

Main Idea Rules

Main Idea	Not a Main Idea
Is a complete sentence	topic
Teaches us something	detail
Is a big idea can be supported with details	1 or 2 words long
Can be proved with details	Starts with "About _____"
	Starts with "What _____"
	Starts with "Where _____"
	Starts with "Why _____"
	Starts with "How _____"
	Starts with "When _____"
	Starts with "Because _____"

Directions: On the next slide, sort the following sentences into main idea or not a main idea. List of options:

1. How to read a book.

2. There have been 45 presidents.

3. When you can run for president.

4. Where to check out books.

5. How many presidents we've had.

6. Books are fun to read.

7. About presidents.

8. About fires.

9. Fires are dangerous.

10. What a fire is.

Drag the sentences to the correct spot/category:

Main Idea

2. There have been 45 presidents.

6. Books are fun to read.

9. Fires are dangerous.

Not a Main Idea

7. About presidents.

8. About fires.

10. What a fire is.

1. How to read

3. When you read a president.

4. What are the best books.

5. How many books had.

Directions: On the next slide, sort the following sentences into main idea or not a main idea. List of options:

1. About dogs.

2. What happens during an earthquake.

3. Dreams tell a story.

4. How hockey is played.

5. Frogs live in the rainforest.

6. Where frogs live.

7. Hockey is a winter sport.

8. Earthquakes are caused by movement of the plates.

9. Dogs are man's best friend.

10. Dreams.

Main Idea

3. Dreams tell a story.

5. Frogs live in the rainforest.

7. Hockey is a winter sport.

8. Earthquakes are caused by movement of the plates.

9. Dogs are man's best friend.

Not a Main Idea

1. About

6. Where frogs live
2. What happens
earthquake.

4. How hoc
played.

10. Dreams.

Practice:

Main Idea Activity

Read each passage. Determine the main idea. Make sure you follow the main idea rules.

Main Idea Rules

Main Idea	Not a Main Idea
Is a complete sentence	topic
Teaches us something	detail
Is a big idea can be supported with details	1 or 2 words long
Can be proved with details	Starts with "About _____"
	Starts with "What _____"
	Starts with "Where _____"
	Starts with "Why _____"
	Starts with "How _____"
	Starts with "When _____"
	Starts with "Because _____"

Have you ever wondered what causes thunder? During a storm, lightning sends bolts of electricity across the sky. The lightning is very hot. When air particles heat up, they spread out and speed up, so as the lightning moves through the air, it heats up the particles it moves through. As the air particles spread out, they cause vibrations. The vibrations travel through the air, and when they reach your ear they create noise, which we know as thunder.

Main Idea Activity

Read each passage. Determine the main idea. Make sure you follow the main idea rules.

Main Idea Rules

Main Idea	Not a Main Idea
Is a complete sentence	topic
Teaches us something	detail
Is a big idea can be supported with details	1 or 2 words long
Can be proved with details	Starts with "About _____"
	Starts with "What _____"
	Starts with "Where _____"
	Starts with "Why _____"
	Starts with "How _____"
	Starts with "When _____"
	Starts with "Because _____"

Practice:

The American Revolutionary War was fought between the American colonists and the British. The American colonists were fighting for freedom from England, but some, called "loyalists," decided to fight on the British side. People of many ages and professions joined the fight for freedom, including young boys and slaves. Some women even participated by spying on the British or fighting, dressed as men.