

# Main Idea and Details



**K5ChalkBox**



# About the Author



Shannon Dipple is the owner of [www.k5chalkbox.com](http://www.k5chalkbox.com), an educational site that has been online since 2009.

Ms. Dipple has taught seventh and eighth grades in Kuwait, and fifth grade in Israel, at the American schools. During this time she worked on her Masters Degree in Education, and enjoyed many opportunities in international education.

Valuable experience has been gained by attending conferences around the world, and working with ESL students. This made her very aware of the cultural differences.

Ms. Dipple currently teaches second grade, is a Mentor and has three boy, along with website coaching and working in various community organizations.

“Every day brings something new, my own creativity is allowed to shine and I thrive on seeing those "light-bulb" moments that happen so often in a primary classroom. Whatever "it" is, I wouldn't change what I do for the world.”

Other books from k5ChalkBox:

**Teachable Poetry for Fluency and Comprehension**

<http://www.k5chalkbox.com/reading-fluency-strategies.html>

**Reading Karate**

<http://www.k5chalkbox.com/reading-comprehension-exercises.html>

**Kevin Henkes Author Study**

<http://www.k5chalkbox.com/kevin-henkes-books.html>

**Patricia Polacco Author Study**

<http://www.k5chalkbox.com/patricia-polacco-author-study.html>

**Finding Cinderella**

<http://www.k5chalkbox.com/cinderella-stories.html>

**Mother Goose Math**

[Mother Goose Math](#)

## **Main Idea & Details**

Teaching main idea and details is a critical component of comprehension.

Often students struggle to recognize if the topic of a text is stated explicitly or inferred. In addition, the main idea can be found at the beginning, end or in the middle of a paragraph.

These worksheets, along with other [main idea activities](#) found at k5ChalkBox can help teachers scaffold their lessons to enhance student learning. They follow a sequence of learning, from sorting details to math a known main idea to taking a variety of details and writing a cohesive paragraph while adding in their own topic sentence.

Answer keys are not given for a reason: teachers need to deeply understand the materials their students are using, and many times the discussion that happens in a classroom to find a given answer is more valuable than the answer itself. However, the answers are fairly obvious once a teacher reads through the materials.

These worksheets can be used a variety of ways. Cut up the sentences and make a sorting activity. Have a group work together to write a paragraph. Do a whole group lesson and use one of them as a quick assessment for understanding.

## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read each detail sentence. Choose the main idea from the box that each detail best goes with.

A. The beach is the best place for a vacation.

B. Soccer is my favorite sport.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The warm sun shines on the water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I love to run up and down the field.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I practice chipping the ball every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sometimes the seagulls try to eat my food.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The crowds go wild when I kick the ball.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. It takes a lot of skill to play soccer in the sand.

**Bonus:** Write a paragraph using one topic sentence from the box and the three details. Add a closing sentence.

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## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read each detail sentence. Choose the main idea from the box that each detail best goes with.

A. There are many fun things to do on a fall day.

B. There are signs that fall is on the way.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. It starts to get dark earlier.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The maple leaves begin to change color.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. We can play football in the back garden.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I love to visit the pumpkin patch at the farm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The birds start to migrate south for the winter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Leaf piles are just right for jumping in.

**Bonus:** Write a paragraph using one topic sentence from the box and the three details. Add a closing sentence.

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## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read each detail sentence. Choose the main idea from the box that each detail best goes with.

A. Animals prepare for winter in the autumn.

B. People prepare for winter in the fall.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Gardens are harvested and cleaned up.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Squirrels store seeds and nuts.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The apples are picked from the orchard.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Leaves must be raked.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Bears prepare to hibernate.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Geese migrate south.

**Bonus:** Write a paragraph using one topic sentence from the box and the three details. Add a closing sentence.

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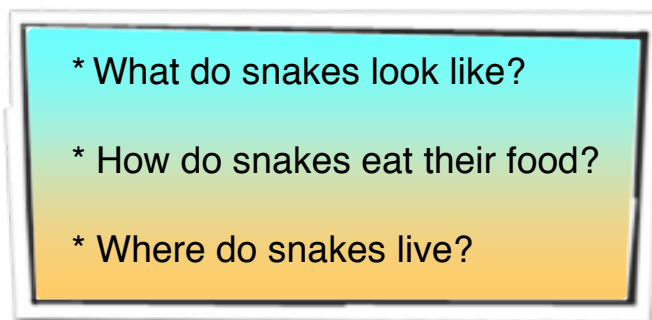
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## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write the main idea question for each paragraph. Use the Main Idea bank to help you.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

Snakes eat their prey whole. Their teeth are rear-facing, which helps keep their prey in their mouths. Snakes hunt mostly at night.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Most snakes live in tropical areas that are hot and moist. They also live in forests, prairies and deserts. There are no snakes in Antarctica, Iceland or Ireland.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Snakes are flexible reptiles. They come in many different colors, and the poisonous ones are usually venomous. Snakes can be as small as two inches, or as long as 38 feet!

## Main Idea & Details



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write the main idea question for each paragraph. Use the Main Idea bank to help you.

- \* What do killer whales like to eat?
- \* What does a killer whale do?
- \* What are baby killer whales like?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

It takes anywhere from 13-16 months for a baby killer whale to be born. They are called calves. A calf is born in the fall and can weigh up to 400 pounds. A calf stays with its mother for two years.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Killer whales live in pods. They travel all over the earth's oceans. The leader of the pod is a female. Some pods can have more than 100 members.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

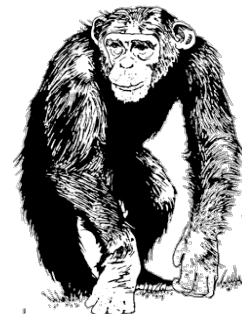
Killer whales hunt their food using echolocation. Fish, seals, squid and birds are some of their favorite meals. Sometimes a killer whale will slide out of the water onto the shore to catch its prey.



## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Where do chimpanzees live?
- \* What are chimpanzees bodies like?
- \* How do chimpanzees live?



**Directions:** Write the main idea question for each paragraph. Use the Main Idea bank to help you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Chimpanzees live in groups called communities. Each community has it an alpha leader (the strongest male). Male chimpanzees will fight each other to be the alpha male. Communities guard their territories, and they will fight each other to keep their territory safe.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Chimpanzees are found in Africa. They mostly live in rainforests, but also like to live in swamps and open savannahs. They can live up to 50 years old in the wild.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Chimpanzees faces are pinkish to black. They do not have a tail and are covered with hair. Although they walk on all four limbs, they can walk standing up for a short time.

## Main Idea & Details



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the main idea for each paragraph in GREEN.

Underline each detail in YELLOW.

1. The Middle Ages really was not fun to live in. Most people never bathed except for once a year. As well, left over food was often thrown on the floor and covered up with herbs and hay. In addition, a house for a peasant was just a shack. Unless you were royalty, life was very hard in the Middle Ages.
2. Smash! Crossbows and cannons could take a castle out very quickly. Also, if a soldier with a lightning arrow fired on it, the fire could spread throughout the castle. Using a battering ram could knock down a wall too. There were many ways to break through a castle's defenses.
3. Do you think cooking is hard work? Cooks in the Middle Ages had a tough job. They had to taste the food for the king to be sure it wasn't poisoned. They also had to prepare huge banquets. If they had to use rotten meat, the cook better be handy with the spices to cover up the taste! Aren't you glad cooking today is a bit easier?

## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the main idea for each paragraph in GREEN.  
Underline each detail in YELLOW.



1. The life of a pirate was not like what you see in the movies. Many sailors died from either falling overboard in shark-infested waters or from plunging onto the deck from working the sails. Also, many pirates died from diseases such as scurvy and malaria. The only food they sometimes ate was hard tack and dried, salted meat. It's no wonder most of them didn't live very long!
2. Did you know that embroidery was a popular pirate pastime? Pirates were also known as great storytellers. As well, most pirates did not gamble as it led to fights among the crew. Pirates loved entertainment.
3. Pirates weren't always men. One famous woman pirate was called Anne Bonny. Anne disguised herself as a man and joined a band of pirates around 1700. She was respected by many pirates for being so fierce. Nobody really knows what happened to Anne Bonny, but some people think she died as a pioneer in America.

## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the main idea for each paragraph in GREEN. Underline each detail in YELLOW.



1. Do you like playing checkers? Children in ancient Egypt had many games they liked to play. Some were fitness games like hockey, but they used palm tree branches for sticks. Other games were board games, such as Dogs and Jackals. Senet was another game many people enjoyed.
2. You probably wouldn't live long if you were born in ancient Egypt. If a baby was lucky enough to live the first year, it was considered to be a blessing from the gods. Also, most bathrooms drained into fields that food was grown in, so there were lots of diseases. As well, people usually didn't live past the age of 40. It was a rough life!
3. Have you ever worn braids? Egyptian women loved them. Children wore a side-lock until around 12 years old. Men usually wore their hair very short, unless they were a slave. There were many different styles of hair in ancient Egypt.

## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the main idea for each paragraph in GREEN. Underline each detail in YELLOW.



1. The Vikings were sailors from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They are known mostly as raiders, but they also traded and explored. One of their greatest things were their ships that could handle long ocean voyages. Clearly the Vikings were interesting people.
2. Sometimes Vikings would sail for days across the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Their Longship was the perfect boat for this. It was a racing warship that was about 80 feet long. The square sail allowed it to move very fast. This boat could also go through rivers and land on any sandy shore.
3. Most Vikings lived in the country in longhouses. Their homes were made of peat blocks and wooden planks. Beds were only used in very wealthy Viking households. A central fire kept it the house warm and a hole in the roof let smoke out. Would you like to have lived in a longhouse?

### Main Idea & Details



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the details in the box to write a paragraph. Be sure to include a topic, or main idea, sentence in your paragraph.

- Fish are the oldest vertebrates in the world
- Fish breathe using gills
- Most fish reproduce by laying eggs
- There are more than 24,000 species of fish
- Most fish have bony skeletons

[illegible]

## Main Idea & Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the details in the box to write a paragraph. Be sure to include a topic, or main idea, sentence in your paragraph.



- There are over 300,000 species of beetles in the world
- Beetles can live in almost any environment
- Many cultures eat beetles as a regular dish
- Some beetles are considered to be good luck, like ladybugs.
- Most beetles live for only a year
- Beetles communicate using sound or vibrations

[illegible]

## Main Idea & Details



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the details in the box to write a paragraph. Be sure to include a topic, or main idea, sentence in your paragraph.

- A cowboy would never be without his bandana
- It could be used as earmuffs in cold weather
- Red was the most common color
- If a cowboy was injured it would be used as a tourniquet
- While driving cattle it would serve as a dust mask.

[illegible]



## **Main Idea & Details**