

## Topic and Main Idea

**Directions:** Read each paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

**Y**ou need a balanced diet to stay healthy. A balanced diet provides the amount of nutrients your body needs every day. By eating lots of different foods, you will get the nutrients you require to stay healthy.

1. What is the topic of this paragraph? Circle one.
  - A. eating foods
  - B. the importance of a balanced diet
  - C. planning your diet
2. Which sentence states the main idea about the topic?
  - A. When you eat lots of different foods you get the nutrients you require.
  - B. A balanced diet provides the amount of nutrients your body needs every day.
  - C. You need a balanced diet to stay healthy.

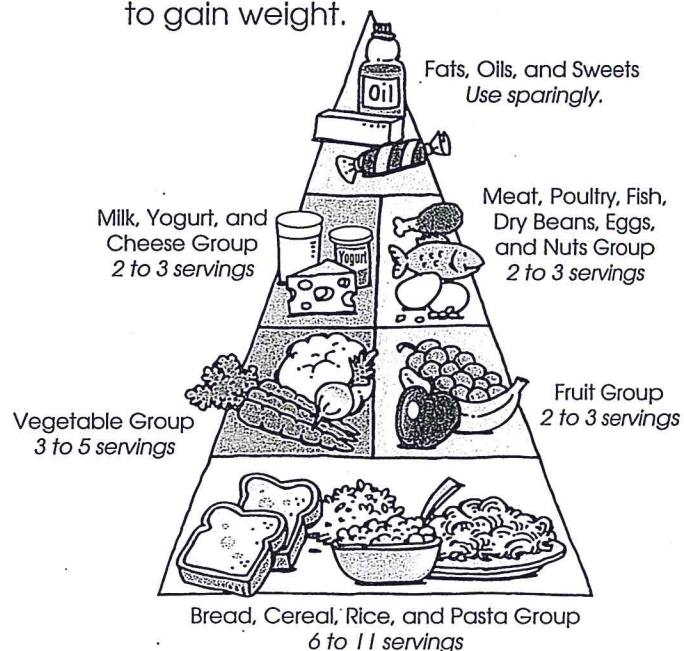
The food guide pyramid shows the five basic food groups. When choosing what to eat, you should think about these food groups. The food groups are Bread, Cereal, Rice, and Pasta; Vegetable; Fruit; Milk, Yogurt, and Cheese; and Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, Eggs, and Nuts. The best way to plan a balanced diet is to choose a variety of foods from each of the five food groups.

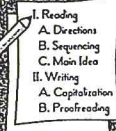
3. What is the topic of this paragraph? Circle one.
  - A. planning a balanced diet
  - B. vegetables
  - C. the food guide pyramid
4. Which sentence states the main idea about the topic? Circle one.
  - A. The food guide pyramid shows the five basic food groups.

- B. When choosing what to eat, you should think about these food groups.
- C. The best way to plan a balanced diet is to choose a variety of foods from each of the five food groups.

You should avoid eating cookies, candy, and sweetened soft drinks. These foods have a lot of sugar and very little nutritional value. They may also cause you to gain weight and your teeth to decay.

5. What is the topic of this paragraph? Circle one.
  - A. foods to avoid eating
  - B. sugar
  - C. how to avoid gaining weight
6. What is the unstated main idea? Circle one.
  - A. Some foods have a lot of sugar and not much nutritional value.
  - B. Cookies, candy, and sweetened soft drinks are not healthful foods.
  - C. Foods with a lot of sugar can cause you to gain weight.



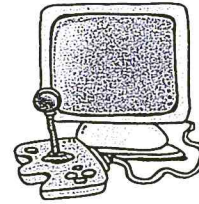


## What's the Main Idea?

Often the main idea of a passage is **stated** in a sentence. Sometimes, however, you have to figure out the **unstated** main idea by looking at important details.

**Directions:** Read each paragraph. Then, write a sentence that states the main idea for each paragraph.

**O**ne of the most popular forms of entertainment today is playing computer games. Children are fascinated by these games. They are popular because they have exciting graphics, fun activities, and a wide variety of games.



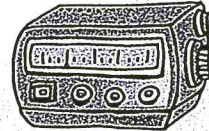
**Stated Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**S**ome radio stations play jazz. Others play rock. Still others play country. Some stations just report the news and weather. What a lot of variety we get from radio!



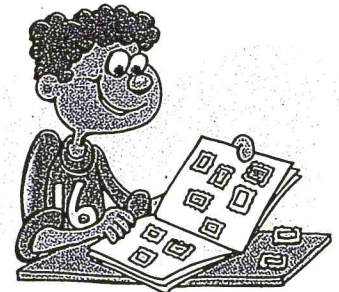
**Unstated Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**D**o you have a hobby? One kind of hobby involves collecting things. Some people collect stamps. Others may collect dolls or stuffed animals. Many people collect and trade sports cards. Another kind of hobby involves building things. Some people build models of ships and airplanes from kits or build large structures from Legos. Other hobbies involve music, art, dance, and sports.

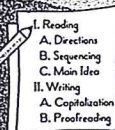


**Unstated Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## What's the Idea?

**Directions:** Circle the sentence that best expresses the main idea of each paragraph.

1. Edmund began to question whether or not the lion in the Queen's courtyard was alive. The large creature looked as if it were about to pounce on a dwarf. But it did not move. Then Edmund noticed the snow on the lion's head and back. Only a statue would be covered like that!

- The statue is snow-covered.
- Edmund wonders if the lion is alive.
- The lion is ready to jump.



2. The resting party of children and beavers heard the sound of jingling bells. Mr. Beaver dashed out of his hiding place and soon called the others to join him. He could hardly contain himself with excitement. Father Christmas is here!

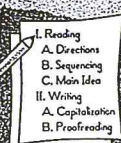
- Mr. Beaver is a brave animal.
- Father Christmas has come to Narnia.
- The group hears a jingling sound.

3. Poor Edmund! Because he came to the Queen, he expected her to reward him gratefully with Turkish delight. After all, he had traveled so far and had suffered miserably in the cold. When the Queen finally commanded that he receive food and drink, the cruel dwarf brought Edmund a bowl of water and a hunk of dry bread.

- Edmund is not rewarded as he expects.
- The young boy suffered from the cold.
- Edmund receives bread and water.

4. Peter knew he must rescue Susan from the wolf. When the wolf charged, Susan climbed up a nearby tree. The wolf's snapping and snarling mouth was inches away. When Peter looked more closely, he realized that his sister was about to faint. Rushing in with his sword, Peter slashed at the beast.

- Peter kills the wolf.
- Peter realizes he must save his sister.
- The wolf snarls at Susan.



## Beth Is Sick

Poor Beth is sick, and she doesn't know why. She felt great yesterday, but this morning she woke up with a headache, a fever, and a horrible sore throat. Beth is disappointed because today is the day her class is going to the new science museum. Why did she have to be sick on a field trip day? How did she get ill so quickly?

Beth and Kim talk on the phone about Beth's situation for twenty minutes. Because they planned to be field trip partners, Kim is really sad Beth isn't going to school today. Kim tells Beth she probably got sick because she didn't wear a jacket to school yesterday, and it was a cold day. She tells Beth that if your body gets cold, you catch germs more easily. Beth tells Kim that is silly. She believes Kim has a virus.

Beth remembers learning about viruses in science class. Mr. Fridley told them that viruses are noncellular structures that can only be seen through an electron microscope, which magnifies them thousands of times. On its own, a virus is a lifeless particle that can't reproduce, but when a virus enters a living cell, it starts reproducing and can sometimes harm the host cell. Viruses that harm host cells cause disease like chicken pox, the flu, and colds. Mr. Fridley told them that shaking hands with or being sneezed or coughed on by an infected person may infect you with the virus. Beth believes that she became infected from someone since lots of people are sick at this time of year. Kim promises Beth a full report on the science museum.

**Directions:** Underline the main idea of the story.

Beth has a headache, fever, and a sore throat.

Beth and Kim try to discover why Beth is sick.

Viruses cause diseases.

Mr. Fridley taught them about viruses.



**Directions:** Check the correct answers.

- Viruses...**
- can't be seen through an ordinary light microscope.
  - pass easily from one person to another.
  - are thousands of times bigger than regular cells.
  - enter living cells and start reproducing.

What are some ways to avoid viruses? \_\_\_\_\_



I. Reading  
 A. Directions  
 B. Sequencing  
 C. Main Idea  
 II. Writing  
 A. Capitalization  
 B. Proofreading



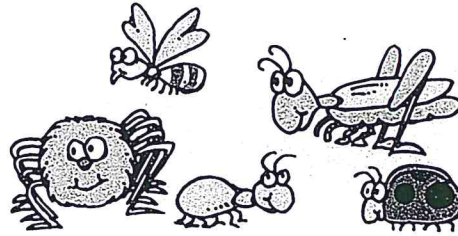
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Support for the Main Idea

Sometimes the main idea is not stated directly. When this happens, you can use **supporting details** to infer the main idea.

**Directions:** Read each paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

**S**piders and insects are small creatures. They both have thin, jointed legs and segmented bodies. Both spiders and insects can be found in a rainbow of colors and a variety of sizes.



1. What is the unstated main idea of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

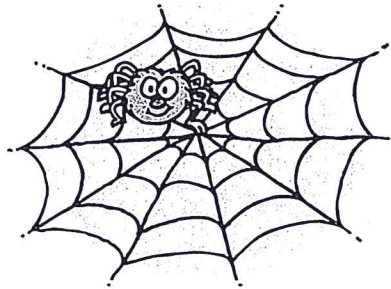
2. List two details that support the main idea.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**H**ave you ever seen a spider's web? One web, called a *ladder web*, is long and narrow. Another web is called an *orb web*. This kind of web resembles a wheel.



1. What is the unstated main idea of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List two details that support the main idea.

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