



MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

The main idea of a passage is what the passage is mostly about.

TIPS:

- A title tells about the main idea.
- The supporting details in a **passage** tell about the main idea of a passage.
- You have to infer the main idea of a **passage** if not stated by the author.
- All the sentences in a **paragraph** support the main idea of a paragraph.
- A topic sentence in a **paragraph** tells about the main idea of the paragraph.
- You have to infer the main idea of a **paragraph** if the paragraph does not include a topic sentence.
- Signal words for Main idea are usually found in question stems rather than text.

SIGNAL WORDS:

mostly about

main theme

best way

another title

best describes

best tells

most likely

best title

sums up

main lesson

main purpose

best supported

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QUESTION STEMS:

Main Idea

- What is this passage **MOSTLY** about?
- Which sentence **BEST** tells what the story is about?
- Which could be another title for this story?
- Which statement is best supported by the selection?
- According to the author, what is paragraph ___ mainly about?
- What lesson does the story teach?

Details/Facts

- Which detail best supports the main idea of the text?
- Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- All of the following are facts from the article **EXCEPT**...
- How? How did it happen? How do you know?
- Which is a way to ___?
- Which statement best describes...
- Which statement best tells how...