

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This resource is scaffolded, starting easier and getting progressively more difficult. It breaks down main idea in several different ways to help your students develop a really good grasp of topic, main idea, and supporting details.

Each section of this resource addresses a different aspect of main idea that is sometimes confusing for students. For example, one section focuses on helping students distinguish between main idea and details, while another section helps students think about how details should support the main idea.

Each section contains several activities so that students have plenty of opportunities to practice each skill. This also allows for you to easily follow the “I Do, We Do, You Do” model. If you find that students have a good grasp on a certain section, then you can have them move on without completing all of the activities.

This resource also makes it easy for you to differentiate. Students that are really struggling will probably benefit from completing all of the activities, from the very beginning. Students that already have a solid understanding of main idea might benefit more from the sections that focus on how details should support the main idea.

Both fiction and nonfiction texts are included throughout this resource so that students are exposed to both.

The [Teaching Made Practical Website](#) has several more ideas geared towards teaching main idea, including a [Free Slideshow](#).

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Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

Topic Vs. Details - Grouping Words and Web Graphic Organizers

This section is designed to introduce students to the difference between topic and details. This is an important first step before students can understand the distinction between main idea and supporting details.

First, students will sort words into related groups and decide on a title for each of the groups. Make sure students understand that the title of each of the groups is an example of a topic, while the grouped words are short versions of supporting details.

Then, students will think about topic and details using a familiar web graphic organizer in a variety of ways.

- Students are given the topic and have to come up with supporting details.
- Students are given supporting details and have to come up with the topic.
- Students are given several related words and have to determine which word represents the topic.

Grouping Words

Pages 4-9

Web Graphic Organizers

Pages 10-14

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Cut each of the words out, and then sort the words into 3 different groups. Glue the groups onto your other paper. Come up with an appropriate title for each of the groups.

pineapple	net	referee
free kick	plum	eyelash
lemon	fingernail	offside
defense	cherry	thigh
elbow	ankle	kiwi
grape	field	shoulder
pear	earlobe	penalty
goalie	knuckle	mango

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

_____	_____	_____
title	title	title

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Cut each of the words out, and then sort the words into 3 different groups. Glue the groups onto your other paper. Come up with an appropriate title for each of the groups.

dentist	orange juice	bracelet
Dr. Pepper	toothpaste	molar
pearls	ring	water
milk	floss	lemonade
cavity	pendant	anklet
gums	toothbrush	iced tea
earring	diamond	plaque
necklace	coffee	hot chocolate

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

title	title	title

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Cut each of the words out, and then sort the words into 3 different groups. Glue the groups onto your other paper. Come up with an appropriate title for each of the groups.

sweeping	shark	seahorse
jumping jacks	push-ups	mop
whale	squid	stretch
vacuum	sit-ups	rinse
jog	laundry	dishwasher
eel	lunges	jellyfish
dusting	scrub	octopus
bicycling	walrus	weightlifting

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

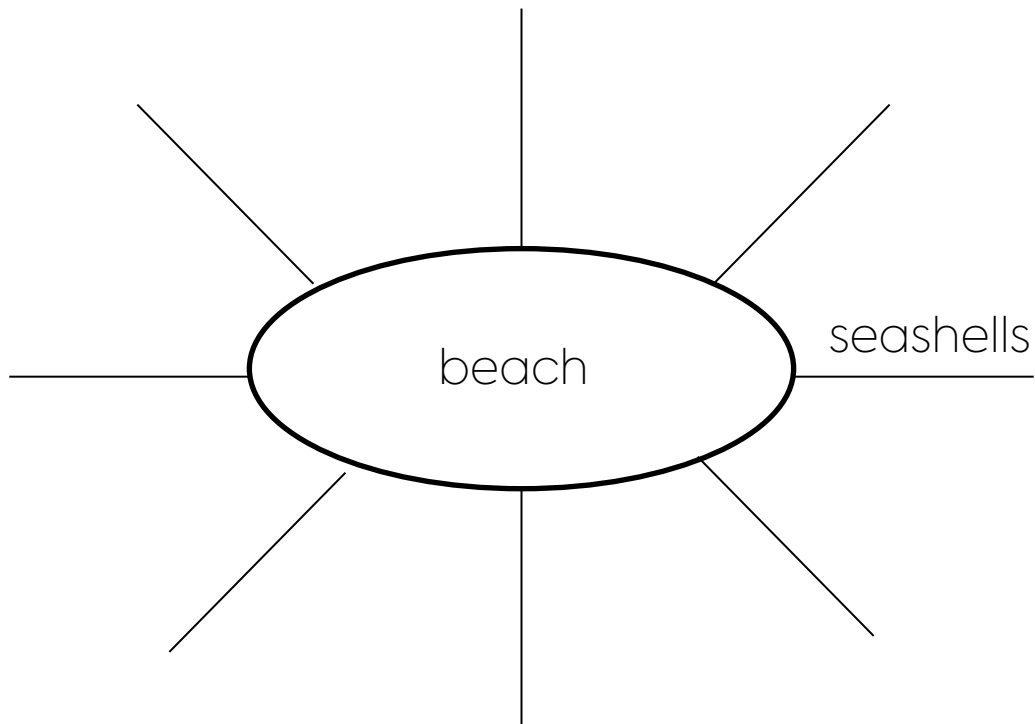
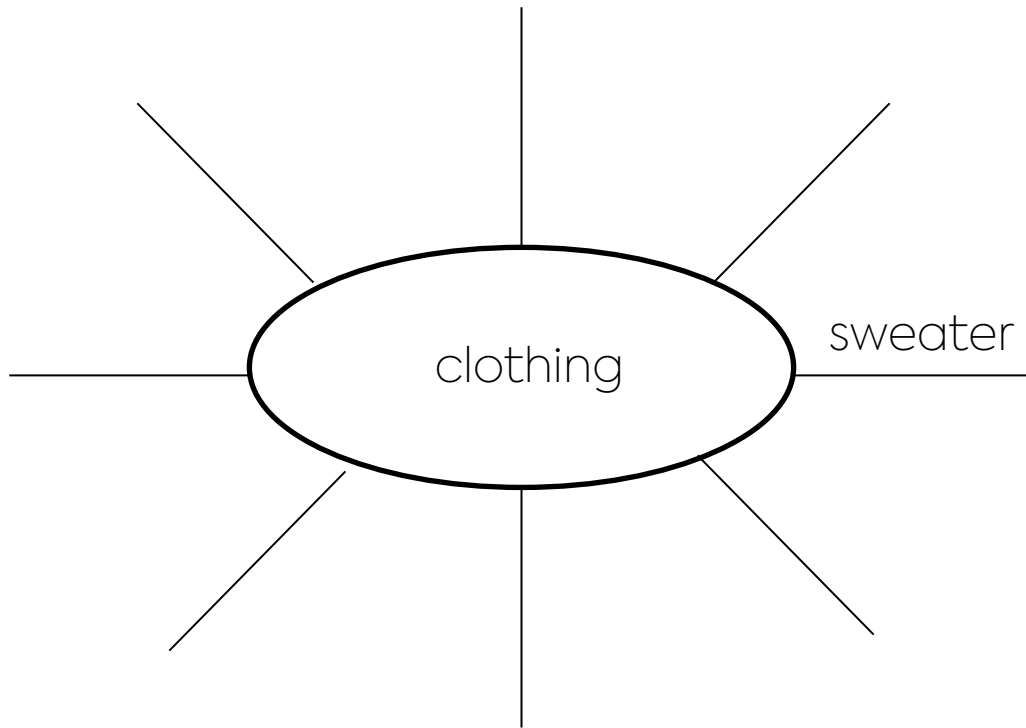
Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

title	title	title

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

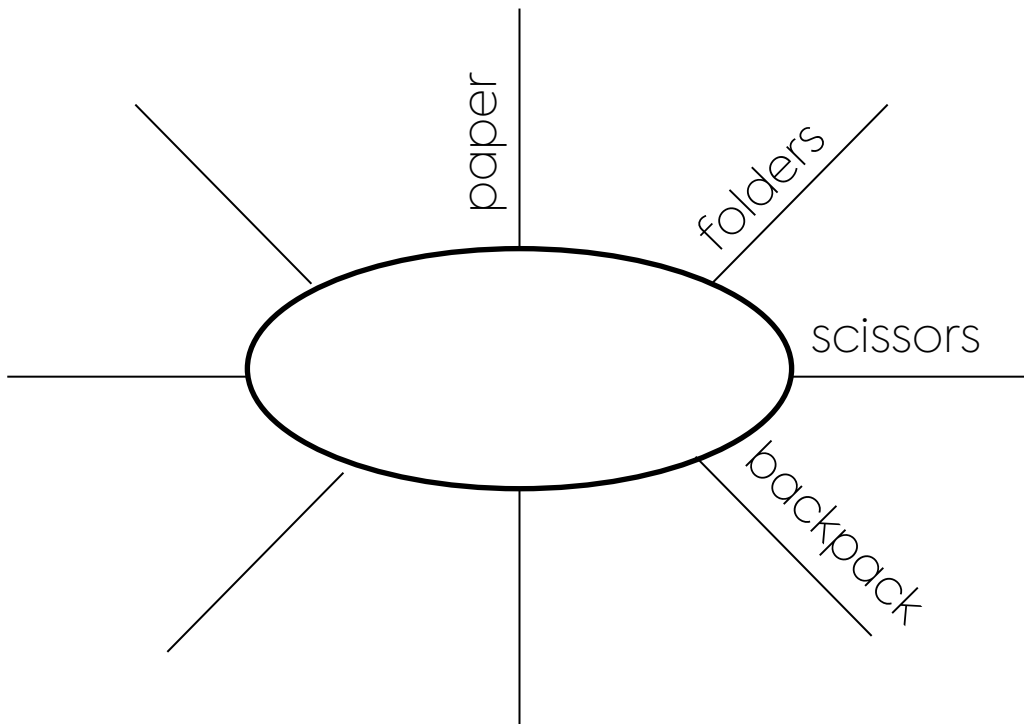
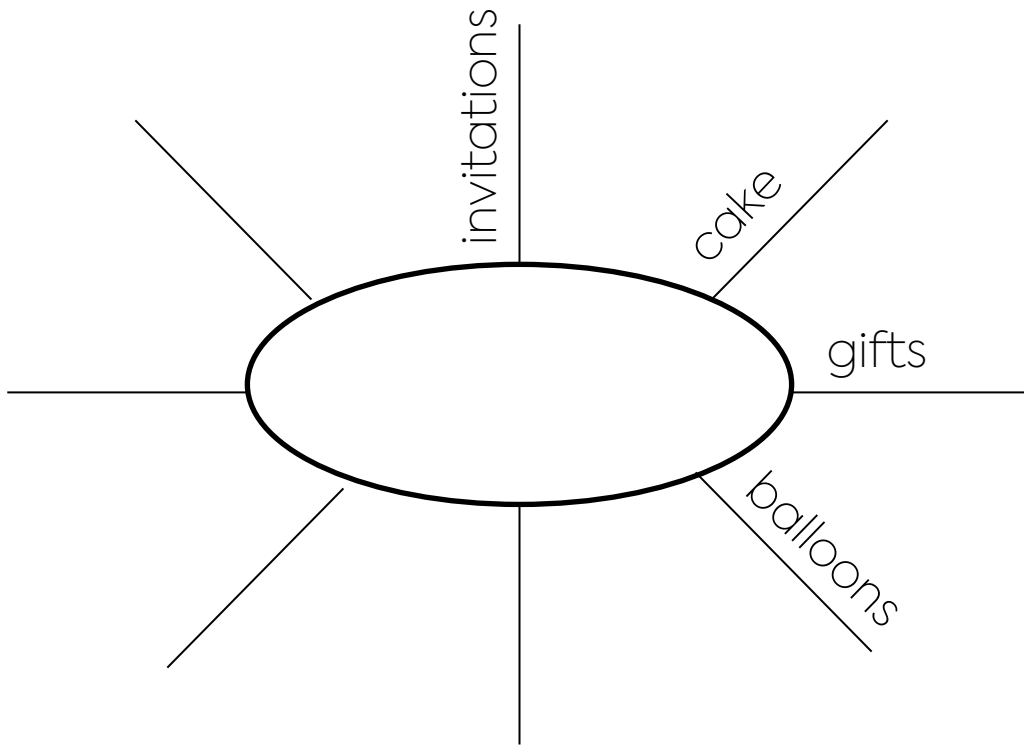
The topic is given. Come up with details that support the topic. An example is given.



Main Idea and Details

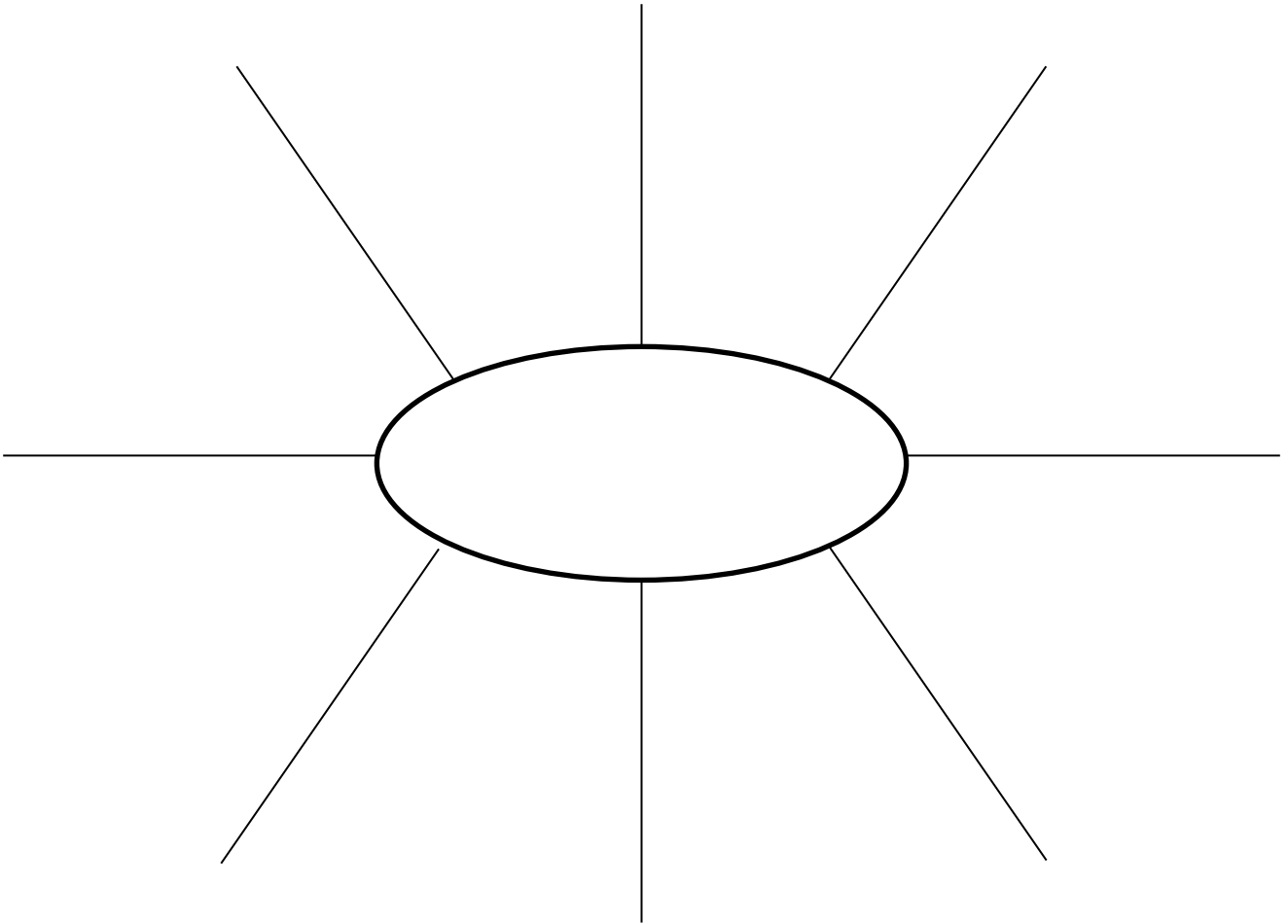
Web Graphic Organizers

Some supporting details are given. Come up with the topic and the rest of the supporting details!



Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

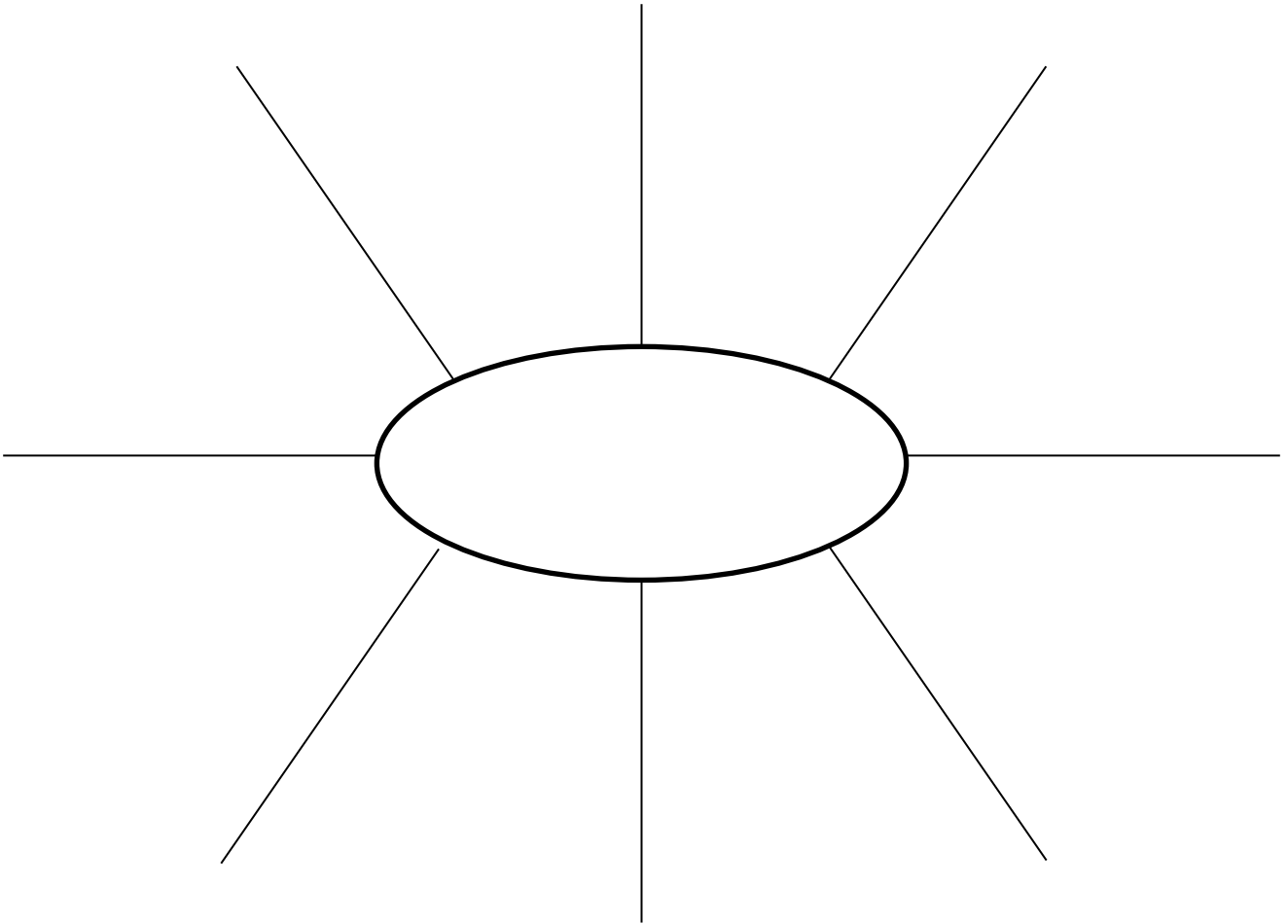


1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

balance beam	vault	cartwheels
gymnastics	handstand	back handspring
splits	uneven bars	straddle

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

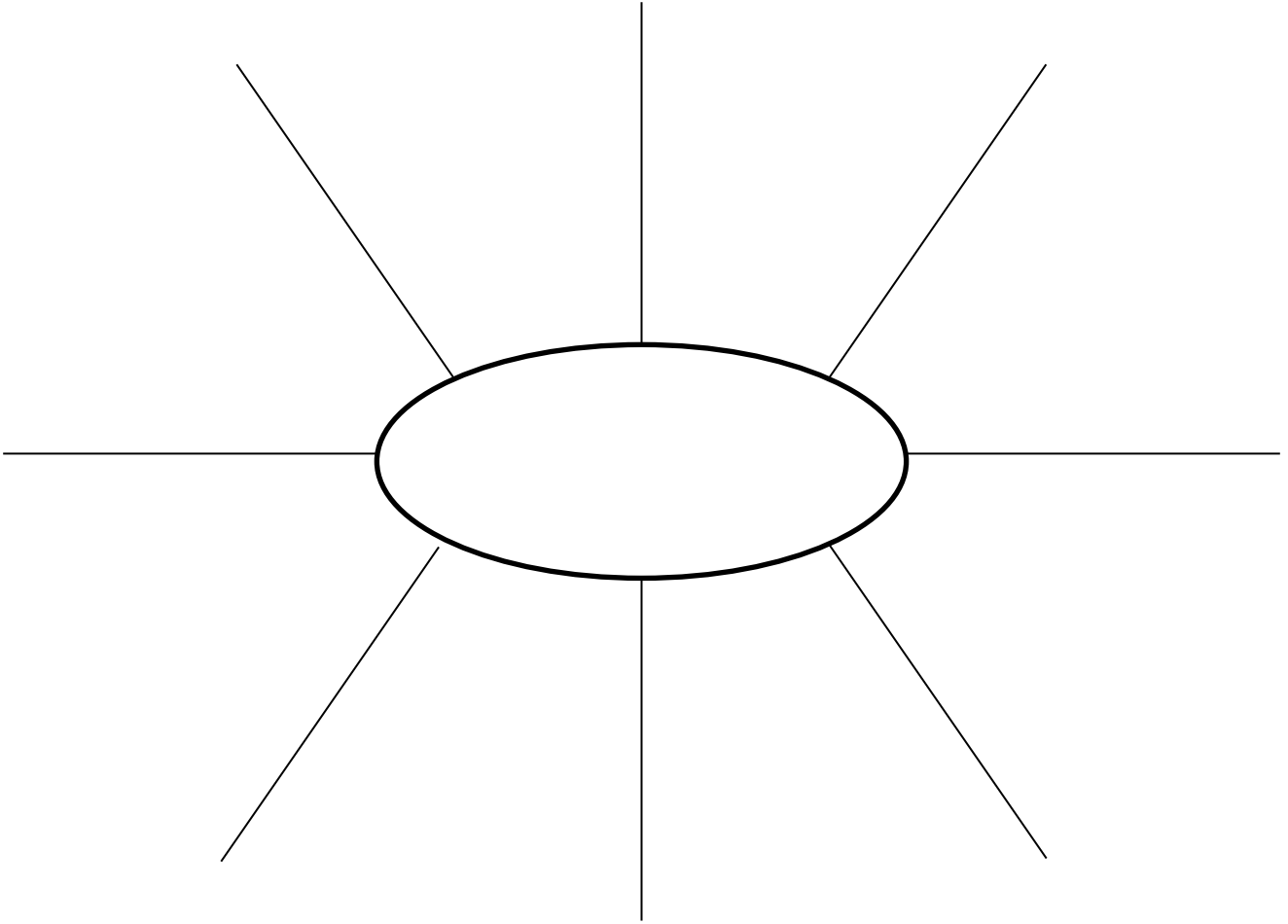


1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

roses	tulips	lilies
daisies	pansies	flowers
dandelions	sunflowers	carnations

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers



1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

flip-flops	sandals	high heels
boots	slippers	sneakers
clogs	shoes	ballet flats

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

Titles Give Clues About the Main Idea

This section is designed to show students how titles and headings are often important clues as to the topic and main idea of a reading passage. Getting students into the habit of thinking about how the title relates to the main idea can help make determining the main idea of a passage easier.

Students will read 4 paragraphs on similar topics. Students must think about the main idea of each paragraph in order to determine an appropriate title for each paragraph. Since the topics are all very similar, students must really consider the main point of each passage in order to determine an appropriate title.

In the first 2 pages, the titles are already provided. In the second 2 pages, students must generate their own titles.

Thinking About Titles – Titles Provided

Pages 16 - 17

Thinking About Titles – Students Come Up With Titles

Pages 18 - 19

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Cut out the titles at the bottom of the page, and then match them to the appropriate paragraph.

Kitchens usually contain a variety of different appliances. Toasters are useful when you are eating a bagel or sliced bread. Soups are often made in slow cookers. Coffee lovers will usually have a coffee maker on their countertop.

People have not always had refrigerators in their kitchen. Before there were refrigerators, people used ice or snow to cool their food. Some people kept food cold for long periods of time by storing it underground and packed in ice. Iceboxes, wooden boxes packed with ice and insulating materials, used to be very common. Now, most people use the modern refrigerator to keep food cool.

Cooking in the kitchen can be fun, but it can also be dangerous. In order to stay safe in the kitchen, you should take some precautions. Blenders, food processors, and knives all have sharp edges and should be treated carefully. Also, food and pans that come out of the oven will be very hot and should be taken out with an oven mitt.

Vegetables can be cooked in the kitchen in a variety of ways. A popular method for cooking vegetables is called steaming. Steaming vegetables is healthier than boiling or roasting vegetables because it helps lock in nutrients. Asparagus, carrots, and green beans are all excellent when steamed.

Steaming Vegetables	History of the Refrigerator
Kitchen Safety	Kitchen Appliances

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Cut out the titles at the bottom of the page, and then match them to the appropriate paragraph.

“Go long!” Blake yelled to his friend Mateo. Mateo took off running across the grass. When he was close to the fence, Blake hurled the football. It was a little long. Mateo jumped up, stretching his arms up as high as they could go. The ball soared an inch above his outstretched fingers. The boys both groaned.

“I was so close!” Mateo said.

The quarterback is often considered the most important player on the football team. The quarterback is usually the leader of the offensive team and responsible for choosing which play will be run. After a Super Bowl win, the starting quarterback is the first person to be presented with the trophy. Football would be a very different game without quarterbacks.

The average NFL football player makes around a million dollars a year. That is a LOT of money. But did you know that after retirement, approximately 78% of NFL football players are completely broke within 2 years? Most players don’t know how to manage money or handle life without football, and so they lose all of those millions very quickly.

Leah’s mom had cooked all morning in preparation for the big game. There were hot wings, pigs in a blanket, and all sorts of dip for the chips. While her mom was cooking, Leah was cleaning. The entire house was spotless and ready for their guests. Leah turned on the TV and found the pre-game show. She listened as the announcers predicted which team would win the football game.

Preparing for the Big Game	The Quarterback’s Role
Playing Football	Money and Football Players

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Think about the main idea. Then, write an appropriate title for each of the paragraphs.

Labrador retrievers are very popular dogs. They are friendly, loyal, and eager to please. Also, Labradors are very intelligent and are very easy to train. Because of this, Labradors are sometimes used as guide dogs, rescue dogs, and as a helper while hunting. A Labrador is a great type of dog to have as a pet.

Before you get a dog, there are a lot of factors to consider. Dogs need to be fed regularly. Furthermore, dogs need a lot of positive attention either through walks or playing. If you want a dog, you should contemplate whether or not you will have the time and money to take care of all of a dog's needs.

Although many people love having a dog as a pet, there are some adults and children that are very frightened of dogs. Sometimes people are afraid of dogs because they have had a bad experience in the past, like being bitten or growled at by a dog. Having an irrational fear of dogs is called cynophobia. It is possible to get over a fear of dogs, but it is difficult.

Many dogs are domesticated and live with humans. However, there are some dogs that roam wild. One such dog is called the African wild dog. Some people call these dogs painted dogs because their coat is made of patches of red, yellow, black, brown, and white. These dogs roam the African plains. They hunt for larger prey like antelope in packs of six or more. Unfortunately, these dogs are endangered.

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Think about the main idea. Then, write an appropriate title for each of the paragraphs.

Did you know that almost every culture has their own version of pancakes? In the US and Canada, people often eat buttermilk pancakes for breakfast. If you lived in Australia, you might eat a pancake with jam or cream as an afternoon snack. If you lived in India, your pancakes would probably be made from rice and lentils.

Fast food chains make it easier than ever to eat out instead of cook at home. Although this takes a lot less time and energy than cooking at home, eating at fast food restaurants too often can have negative consequences. For example, fast food can be a lot more expensive than going to the grocery store. Also, fast food usually has a lot more calories and unhealthy ingredients than you would eat if you cooked at home.

Tobiah woke up extra early on Mother's Day. He tip-toed to the kitchen and pulled a pancake mix out of the pantry. After measuring out the correct amounts, Tobiah poured the pancake mix and water into a mixing bowl and stirred. Then, he quietly woke his dad up since he needed help cooking the pancakes. His mom was going to be so surprised!

"It's Thursday again," Amelia thought sadly to herself. Every Thursday her mom had to work late and her dad spent the evening at baseball practice with her older brother. Amelia was left all alone and had to cook dinner for herself. She pulled peanut butter and jelly out of the refrigerator, grabbed a couple of slices of bread, and made a sandwich. A tear dropped down her face as she ate alone in front of the TV.

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

How Details Support the Main Idea

This section is designed to get students thinking about how details in a paragraph should support the main idea of the paragraph. There are 36 task cards to practice this skill with your class. [You can check out some different ideas for using task cards in your classroom here.](#)

The first 24 task cards have a short paragraph on it, with one sentence that doesn't support the main idea of the paragraph. Students should write the sentence that doesn't support the main idea on their recording sheet.

The last 12 task cards ask students to read a short paragraph, and then come up with their own detail that would support the main idea of that paragraph. They should write this new detail on their recording sheet.

Differentiate based on what your students need.

Find the Detail That Doesn't Support the Main Idea

Pages 21-26

Add a Detail That Supports the Main Idea

Pages 27-29

Student Recording Sheet

Pages 30-32

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Women's gymnastics is a very popular sport to watch during the Olympics. The girls compete on 4 different events – uneven bars, balance beam, vault, and floor. Men's gymnastics has six different events. While the women's floor routine is to music, the uneven bars, balance beam, and vault are not to music.

1

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Many different shapes are considered quadrilaterals. A quadrilateral is any shape that has 4 sides. A quadrangle is any shape that has 4 angles. Squares, rectangles, rhombi, and trapezoids are some examples of quadrilaterals. Pentagons, hexagons, and octagons are not considered quadrilaterals because they do not have 4 sides.

2

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Violins and violas are very similar. Both of them are string instruments that you might find in an orchestra. You also could find a cello in an orchestra. Violins and violas both have 4 strings that you play by using a bow or by plucking. Also, they are both played by being held between the shoulder and chin.

3

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Miniature dachshunds are wonderful to have as pets. They are very playful, cute, and loving. Since they do not shed very much, they do not leave hair everywhere and are easy to clean up after. Also, their small size means they don't take up very much space. Golden retrievers also make wonderful pets.

4

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

In order to make it to school on time, I have to get up at 7:00! After waking up, I immediately eat breakfast. Then, I take a shower and brush my teeth. Next, I prepare for lunchtime by making sandwich. I also have to walk my dog after I get home from school. Finally, I'm ready to grab my backpack and get on the bus!

5

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

My favorite season is spring. I love when flowers and trees begin to bloom, and the weather begins to get warmer. The days begin to get longer, so I have more time to spend outside. During spring, the warm weather makes me want to go outside and ride my bike. My bicycle is bright green.

6

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

My favorite sport is basketball. I'm not very good at basketball, but I really enjoy watching other people play. The best part is when somebody like Michael Jordan dunks the ball. Michael Jordan also played baseball. Basketball is the best sport ever!

7

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

My little brother is **so** annoying! He always bothers me when I have friends over, and he makes too much noise. Sometimes he'll hide my favorite video game for weeks! My mom wants to have another baby. I wish I didn't have to share a room with my brother.

8

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

North America is one of the seven continents. Three different countries make up most of North America – Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The continent of Europe has a lot more countries that are a part of it. North America is in between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

9

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

The United States of America has 50 states. Only 48 of the states are considered to be a part of the contiguous United States. Canada is a country north of the United States. Since Alaska and Hawaii are separated from the rest of the United States, they are not considered to be a part of the contiguous United States. However, they are still a part of our country!

10

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

February is black history month. We celebrate famous African Americans during February, including Barack Obama, Jackie Robinson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks. We also take note of other famous presidents like George Washington. The African American culture is worth learning about and celebrating all year long, not just in February.

11

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Hurricanes, also known as tropical cyclones, can be extremely destructive. Hurricane winds blow at least 74 miles per hour and can destroy homes, trees, and cars. Tornadoes can also do this. If you know a hurricane is coming, find a safe place away from the ocean to stay!

12

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

I finally convinced my mother to let me have a pet! We went to the pet store and looked at the different types of pets. My mom is allergic to cats, so we couldn't get a kitten. I'm allergic to peanuts. Even though the pet store clerk told us that snakes were perfectly safe pets, my mom refused to let me get a snake. We finally ended up with a tiny puppy!

13

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

My older sister is already in middle school. She thinks she's really cool, but really she's just obnoxious. She calls my mom "Mother" and she won't eat macaroni and cheese because she thinks it is messy. When her friends come over, she makes me hide in my room until they are gone! I also have an older brother in high school.

14

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

All my friends have their ears pierced, but I am terrified to get mine pierced. I used to be scared of lizards, too. Ear piercing looks so painful! Even though there are lots of cute earrings, I do not think I will ever have the courage to get my ears pierced. I guess I will wear clip-ons for the rest of my life!

15

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

One of my chores at home is doing the dishes. I don't mind unloading the dishes, but I absolute detest washing dirty dishes. Taking out the trash is just as bad. Dirty dishes have a disgusting odor. When dishes have been sitting out for while, everything gets crusted to the plate! Gross!

16

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Saturn is one of the planets in our solar system. Saturn is much bigger than Earth, but it is smaller than the planet Jupiter. The planet Mercury is also smaller than Jupiter. Saturn has several hundred rings, and it has more than 30 moons. Many people enjoy observing the planet Saturn.

17

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Many people are petrified of tarantulas. Like all spiders, tarantulas have eight legs. Ants have six legs. However, they do not weave webs in order to catch food. Tarantulas grab prey with their legs and paralyze the prey with venom. Fortunately for people, tarantulas eat mostly insects.

18

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Throughout its lifetime, a butterfly goes through metamorphosis. Metamorphosis occurs in a variety of animals. A butterfly begins life as an egg, and then hatches into a caterpillar. Then, the caterpillar creates a cocoon. An adult butterfly then emerges from the cocoon!

19

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Hearts are not just for Valentine's Day! Your heart is probably the most important muscle in your body. It sends blood throughout your body so that your body can get the oxygen and nutrients it needs. You can't see, smell, or taste oxygen. Even though your heart is only about the size of your fist, you need to keep it healthy.

20

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

My teacher asked us to pull out our math books, but I couldn't find mine because of all the clutter in my desk. I found gum wrappers, broken pencils, and crumpled papers, but no math book. My multiplication flash cards were safe in my backpack. My desk was so unorganized!

21

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Summer is my favorite season, and not just because school is out during the summer! I love eating ice cream cones and diving into swimming pools on a hot summer day. I also love to go camping, which my family does every summer. Winter is way too cold for me.

22

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Even though deserts do not get very much rain, there are a variety of plants and animals that can survive there. Kangaroo rats can survive without drinking any water because they get moisture from the seeds they eat. The Texas Horned Lizard can grow as long as 6 inches. Cacti can survive because of a waxy coating that keeps water from evaporating.

23

Main Idea

What sentence doesn't support the main idea?

Thomas Jefferson is an important person in United States history. Jefferson was the 3rd President of the United States, and he helped write the Declaration of Independence. George Washington was the 1st President. While Thomas Jefferson was in office, he bought a large portion of land that nearly doubled the size of the United States, known as the Louisiana Purchase.

24

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Breaking your leg is not only painful, but it is also annoying. Getting a cast makes walking – and especially going up and down stairs – difficult and time consuming. Frequent trips to the doctor are required.

25

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Jerilyn couldn't believe how much homework she had! She didn't want to do it, so she put it off as long as possible. She finished all of her chores, including cleaning her room. She started chopping some onions and bell peppers for dinner, even though her mom usually did all the chopping.

26

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

If you have warm winter clothes, then playing in the snow can be a lot of fun! Without mittens or gloves, making snowballs for a snowball fight would be miserable. Waterproof boots help keep your feet dry and warm as you walk around in the snow.

27

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Kiran was trying to take a picture of his new puppy, but he was having a hard time getting a good one. His first picture was blurry because his puppy wouldn't sit still. Then, he accidentally put his pointer finger over the lens.

28

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

When Jake took his dog outside last night, he got spooked out. The backyard light was broken, so he couldn't see very well. He saw some shadows moving, and then his dog started to bark at a strange sound.

29

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

If you have a dog as a pet, then it is important to know how to keep it calm during 4th of July fireworks. Some dogs aren't bothered by the loud sounds, but many dogs will try to run away and could get lost or hit by cars.

30

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Watching a movie at home is better than watching it in a movie theater. There are less crying babies and distracting sounds at home. Also, you can pause your TV at home if you need to go to the bathroom.

31

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Jacy wanted to get a birthday gift for her best friend Kiana, but she didn't have enough money. When she emptied out her piggy big, all she had was a quarter. She asked her mom for \$10.00, but her mom said she would have to do some extra chores if she wanted cash.

32

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

When Regan auditioned for the play, she didn't realize how much extra work it would be. Now that she got the lead role, she had to stay after school 3 days a week for rehearsal. Every day at home, she worked on memorizing her lines.

33

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

Usually it doesn't take us very long to get to school, but today it took forever! We had to stop at every single red light on the way there. There was also a wreck in the middle of a busy intersection, so we were stuck in traffic while we waited for the police to make sure everybody was safe.

34

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

In the past, keeping in touch with people that lived far away was difficult. Now, it is much easier because there are so many different ways to communicate. For example, cell phones make it easy to talk or text to friends and family. Social media allows you to see pictures of family and friends as soon as they post them!

35

Main Idea

Add a sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph!

People spend a lot of their lives waiting in lines. When we go to the grocery store, we have to wait in line to check out. When we go to a concert or other public place, we often have to wait in line to go to the bathroom.

36

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card Sentence that doesn't support the main idea of the paragraph

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card Sentence that doesn't support the main idea of the paragraph

13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	
21.	
22.	
23.	
24.	

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card New sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

Distinguishing Main Idea From Details

This section is designed to help students to understand the difference between the main idea of a paragraph and its supporting details using scaffolded graphic organizers and short, 1 paragraph texts. This is a skill that students often struggle with. Since both the main idea and details are sometimes stated directly in the text, this requires students to really think about why one sentence might be a main idea and another might be a detail.

First, students will read the paragraph and cut out the 4 sentences provided at the bottom of the page – there is one main idea and 3 details. Students must distinguish between the main idea and details, and then glue the sentences in the appropriate spot on the graphic organizer.

Then, students will read short paragraphs and come up with the main idea and 3 supporting details themselves.

Scaffolded Graphic Organizers

Pages 34-37

Blank Graphic Organizer

Pages 38-40

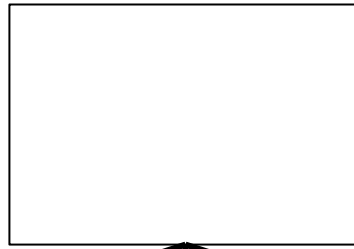
Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

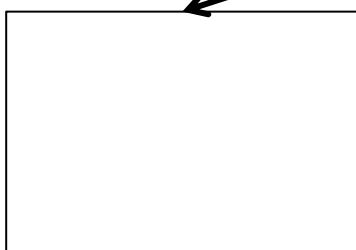
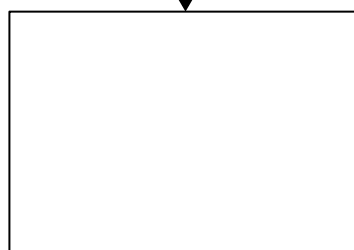
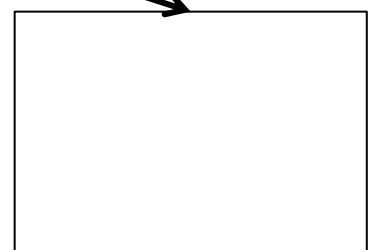
Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Visiting an aquarium is a lot of fun. At an aquarium, you will see a variety of beautiful ocean animals. Jellyfish, seahorses, and octopuses can be colorful and fascinating! Most aquariums also have vibrant corals, which look like plants but are actually animals. Aquariums also usually have a variety of sharks, including hammerhead sharks and sand tiger sharks. An aquarium is a great place to see examples of animal camouflage, as many underwater animals like fish are masters of camouflage.

MAIN IDEA

A large empty rectangular box for the main idea.

DETAILS

An empty rectangular box for a detail, with an arrow pointing to it from the main idea box.An empty rectangular box for a detail, with an arrow pointing to it from the main idea box.An empty rectangular box for a detail, with an arrow pointing to it from the main idea box.

You can see camouflaged ocean animals at an aquarium.

You can see a variety of ocean animals at an aquarium.

Aquariums usually have different types of sharks.

Aquariums have vibrant corals.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

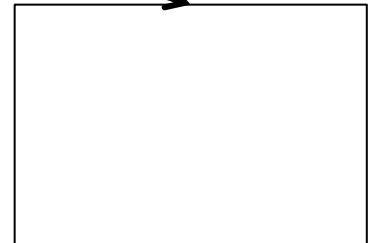
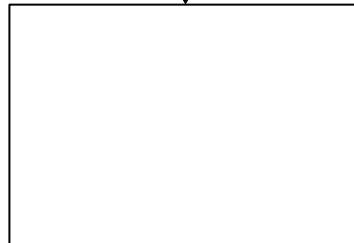
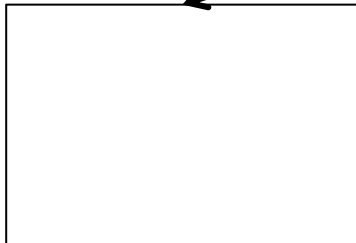
Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Chickens can be useful as pets, as they provide eggs that can be eaten. However, chickens must be taken care of carefully. If you have a chicken, you must make sure that they have plenty of food and water. Also, their chicken coop must be cleaned regularly, and their eggs collected! Eating potato skins or chocolate can be fatal for chickens, so make sure your chickens avoid these two foods!

MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



Make sure chickens don't eat chocolate or raw potato skins.

Chickens must be taken care of if you keep one as a pet.

Chickens need plenty of food and water.

Chicken eggs must be collected.

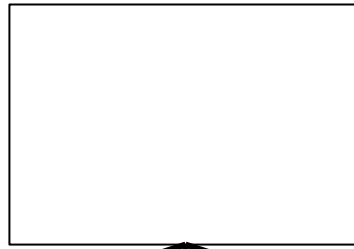
Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

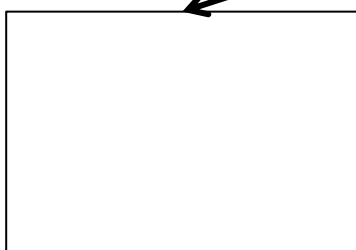
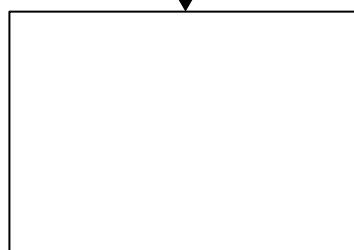
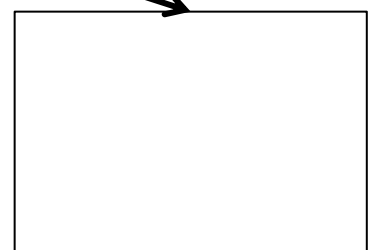
Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Antarctica is considered the coldest place on Earth. The temperatures are so frigid in Antarctica that the snow rarely melts. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Antarctica was -128.6°F (-89.2°C). The only animals that can survive the freezing temperatures have adaptations that help keep them warm. For example, penguins and seals have a layer of fat called blubber.

MAIN IDEA

A large empty rectangular box for the main idea.

DETAILS

An empty rectangular box for a detail.An empty rectangular box for a detail.An empty rectangular box for a detail.

Snow rarely melts in Antarctica.

Penguins and seals have blubber to keep them warm.

The coldest temperature recorded in Antarctica is -128.6°F .

Antarctica is cold.

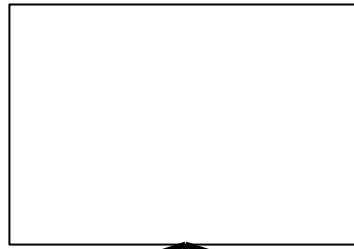
Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

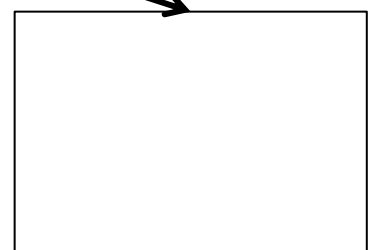
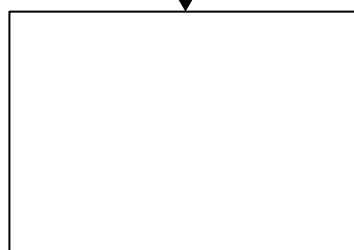
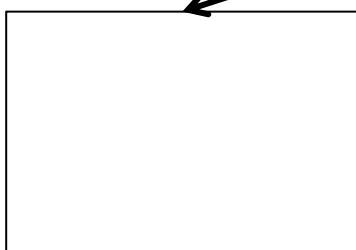
Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Cameron wanted to play his new video game, but his mom had told him that he couldn't play until he finished his homework. Cameron grumpily pulled his homework out of his backpack and stared at the page. He kept staring blankly at the page. More than fifteen minutes later, Cameron still had not begun his homework. He tore up the worksheet, crumpled it into a ball, and then threw it into the trashcan.

MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



Cameron stared
at the page.

Cameron didn't
want to do his
homework.

Cameron pulled
his homework
grumpily out of
his backpack.

Cameron tore up
his homework
and threw it
away.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

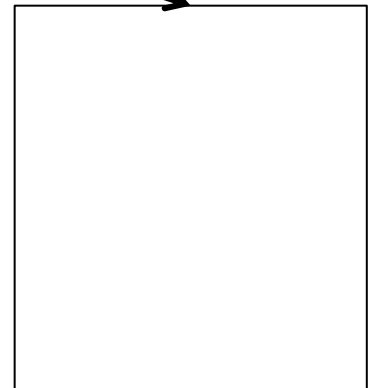
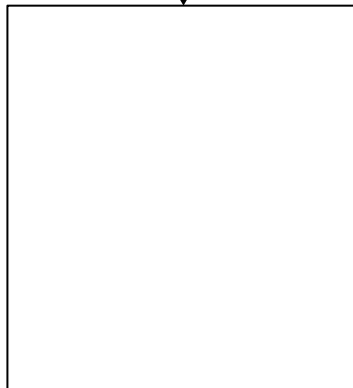
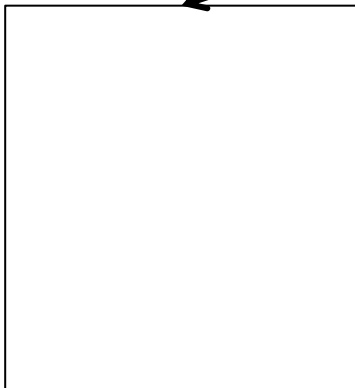
Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Of all the planets in our solar system, Mars often excites the most interest. This is because Mars is more like Earth than any other planet. There is evidence that suggests that there was once water on Mars, just like there is now on Earth. Also, Mars and Earth are both considered rocky, terrestrial planets. Huge mountains and canyons can be found on both planets as well. If humans needed to survive on a planet other than Earth, Mars would probably be the best choice!

MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



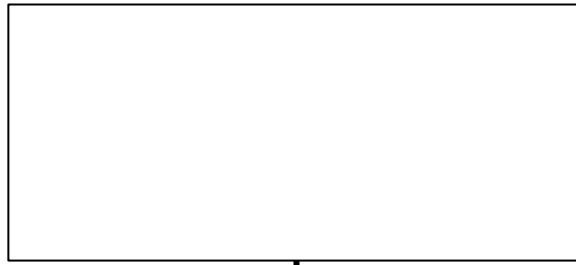
Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

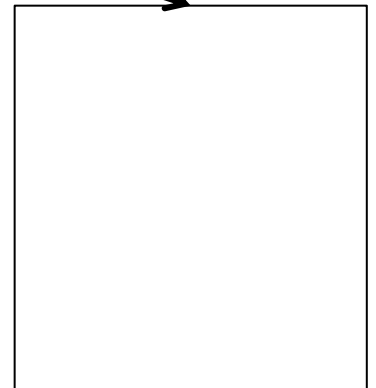
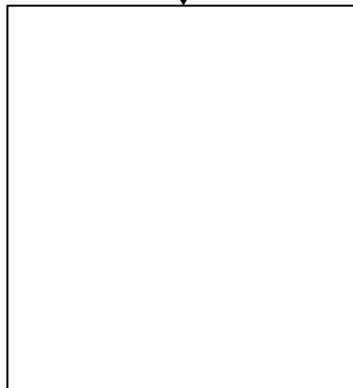
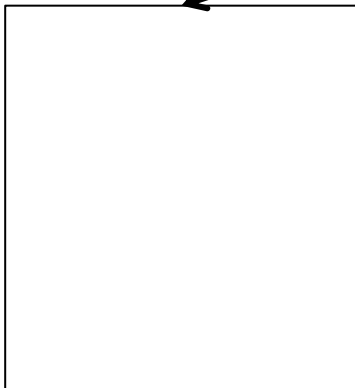
Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Amari's parents had given her a dog for her birthday after she agreed that she would take good care of it. Every morning, Amari woke up 15 minutes earlier than normal so that she could take her dog Olaf for a short walk. Then, she would feed him and make sure his water bowl was full. When she came home from school, Amari would take Olaf outside and play with him until it was time to do her homework. Her parents were proud of her.

MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



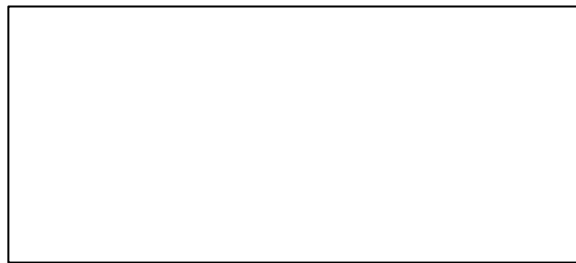
Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

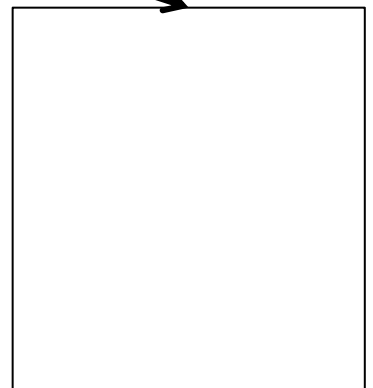
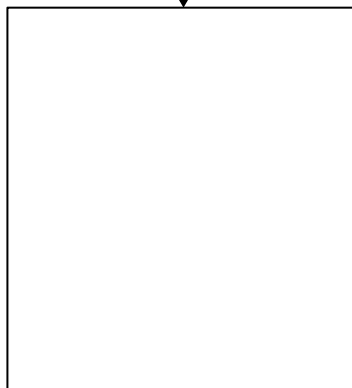
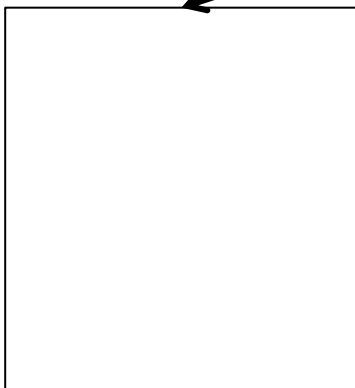
Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Many people think broccoli tastes disgusting. However, broccoli is a vegetable with many healthy benefits. Broccoli has a lot of fiber in it, which is good for your digestive system. Also, broccoli is a good source of Vitamin A and Vitamin E. Studies have even shown that eating broccoli regularly might prevent cancer! Even if you do not like broccoli, you should consider eating it because of its health benefits. Try it with some melted cheese to help it taste better.

MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

Applying In Longer Text

This section is designed to help students apply what they have learned about main idea and details within longer texts and with a variety of different applications.

There are 4 longer texts provided, and each of them has a different main idea activity to go along with it – either filling out a graphic organizer or answering multiple choice main idea questions. There are two nonfiction texts and two fiction texts.

The texts that have a graphic organizer activity include 2 graphic organizers – 1 scaffolded, with part of the information filled in, and one blank. Differentiate as appropriate.

Nonfiction Text and Graphic Organizers

Pages 42-44

Nonfiction Text and Questions

Pages 45-46

Fiction Text and Graphic Organizers

Pages 47-49

Fiction Text and Questions

Pages 50-51

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Wolverine Passage

Read the passage below. Come up with an appropriate title for the passage. Then, use the information from the passage to complete the graphic organizer on the next page.

Title: _____

What do you know about wolverines? If you are like most people, then you probably don't know much. You might not have even known that a wolverine is a real animal!

Since most people don't know much about wolverines, they are often mistaken for other animals. One of their many nicknames is "skunk bear" because they have light stripes similar to a skunk, but they have a stocky body that makes them look like a small bear. If you see a wolverine from a long ways away, you would probably mistake it for a bear cub or a skunk, but wolverines have also been mistaken for marmots, foxes, wolves, badgers, and even porcupines.



If you ever happen to come across a wolverine, stay away! Wolverines are ferocious animals, despite their small size. Wolverines are about the size of a dog, but they will fight animals much larger than them like wolves, caribou, moose, and sometimes even bears. They have long curved claws that help them hold onto prey. Wolverines also have strong teeth and jaws and can crush (and eat) the bones of their prey. Sometimes these ferocious animals even eat the teeth!

Wolverines prefer colder climates, and their bodies are perfectly adapted to survive in the cold. Wolverines have webbed paws that spread out, making it easy for them to walk on top of snow. Their thick fur coat is resistant to frost, keeping wolverines warm even through the coldest of winters. Also, wolverines have a very good sense of smell. This helps them find potential food that has been buried deep beneath the snow.

These "skunk bears" are fascinating, ferocious animals. Although you will probably never see one in the wild, they are still worth knowing about!

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Wolverine Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs to fill in the graphic organizer below.

Main Idea

Details

2nd paragraph

Wolverines are often mistaken for other animals.

3rd paragraph

Wolverines will fight animals much larger than them, like wolves, caribou, and moose.

4th paragraph

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Wolverine Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs to fill in the graphic organizer below.

Main Idea

Details

2nd paragraph

3rd paragraph

4th paragraph

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Smoot Passage

Read the passage below. Come up with an appropriate title for the passage. Then, use the information from the passage to answer the questions on the next page

Title: _____

You've probably measured things in inches, centimeters, feet, meters, and miles – but have you ever measured in smoots? The boys that first used smoots as a unit of measurement were doing it as a prank. They had no idea that some people would still refer to smoots today!

In October of 1958, Oliver Smoot and some friends set out to measure the length of the Harvard Bridge in Boston, Massachusetts. There was only one problem – they didn't have a ruler or any other measurement tool to help them. So, the boys used Oliver Smoot to measure the bridge! Starting at one end of the bridge, Oliver repeatedly stretched out on the ground while his friends marked spots along the way to help keep track. He did this over and over again until the entire bridge was measured!



The Harvard Bridge is in Boston, Massachusetts.

Since Oliver Smoot was 5 feet and 7 inches tall when he measured the bridge, one smoot is 5 feet and 7 inches. The boys determined that the length of the bridge was 364.4 smoots – plus or minus one ear. They added the ear to show that their measurements might not have been exact.

Even though measuring in smoots began as a joke, it has had a long-term impact. If you walked across the Harvard Bridge today, you would see markings along the way that would show how far you have walked in smoots. The markings are repainted regularly to keep them from fading. Sometimes policeman reference the markings on this bridge when writing reports. Since so many people in Boston were familiar with a smoot, it was added to The American Heritage Dictionary in 2011, making it an “official” word.

The next time you set out to measure the length of an object, consider measuring in smoots. It won't be as easy as measuring with feet or meters, but it will be more fun!

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Smoot Passage

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following best describes the topic of this passage?
 - a. inches
 - b. Boston
 - c. length
 - d. smoots
2. Which of the titles below would best demonstrate the main idea of this passage?
 - a. A Prank Gone Wrong
 - b. How Smoots Were Invented
 - c. One October in Massachusetts
 - d. Painting the Bridge
3. Which of the following statements best demonstrates the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Oliver Smoot and some friends created a new unit of measurement when they measured the Harvard Bridge using Smoot's body.
 - b. The Harvard Bridge is in Boston, Massachusetts.
 - c. Oliver Smoot and his friends did not have a ruler to help them measure the bridge.
 - d. A Smoot is a unit of measurement like inches or feet.
4. Which of the following details from the passage best support the main idea?
 - a. You've probably measured things in inches, centimeters, feet, meters, and miles.
 - b. They added the ear to show that their measurements might not have been perfect.
 - c. Since Oliver Smoot was 5 feet and 7 inches tall when he measured the bridge, one smoot is 5 feet and 7 inches.
 - d. The markings are repainted regularly to keep them from fading.
5. What image could be added that best relates to the main idea of the passage?
 - a. A picture of the American Heritage Dictionary
 - b. A picture of Oliver Smoot measuring an apple in inches
 - c. A picture of Oliver Smoot's ear
 - d. A picture of Oliver Smoot stretched out on the ground on the Harvard Bridge
6. Which of the following statements best describes the main idea of the 4th paragraph?
 - a. The American Heritage Dictionary added smoot to the dictionary in 2011.
 - b. Smoots have had a long-term impact.
 - c. A smoot is 5 feet and 7 inches.
 - d. Policemen sometimes reference smoot markings in their reports.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Locked Out Passage

Read the passage below. Come up with an appropriate title for the passage. Then, use the information from the passage to complete the graphic organizer on the next page.

Title: _____

Jodi walked home from school on Friday only to find that the door was locked and nobody was home. Usually Jodi had a key with her, but last week she had loaned her key to her brother because he had lost his. She was forgotten to get it back from him. Her mom always worked late on Fridays. If she couldn't figure out a way into her house, she'd be trapped outside until her brother was done with band practice!

Jodi climbed over the fence into her backyard, hoping that the back door was unlocked. It wasn't. Then she tried climbing through the doggy door, but it was way too small for her. Their chihuahua was tiny – only 5 pounds.

Walking around the perimeter of the house, Jodi tried to open all of the windows, hoping that she would be able to crawl through one of them. Every single one of them was locked! She wondered how angry her mom would be if she broke one of the windows. She picked up a rock, planning on throwing it at her bedroom window, and then changed her mind last minute.

Pulling out her cell phone, Jodi texted her mom and her brother. She told them she was locked out and begged them to come home early if they could. She knew that neither of them would have much free time to check their phones in the next couple of hours, but it was still worth a shot.

Out of ideas, Jodi walked dejectedly back to the front of her house. She sat down on her front porch steps and pulled her math homework out of her backpack. She figured she could finish it while she waited for her brother to get home.

As she was beginning the second problem, Mrs. Blanch, her neighbor, wandered over.

"What are you doing out here?" Mrs. Blanch asked. "Did you get locked out? Your mom gave me an extra key if you need me to unlock the door for you."

"YES! THANK YOU!" Jodi replied. "I thought I was going to be stuck out here for hours!"

Mrs. Blanch unlocked the door and Jodi gratefully gave her a hug and ran inside. She wouldn't be stuck outside all afternoon after all!

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Locked Out Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the passage to complete the graphic organizer below.

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea

Jodi couldn't get into
her locked house until
her neighbor helped
her.

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Locked Out Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the passage to complete the graphic organizer below.

A graphic organizer for a 'Main Idea and Details' passage. It consists of a central rectangular box labeled 'Main Idea' with decorative swirls in each corner. Four lines radiate from the corners of this central box to the corners of four surrounding rectangular boxes, each labeled 'Supporting Detail'. The boxes are arranged in a square pattern around the central box.

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Visiting Relatives Passage

Read the passage below. Come up with an appropriate title for the passage. Then, use the information from the passage to answer the questions on the next page

Title: _____

Ken was so irritated. His parents had made him spend all day Saturday cleaning his room just because his aunt and uncle were coming into town. They would be sleeping in his room, while Ken slept on the couch.



It wasn't fair – Ken had never even met this aunt and uncle. They lived in Japan, and this was their first trip to the United States. Plus, while Ken was busy cleaning, his sister had spent the day playing games on her iPad. She didn't have to clean her room.

When his parents woke him up at 4:30 on Monday morning so that they could pick up his aunt and uncle from the airport, Ken became even more bitter. Grumbling under his breath, he pulled on a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt and headed to the kitchen.

His mom was already in the kitchen, eating a bowl of cereal. She was wearing a dress and had some fancy jewelry on. She looked at Ken disapprovingly.

“Go change,” his mom ordered. “Put on a dress shirt and a tie. And do something about your hair! You need to make a good first impression on your Uncle Yuto and Aunt Hana. How can you meet them for the first time in a holey sweatshirt?”

More annoyed than ever, Ken stomped off to his room and did what his mother asked. By the time they got to the airport that morning, Ken was ready for these visitors to be long gone.

When his uncle climbed into the car, he gave Ken a big hug and said, “I’m so excited to meet you finally! Your mom said that you are letting us stay in your room while we are here. We really appreciate it. As a thank you, I got you my favorite video game. Maybe we can play it together while I’m here?”

Ken looked down as his uncle handed him a game he had asked for Christmas but hadn't gotten! If his uncle liked this game, he couldn't be so bad! Perhaps all this extra trouble would be worth it.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Visiting Relatives Passage

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below.

1. Throughout this passage, Ken is mainly:
 - a. jealous
 - b. mean
 - c. sneaky
 - d. annoyed
2. Which of the titles below would best demonstrate the main idea of this passage?
 - a. The Messy Room
 - b. The Best Video Game Ever
 - c. Preparing for Unwelcome Visitors
 - d. The Long Trip From Japan
3. What is this passage mainly about?
 - a. A boy who is angry about cleaning his room
 - b. A family preparing for a trip to the airport early in the morning
 - c. A boy that has to work while his sister plays
 - d. A boy upset about a visit from his aunt and uncle
4. Which of the following details does NOT support the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Ken doesn't think it's fair that he has to clean his room for his aunt and uncle.
 - b. Ken's mom was eating a bowl of cereal in the kitchen in a dress and fancy jewelry.
 - c. Ken is upset about waking up early to pick his aunt and uncle up from the airport.
 - d. Ken stomps to his room when his mom asks him to dress nicely for his aunt and uncle.
5. Which of the following details would support the main idea if added to the passage?
 - a. Ken's sister helped Ken by vacuuming his room for him.
 - b. Ken's mom lets Ken play video games after he is done cleaning his room.
 - c. Ken gets frustrated when his dad tells him to take the sheets off his bed and wash them.
 - d. Ken's aunt Hana is a teacher.
6. Which of the following statements best describes the main idea of the 7th paragraph?
 - a. Ken's uncle is excited and thankful when meeting Ken.
 - b. Ken's uncle plays the same video games as Ken.
 - c. Ken's uncle is from Japan and had a long flight.
 - d. Ken's uncle climbed in the car.

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

Blank Graphic Organizers

This section includes a blank version of the different graphic organizers that have been used throughout this resource.

Use these blank graphic organizers with any text. Having copies already made and on hand can be useful for those days when you don't have as much planning time as usual and still want your students to have a meaningful, relevant lesson. [Find more of my favorite reusable resources to have on hand for busy days here.](#)

Filling in parts of the graphic organizer is a great way to provide additional support to students that need it.

Blank Graphic Organizers
Pages 53-55

Main Idea and Details

Blank Graphic Organizer

TITLE

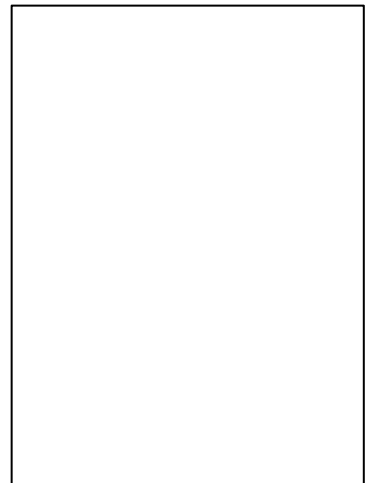
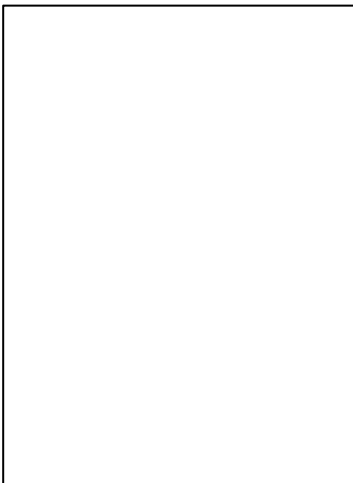
TOPIC



MAIN IDEA



DETAILS



Main Idea and Details

Blank Graphic Organizer

TITLE

Main Idea

Details

Main Idea and Details

Blank Graphic Organizer

TITLE

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Main Idea and Details: Building Understanding

ANSWER KEY AND RUBRIC

This section includes both a grading rubric and answer keys that can be used to assess all of the activities contained in this resource.

The grading rubric can be used to grade several resources at one time and is best used to assess a student's overall understanding of main idea and details.

Answer keys are included for all of the activities and can be used to assess specific activities. In instances where there is more than one correct answer, a possible answer has been provided in the answer key.

Grading Rubric

Page 57

Answer Keys

Page 58-83

Main Idea and Details

Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

	3 points	2 points	1 point
Completeness	All of the required work was completed.	Most of the required work was completed.	Very little of the required work was completed.
Main Idea and Details	The student demonstrated a clear understanding of the purposes and differences between topic, main idea, and supporting details.	The student demonstrated an average understanding of the purposes and differences between topic, main idea, and supporting details.	The student often confused topic, main idea, and supporting details.
Quality of Content:	The student's answers were thoughtful, logical, and interesting.	The student's answers were expected and predictable.	The student's answers lacked thoughtfulness and details. The student answered with the minimum required.
Conventions	There are very few errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.	There are several errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There are many errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Because of these errors, the answers are very difficult to read.
Teacher Comments:			

Total Points out of 12:

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

fruit

soccer/football

body parts

title

title

title

pineapple

free kick

eyelash

plum

defense

fingernail

lemon

goalie

thigh

cherry

net

elbow

kiwi

field

ankle

grape

referee

shoulder

pear

offside

earlobe

mango

penalty

knuckle

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

teeth

drinks

jewelry

title

title

title

dentist

orange juice

bracelet

toothpaste

Dr. Pepper

pearls

molar

water

ring

floss

milk

pendant

cavity

lemonade

anklet

gums

coffee

earring

toothbrush

hot chocolate

diamond

plaque

iced tea

necklace

Main Idea and Details

Grouping Words

Glue each of your groups below. Come up with a title for each of the groups.

cleaning

title

sweeping

mop

vacuum

rinse

laundry

dishwasher

dusting

scrub

ocean animals

title

shark

seahorse

whale

squid

eel

jellyfish

octopus

walrus

exercise

title

jumping jacks

push-ups

stretch

sit-ups

jog

lunges

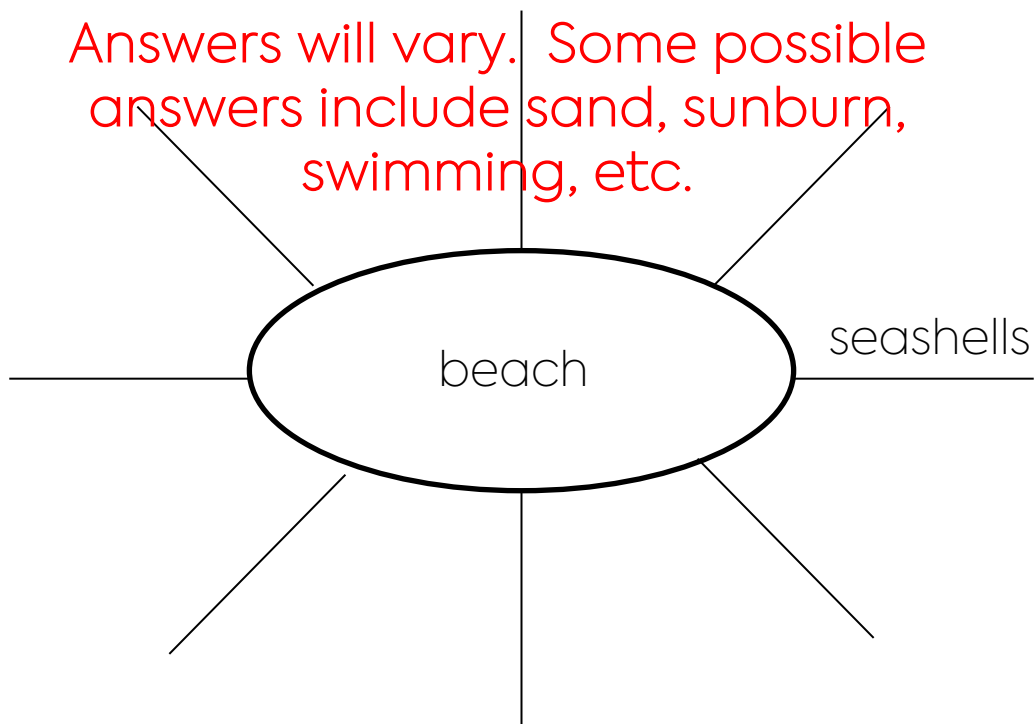
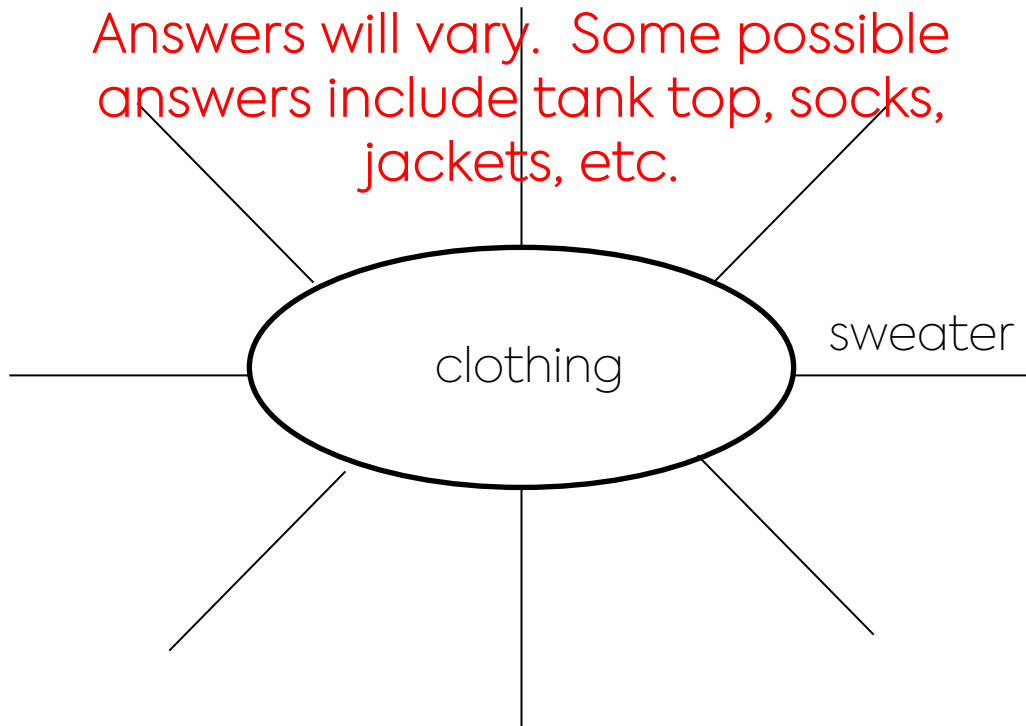
bicycling

weightlifting

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

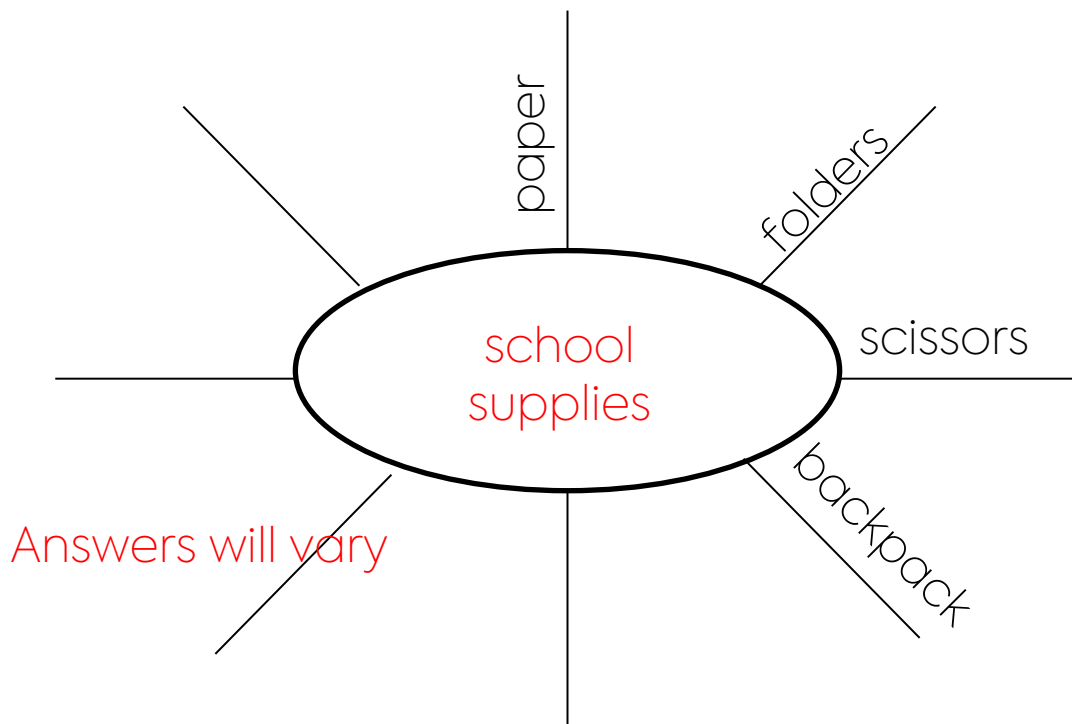
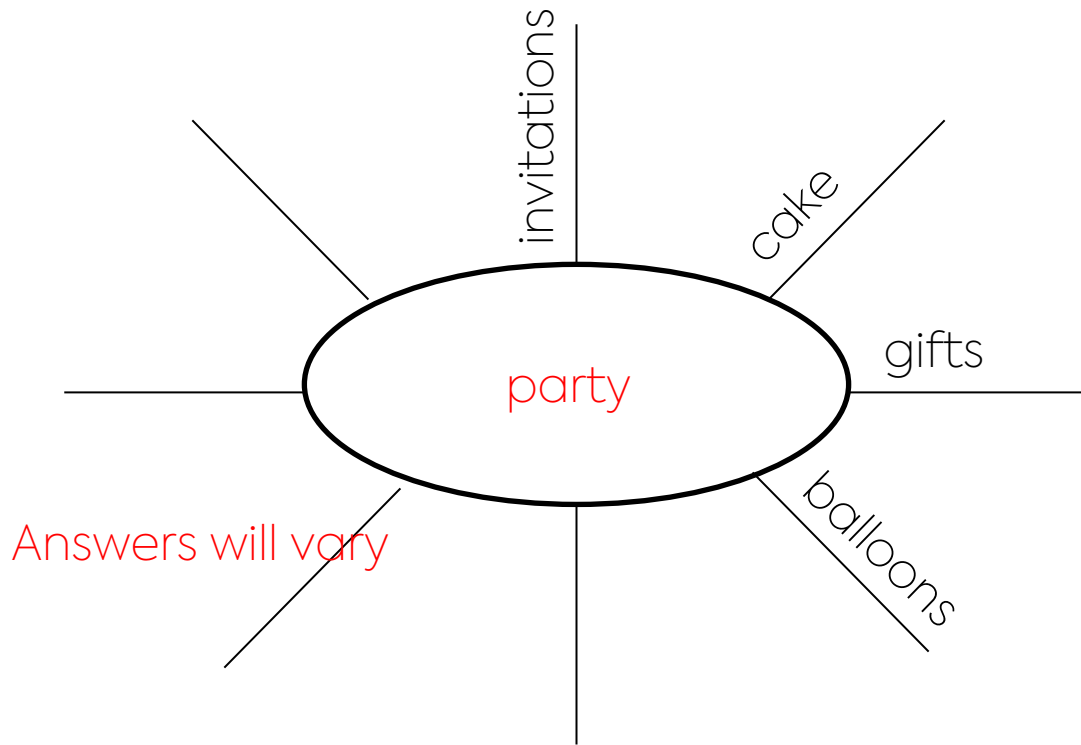
The topic is given. Come up with details that support the topic. An example is given.



Main Idea and Details

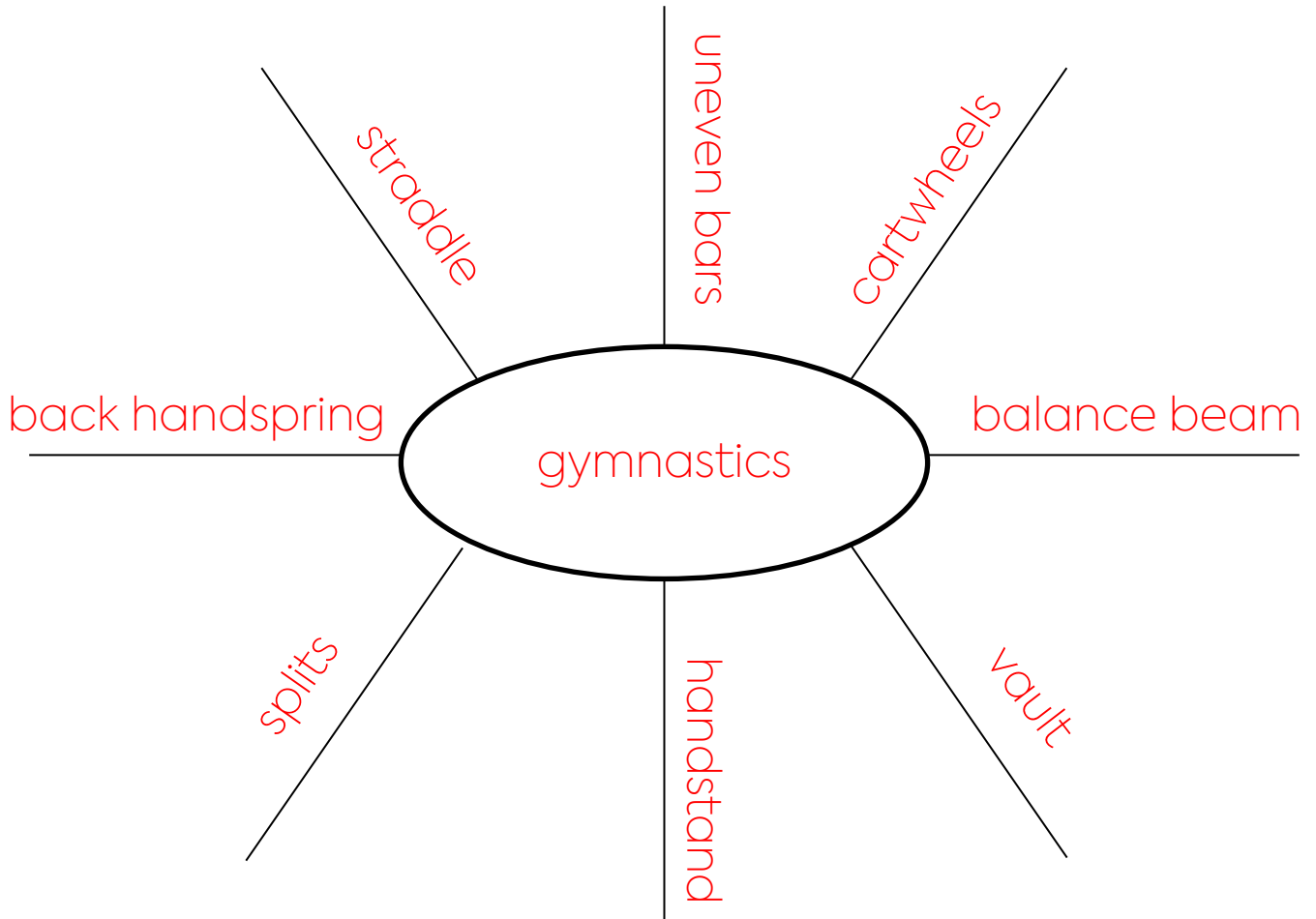
Web Graphic Organizers

Some supporting details are given. Come up with the topic and the rest of the supporting details!



Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

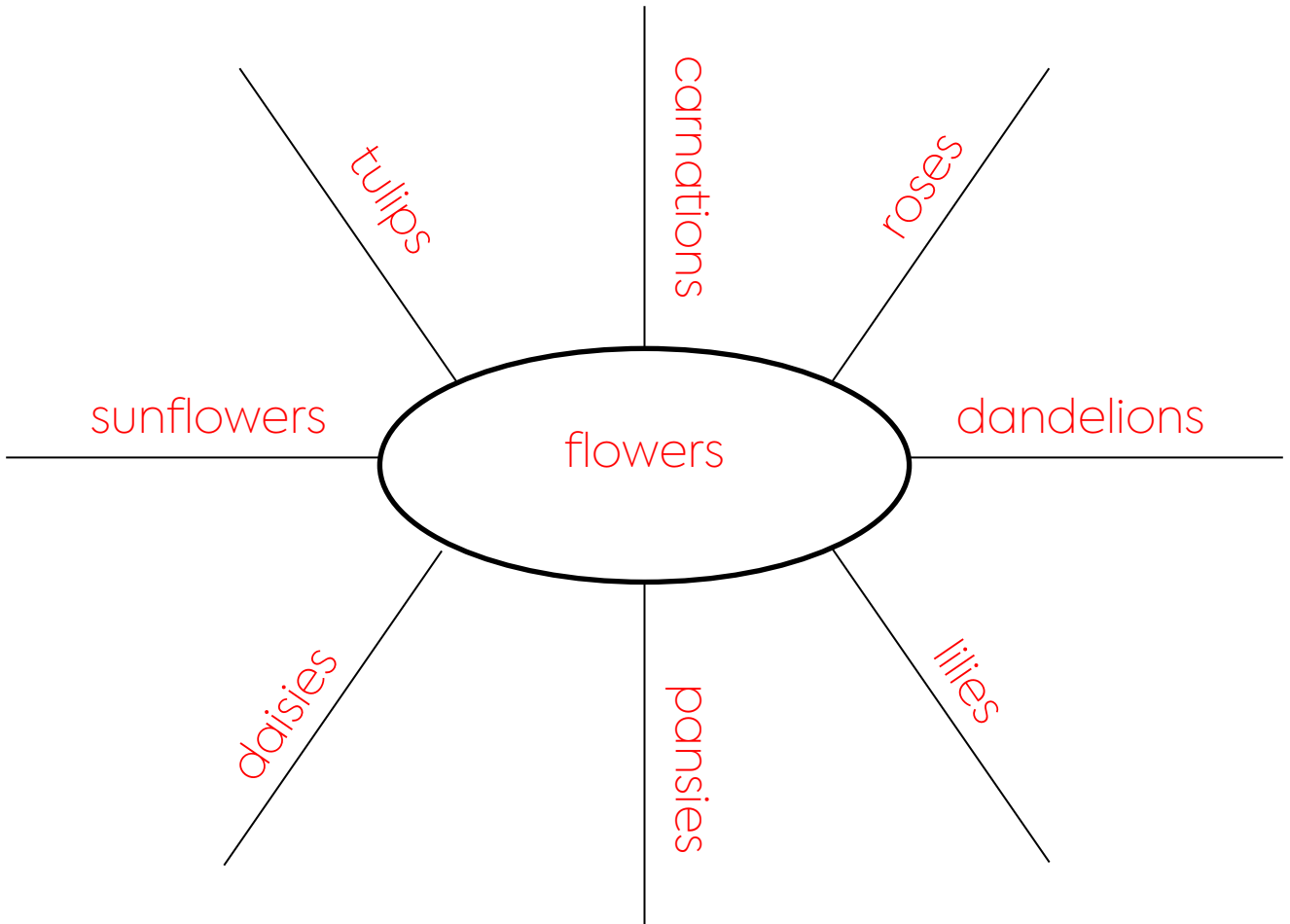


1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

balance beam	vault	cartwheels
gymnastics	handstand	back handspring
splits	uneven bars	straddle

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers

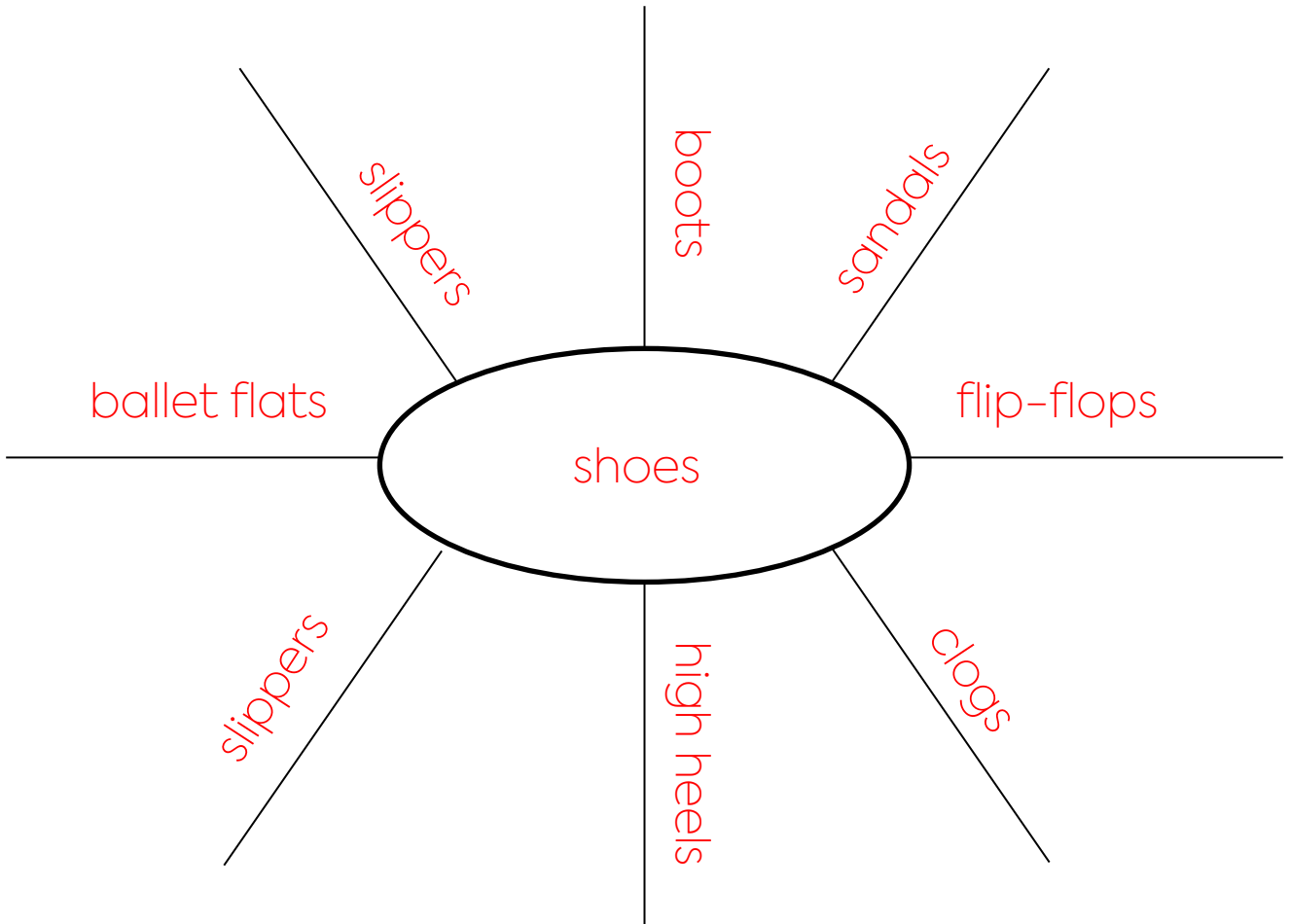


1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

roses	tulips	lilies
daisies	pansies	flowers
dandelions	sunflowers	carnations

Main Idea and Details

Web Graphic Organizers



1. Cut and paste the words into the web.
2. The topic belongs in the center of the web. The supporting details belong around the center of the web.

flip-flops	sandals	high heels
boots	slippers	sneakers
clogs	shoes	ballet flats

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Cut out the titles at the bottom of the page and then match them to the appropriate paragraph.

Kitchen Appliances

Kitchens usually contain a variety of different appliances. Toasters are useful when you are eating a bagel or sliced bread. Soups are often made in slow cookers. Coffee lovers will usually have a coffee maker on their countertop.

History of the Refrigerator

People have not always had refrigerators in their kitchen. Before there were refrigerators, people used ice or snow to cool their food. Some people kept food cold for long periods of time by storing it underground and packed in ice. Iceboxes, wooden boxes packed with ice and insulating materials, used to be very common. Now, most people use the modern refrigerator to keep food cool.

Kitchen Safety

Cooking in the kitchen can be fun, but it can also be dangerous. In order to stay safe in the kitchen, you should take some precautions. Blenders, food processors, and knives all have sharp edges and should be treated carefully. Also, food and pans that come out of the oven will be very hot and should be taken out with an oven mitt.

Steaming Vegetables

Vegetables can be cooked in the kitchen in a variety of ways. A popular method for cooking vegetables is called steaming. Steaming vegetables is healthier than boiling or roasting vegetables because it helps lock in nutrients. Asparagus, carrots, and green beans are all excellent when steamed.

Steaming Vegetables	History of the Refrigerator
Kitchen Safety	Kitchen Appliances

Main Idea and Details

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Cut out the titles at the bottom of the page, and then match them to the appropriate paragraph.

Playing Football

“Go long!” Blake yelled to his friend Mateo. Mateo took off running across the grass. When he was close to the fence, Blake hurled the football. It was a little long. Mateo jumped up, stretching his arms up as high as they could go. The ball soared an inch above his outstretched fingers. The boys both groaned. “I was so close!” Mateo said.

Money and Football Players

The average NFL football player makes around a million dollars a year. That is a LOT of money. But did you know that after retirement, approximately 78% of NFL football players are completely broke within 2 years? Most players don’t know how to manage money or handle life without football, and so they lose all of those millions very quickly.

The Quarterback’s Role

The quarterback is often considered the most important player on the football team. The quarterback is usually the leader of the offensive team and responsible for choosing which play will be run. After a Super Bowl win, the starting quarterback is the first person to be presented with the trophy. Football would be a very different game without quarterbacks.

Preparing for the Big Game

Leah’s mom had cooked all morning in preparation for the big game. There were hot wings, pigs in a blanket, and all sorts of dip for the chips. While her mom was cooking, Leah was cleaning. The entire house was spotless and ready for their guests. Leah turned on the TV and found the pre-game show. She listened as the announcers predicted which team would win the football game.

Preparing for the Big Game

The Quarterback’s Role

Playing Football

Money and Football Players

Answers Will Vary. Main Idea and Details

Possible Answers Are Given.

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Think about the main idea. Then, write an appropriate title for each of the paragraphs.

Labrador Retrievers

Labrador retrievers are very popular dogs. They are friendly, loyal, and eager to please. Also, Labradors are very intelligent and are very easy to train. Because of this, Labradors are sometimes used as guide dogs, rescue dogs, and as a helper while hunting. A Labrador is a great type of dog to have as a pet.

Getting a Dog

Before you get a dog, there are a lot of factors to consider. Dogs need to be fed regularly. Furthermore, dogs need a lot of positive attention either through walks or playing. If you want a dog, you should contemplate whether or not you will have the time and money to take care of all of a dog's needs.

Fear of Dogs

Although many people love having a dog as a pet, there are some adults and children that are very frightened of dogs. Sometimes people are afraid of dogs because they have had a bad experience in the past, like being bitten or growled at by a dog. Having an irrational fear of dogs is called cynophobia. It is possible to get over a fear of dogs, but it is difficult.

African Wild Dog

Many dogs are domesticated and live with humans. However, there are some dogs that roam wild. One such dog is called the African wild dog. Some people call these dogs painted dogs because their coat is made of patches of red, yellow, black, brown, and white. These dogs roam the African plains. They hunt for larger prey like antelope in packs of six or more. Unfortunately, these dogs are endangered.

Answers Will Vary. Main Idea and Details

Possible Answers Are Given.

Thinking About Titles

Read the paragraphs below. Think about the main idea. Then, write an appropriate title for each of the paragraphs.

Pancakes Around the World

Did you know that almost every culture has their own version of pancakes? In the US and Canada, people often eat buttermilk pancakes for breakfast. If you lived in Australia, you might eat a pancake with jam or cream as an afternoon snack. If you lived in India, your pancakes would probably be made from rice and lentils.

Making Pancakes for Mom

Tobiah woke up extra early on Mother's Day. He tip-toed to the kitchen and pulled a pancake mix out of the pantry. After measuring out the correct amounts, Tobiah poured the pancake mix and water into a mixing bowl and stirred. Then, he quietly woke his dad up since he needed help cooking the pancakes. His mom was going to be so surprised!

Consequences of Fast Food

Fast food chains make it easier than ever to eat out instead of cook at home. Although this takes a lot less time and energy than cooking at home, eating at fast food restaurants too often can have negative consequences. For example, fast food can be a lot more expensive than going to the grocery store. Also, fast food usually has a lot more calories and unhealthy ingredients than you would eat if you cooked at home.

Eating Dinner Alone

"It's Thursday again," Amelia thought sadly to herself. Every Thursday her mom had to work late and her dad spent the evening at baseball practice with her older brother. Amelia was left all alone and had to cook dinner for herself. She pulled peanut butter and jelly out of the refrigerator, grabbed a couple of slices of bread, and made a sandwich. A tear dropped down her face as she ate alone in front of the TV.

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card Sentence that doesn't support the main idea of the paragraph

1.

Men's gymnastics has six different events.

2.

A quadrangle is any shape that has 4 angles.

3.

You also could find a cello in an orchestra.

4.

Golden retrievers also make wonderful pets.

5.

I also have to walk my dog after I get home from school.

6.

My bicycle is bright green.

7.

Michael Jordan also played baseball.

8.

My mom wants to have another baby.

9.

The continent of Europe has a lot more countries that are a part of it.

10.

Canada is a country north of the United States.

11.

We also take note of other famous presidents like George Washington.

12.

Tornadoes can also do this.

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card Sentence that doesn't support the main idea of the paragraph

13.

I'm allergic to peanuts.

14.

I also have an older brother in high school.

15.

I used to be scared of lizards, too.

16.

Taking out the trash is just as bad.

17.

The planet Mercury is also smaller than Jupiter.

18.

Ants have six legs.

19.

Metamorphosis occurs in a variety of animals.

20.

You can't see, smell, or taste oxygen.

21.

My multiplication flash cards were safe in my backpack.

22.

Winter is way too cold for me.

23.

The Texas Horned Lizard can grow as long as 6 inches.

24.

George Washington was the 1st President.

Main Idea and Details

Task Card Recording Sheet

Card New sentence that supports the main idea of the paragraph

25.	Students should add a sentence about why breaking a leg is painful or annoying.
26.	Students should add a sentence about something Jerilyn could do to put off her homework, or her finally beginning her homework.
27.	Students should add a sentence about clothing you wear in snow so that playing in the cold/snow is fun.
28.	Students should add a sentence about Kiran taking a bad picture - or finally taking a good picture - of his dog.
29.	Students should add a sentence about something that could have spooked Jake out in the dark or him coming back inside the house.
30.	Students should add a sentence about keeping your dog safe during fireworks.
31.	Students should add a sentence about why watching a movie at home is better than in the movie theater.
32.	Students should add a sentence about Jacy not having enough money or finding money/finding a way to make money.
33.	Students should add a sentence about Regan having to do extra work because of her part in the play.
34.	Students should add a sentence about why it took so long to get to school or finally arriving at school.
35.	Students should add a sentence about how we can communicate with people far away.
36.	Students should add a sentence about waiting in lines.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Visiting an aquarium is a lot of fun. At an aquarium, you will see a variety of beautiful ocean animals. Jellyfish, seahorses, and octopuses can be colorful and fascinating! Most aquariums also have vibrant corals, which look like plants but are actually animals. Aquariums also usually have a variety of sharks, including hammerhead sharks and sand tiger sharks. An aquarium is a great place to see examples of animal camouflage, as many underwater animals like fish are masters of camouflage.

MAIN IDEA

You can see a variety of ocean animals at an aquarium.

DETAILS

You can see camouflaged ocean animals at an aquarium.

Aquariums usually have different types of sharks.

Aquariums have vibrant corals.

You can see camouflaged ocean animals at an aquarium.

You can see a variety of ocean animals at an aquarium.

Aquariums usually have different types of sharks.

Aquariums have vibrant corals.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Chickens can be useful as pets, as they provide eggs that can be eaten. However, chickens must be taken care of carefully. If you have a chicken, you must make sure that they have plenty of food and water. Also, their chicken coop must be cleaned regularly, and their eggs collected! Eating potato skins or chocolate can be fatal for chickens, so make sure your chickens avoid these two foods!

MAIN IDEA

Chickens must be taken care of if you keep one as a pet.

DETAILS

Make sure chickens don't eat chocolate or raw potato skins.

Chickens need plenty of food and water.

Chicken eggs must be collected.

Make sure chickens don't eat chocolate or raw potato skins.

Chickens must be taken care of if you keep one as a pet.

Chickens need plenty of food and water.

Chicken eggs must be collected.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Antarctica is considered the coldest place on Earth. The temperatures are so frigid in Antarctica that the snow rarely melts. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Antarctica was -128.6°F (-89.2°C). The only animals that can survive the freezing temperatures have adaptations that help keep them warm. For example, penguins and seals have a layer of fat called blubber.

MAIN IDEA

Antarctica is cold.

DETAILS

Snow rarely melts in Antarctica.

Penguins and seals have blubber to keep them warm.

The coldest temperature recorded in Antarctica is -128.6°F .

Snow rarely melts in Antarctica.

Penguins and seals have blubber to keep them warm.

The coldest temperature recorded in Antarctica is -128.6°F .

Antarctica is cold.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage, and then cut out the sentences at the bottom of the page. One of the sentences is the main idea, and the remaining 3 are details. Decide where the sentences belong on the graphic organizer below, and then glue them in the appropriate spot.

Cameron wanted to play his new video game, but his mom had told him that he couldn't play until he finished his homework. Cameron grumpily pulled his homework out of his backpack and stared at the page. He kept staring blankly at the page. More than fifteen minutes later, Cameron still had not begun his homework. He tore up the worksheet, crumpled it into a ball, and then threw it into the trashcan.

MAIN IDEA

Cameron didn't
want to do his
homework.

DETAILS

Cameron stared
at the page.

Cameron pulled
his homework
grumpily out of
his backpack.

Cameron tore up
his homework
and threw it
away.

Cameron stared
at the page.

Cameron didn't
want to do his
homework.

Cameron pulled
his homework
grumpily out of
his backpack.

Cameron tore up
his homework
and threw it
away.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Of all the planets in our solar system, Mars often excites the most interest. This is because Mars is more like Earth than any other planet. There is evidence that suggests that there was once water on Mars, just like there is now on Earth. Also, Mars and Earth are both considered rocky, terrestrial planets. Huge mountains and canyons can be found on both planets as well. If humans needed to survive on a planet other than Earth, Mars would probably be the best choice!

MAIN IDEA

Earth and Mars are very similar.

DETAILS

Both Mars and Earth have had water on them.

Mars and Earth are both rocky, terrestrial planets.

You can find mountains and canyons on Mars and Earth.

Another possible detail: If we needed to survive on a planet other than Earth, Mars would be the best choice.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Amari's parents had given her a dog for her birthday after she agreed that she would take good care of it. Every morning, Amari woke up 15 minutes earlier than normal so that she could take her dog Olaf for a short walk. Then, she would feed him and make sure his water bowl was full. When she came home from school, Amari would take Olaf outside and play with him until it was time to do her homework. Her parents were proud of her.

MAIN IDEA

Amari took good care of her dog.

DETAILS

Amari woke up early so that she could take her dog on a walk.

Amari fed her dog and made sure his water bowl was full.

Amari played with Olaf.

Main Idea and Details

Main Idea Vs Details - Graphic Organizer

Read the passage. Then, write the main idea and 3 supporting details from the passage in the graphic organizer below.

Many people think broccoli tastes disgusting. However, broccoli is a vegetable with many healthy benefits. Broccoli has a lot of fiber in it, which is good for your digestive system. Also, broccoli is a good source of Vitamin A and Vitamin E. Studies have even shown that eating broccoli regularly might prevent cancer! Even if you do not like broccoli, you should consider eating it because of its health benefits. Try it with some melted cheese to help it taste better.

MAIN IDEA

Broccoli has many health benefits.

DETAILS

Broccoli has fiber, which is good for your digestive system.

Broccoli is a good source of Vitamin A and E.

Broccoli might help prevent cancer.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Wolverine Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs to fill in the graphic organizer below.

Main Idea

Details

2nd paragraph

Wolverines are often mistaken for other animals.

Wolverines have light stripes that are similar to a skunk.

Wolverines have a stocky body that makes them look like a small bear.

From a long way off, wolverines could be mistaken for marmots, foxes, wolves, badgers, and porcupines.

3rd paragraph

Wolverines are ferocious animals.

Wolverines will fight animals much larger than them, like wolves, caribou, and moose.

Wolverines have curved claws that help them hold on to their prey.

Wolverines have strong teeth and jaws that help them crush the bones of their prey.

4th paragraph

Wolverines have adaptations that help them survive in cold climates.

Wolverines have webbed paws that help them walk on top of snow.

Wolverines have thick fur that is frost-resistant, which helps them stay warm through cold winters.

Wolverines have a good sense of smell that helps them find food buried deep beneath the snow.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Smoot Passage

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following best describes the topic of this passage?
 - a. inches
 - b. Boston
 - c. length
 - d. smoots
2. Which of the titles below would best demonstrate the main idea of this passage?
 - a. A Prank Gone Wrong
 - b. How Smoots Were Invented
 - c. One October in Massachusetts
 - d. Painting the Bridge
3. Which of the following statements best demonstrates the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Oliver Smoot and some friends created a new unit of measurement when they measured the Harvard Bridge using Smoot's body
 - b. The Harvard Bridge is in Boston, Massachusetts.
 - c. Oliver Smoot and his friends did not have a ruler to help them measure the bridge.
 - d. A Smoot is a unit of measurement like inches or feet.
4. Which of the following details from the passage best support the main idea?
 - a. You've probably measured things in inches, centimeters, feet, meters, and miles.
 - b. They added the ear to show that their measurements might not have been perfect
 - c. Since Oliver Smoot was 5 feet and 7 inches tall when he measured the bridge, one smoot is 5 feet and 7 inches.
 - d. The markings are repainted regularly to keep them from fading.
5. What image could be added that best relates to the main idea of the passage?
 - a. A picture of the American Heritage Dictionary
 - b. A picture of Oliver Smoot measuring an apple in inches
 - c. A picture of Oliver Smoot's ear
 - d. A picture of Oliver Smoot stretched out on the ground on the Harvard Bridge
6. Which of the following statements best describes the main idea of the 4th paragraph?
 - a. The American Heritage Dictionary added smoot to the dictionary in 2011.
 - b. Smoots have had a long term impact.
 - c. A smoot is 5 feet and 7 inches.
 - d. Policemen sometimes reference smoot markings in their reports.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Locked Out Passage

Read the passage. Use the information from the passage to complete the graphic organizer below.

Supporting Detail

Jodi climbed the fence in hopes that her back door was unlocked, but it wasn't.

Supporting Detail

Jodi tried to get to crawl through the doggie door, but it was way too small.

Main Idea

Jodi couldn't get into her locked house until her neighbor helped her.

Answers may vary. Some possible Answers are given.

Supporting Detail

Jodi tried opening all of the windows and even considered breaking one of them.

Supporting Detail

Jodi's neighbor Mrs. Blanch noticed she was locked out and used an extra key to let her in.

Main Idea and Details

Apply - Smoot Passage

Read the passage, and then answer the questions below.

1. Throughout this passage, Ken is mainly:
 - a. jealous
 - b. mean
 - c. sneaky
 - d. annoyed
2. Which of the titles below would best demonstrate the main idea of this passage?
 - a. The Messy Room
 - b. The Best Video Game Ever
 - c. Preparing for Unwelcome Visitors
 - d. The Long Trip From Japan
3. What is this passage mainly about?
 - a. A boy who is angry about cleaning his room
 - b. A family preparing for a trip to the airport early in the morning
 - c. A boy that has to work while his sister plays
 - d. A boy upset about a visit from his aunt and uncle
4. Which of the following details does NOT support the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Ken doesn't think it's fair that he has to clean his room for his aunt and uncle.
 - b. Ken's mom was eating a bowl of cereal in the kitchen in a dress and fancy jewelry
 - c. Ken is upset about waking up early to pick his aunt and uncle from the airport.
 - d. Ken stomps to his room when his mom asks him to dress nicely for his aunt and uncle.
5. Which of the following details would support the main idea if added to the passage?
 - a. Ken's sister helped Ken by vacuuming his room for him.
 - b. Ken's mom lets Ken play video games after he is done cleaning his room.
 - c. Ken gets frustrated when his dad tells him to take the sheets off his bed and wash them.
 - d. Ken's aunt Hana is a teacher.
6. Which of the following statements best describes the main idea of the 7th paragraph?
 - a. Ken's uncle is excited and thankful when meeting Ken.
 - b. Ken's uncle plays the same video games as Ken.
 - c. Ken's uncle is from Japan and had a long flight.
 - d. Ken's uncle climbed in the car.

Related Resources

Main Idea: 3 Games/Centers

Main Idea Matching Game



Main Idea and Details Sort

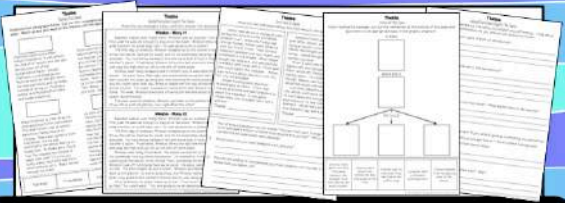


Main Idea Mazes – 5 Different Mazes



Teaching Made PRACTICAL

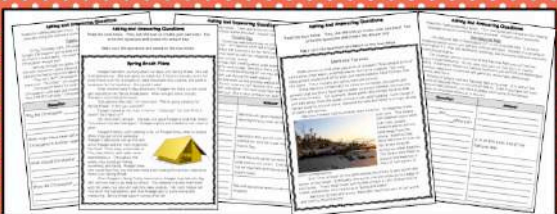
Determining Theme: Scaffolded



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Nonfiction
Bundle

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Compare and Contrast: Snowball Fight BUNDLE

Reading Passages,
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Questions,
and Snowball Fights!



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Thank You!

Feel free to contact me with questions or comments:
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