

Teacher: Shawn Doyle

Grade Level: 7

Text: "How American is Baseball?" (handout)

Lesson: Main idea and details

Learning targets: Students will ...

- Use evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says and inferences made
- Analyze how an individual, event, or idea is introduced and elaborated upon in informational text
- Determine the main idea of a text
- Explain how the main idea is supported by key details

Overview

Students will read the passage "How American is Baseball?" and answer comprehension questions to monitor their understanding. They will also complete a graphic organizer to demonstrate their ability to identify the main idea and supporting details.

Student directions

- Read the passage "How American is Baseball?" (handout)
- Answer the 6 comprehension questions (handout)
- Complete main idea and details graphic organizer (handout)

Materials:

- "How American is Baseball?" (handout)
- Comprehension questions (handout)
- Main idea and details graphic organizer (handout)

Turning in assignment:

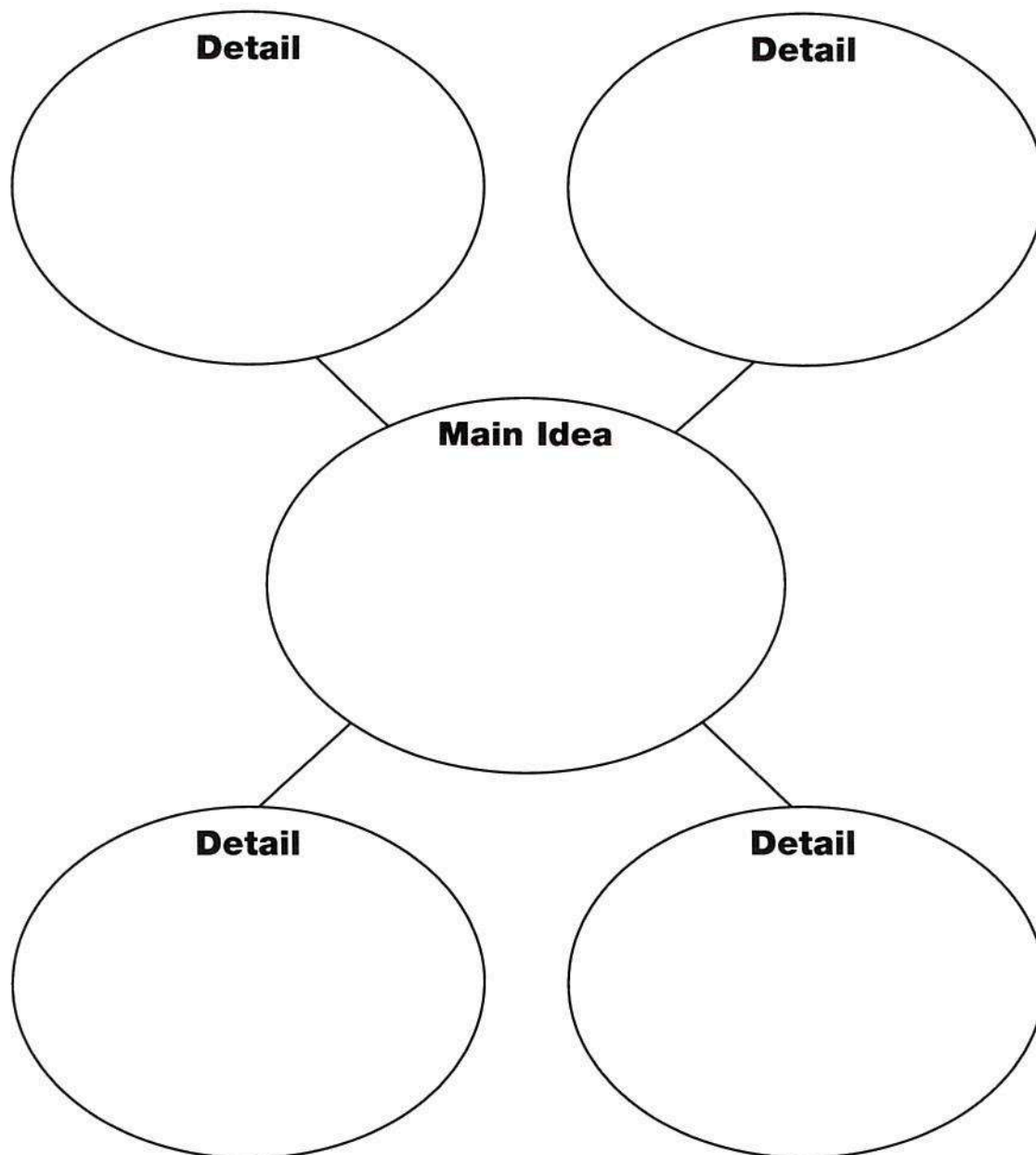
This assignment MUST be turned within two weeks upon returning to school following the next calamity day (Blizzard Bag Day 3). If a student does not have Internet access at home, they will be provided with a hard copy and will have two weeks from the day they are presented the assignment to turn it in.

Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is the most important idea in a text. **Details** in a passage give more information that supports the main idea.

Use the web below to list the main idea and the details that support it.

Passage: _____



Use with pages 333 and 335.

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 537

SAM Keyword: Main Idea



Lesson 9

How American Is Baseball?

Americans play many sports, but baseball is known as our national pastime. In the early 1800s, townball was popular in the United States. It was like a British game called rounders. To play, two teams took turns hitting and fielding a ball. In 1845, Alexander Cartwright made up a new set of rules for the game. He called it baseball.

People loved the game. Many towns formed their own teams. The first professional league appeared in 1871. At that time, immigrants were arriving from Europe. Playing ball helped them adapt to their new country. Into the early 1900s, baseball was a way for ethnic groups to prove themselves as Americans.

Baseball spread. People played in Japan and Latin American. In the mid-1900s, players came from countries such as the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Among them is the great right fielder Roberto Clemente.

Roberto grew up in Puerto Rico. He was from a large family. As a boy he did odd jobs to earn money. But he loved playing baseball. In 1954, major league scouts discovered him. The next year he joined the Pittsburgh Pirates as a right fielder. In 1960, he helped his team win the World Series.

Clemente had a strong arm. He was also a dynamo at bat. In his career he had more than 3,000 hits. Off the field, Clemente was dedicated to helping others. On December 31, 1972, he was on his way to Nicaragua to deliver supplies for earthquake victims. His plane crashed, and he was killed. Clemente was the first Latin American player named to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Today, baseball is popular in many nations. Players come to American baseball from all over the world. Major league baseball isn't just for Americans, anymore. It's just as easily the all-world sport as the all-American sport!

Use with page 332.

**Resource Links****1** RDI Book 1: p. 420**SAM** Keyword: Main Idea

“How American is Baseball?”

Name: _____

MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

Main idea: The most important point about a topic

Details: Information that supports or tells more about the main idea

READ EACH PARAGRAPH OF “HOW AMERICAN IS BASEBALL?” AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- 1. The main idea in the second paragraph is baseball quickly became popular in America. Which details support this idea?**
- 2. What sentence tells the main idea in the third paragraph? What details tell you more about this main idea?**
- 3. What are the fourth and fifth paragraphs mostly about?**
- 4. Which details tell you that Roberto Clemente was a great player?**
- 5. What do all six paragraphs have in common?**
- 6. What is the main idea of the entire article?**