313	.99850
0.447		20.211	20.236	.99877
4.701		22.339	22.362	.99900
9.402		24.691	24.711	.99911

TODAY

What we will do

Identify the main idea of a nonfiction text and find key details that support it

- 1 I can explain the difference between a main idea and a key detail.
- 2 I can identify the main idea of a short nonfiction text.
- 3 I can find at least two key details that support the main idea.
- 4 I can explain how the key details connect back to the main idea.

LOOK CLOSELY

Which sentence is the big idea?

One sentence is the main idea. The other is a small fact. Which is which?



TALK Tell your partner what you think.



KEY IDEA

Main Idea

MAYN eye-DEE-uh

The main idea is what a whole text is mostly about. It is the big umbrella every detail fits under.

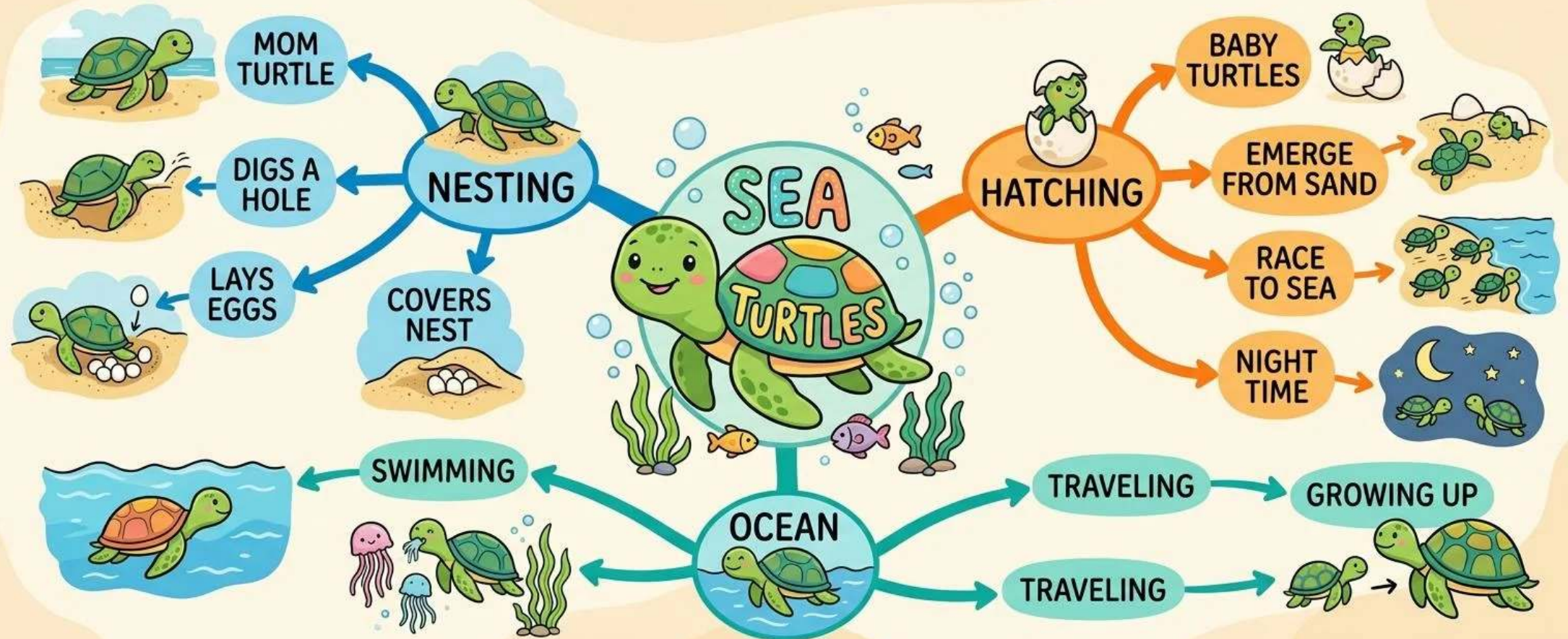


REMEMBER A key detail supports the main idea. It does not replace it.

HOW IT WORKS

Main idea holds the details together

The main idea sits at the top. Every key detail fits underneath, like sheltering under one umbrella.



THE MAIN IDEA RULE

Ask: what is this **MOSTLY** about?

Every sentence in the passage should fit under your main idea, like details under an umbrella.



TRY IT

Sea turtles nest on beaches. Is that the main idea, or a detail about sea turtles?

⚠ WATCH OUT

A detail is NOT the main idea. It only tells one small fact, not what the whole text is about.



PRACTICE TOGETHER

Read the honeybee passage with your class

- 1 Listen and follow along as the passage is read aloud.
- 2 Turn and tell your partner: what is this passage mostly about?
- 3 Put your thumb up when you spot a detail that fits under the main idea.

 **THINK** Could every sentence in the passage fit under your main idea?

MATCH IT UP

Main idea or key detail?

Match each sentence on the left to its label on the right.

SENTENCE

- 1 Honeybees live in large colonies.
- 2 A queen bee lays up to 2,000 eggs a day.
- 3 Honeybees are remarkable insects.
- 4 Worker bees collect pollen from flowers.

LABEL

- A Key detail
- B Key detail
- C Main idea
- D Key detail

ANSWERS

Here are the matches

The main idea covers the whole text. Every other sentence is a detail that supports it.

SENTENCE

- 1 Honeybees live in large colonies. ✓
- 2 A queen bee lays up to 2,000 eggs a day. ✓
- 3 Honeybees are remarkable insects. ✓
- 4 Worker bees collect pollen from flowers. ✓

LABEL

- A Key detail → 1-A ✓
- B Key detail → 2-B ✓
- C Main idea → 3-C ✓
- D Key detail → 4-D ✓

Your turn: find the main idea

Emerging

circle and underline

Read the frog passage with a partner. Circle the main idea. Underline two details.

The main idea is _____. One detail is _____.

MATERIALS

frog passage
green highlighter
yellow highlighter

Find one more detail to underline.

Developing

graphic organizer

Read the monarch butterfly passage. Write the main idea and two key details on your organizer.

The main idea is _____. A detail that supports it is _____.

MATERIALS

butterfly passage
umbrella organizer
pencil

Explain why each detail fits under the main idea.

Extending

dual compare

Read both passages. Write the main idea and two details for each. Explain how each detail connects.

This detail connects because _____.

MATERIALS

wolves passage
dolphins passage
dual organizer

Could a detail from one passage be a main idea? Explain.

Work with your group. Use the umbrella idea to help you.



WRAP UP

Three things to remember

- ✓ explain the difference between a main idea and a key detail.
- ✓ identify the main idea of a short nonfiction text.
- ✓ find at least two key details that support the main idea.