

MAIN IDEA SOS

Lesson 2

Part 1: Introduction



Finding Main Ideas and Details

CCSS

RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

World Communities

The **main idea** of a passage is what the passage is mostly about. **Details** are all the facts and ideas in a passage. The most important **key details** in a passage support the main idea by giving more information about it.

Read the following passage about the way people lived in the American colonies.

Life in the American colonies was not easy. People had to work very hard to make a living. Some families lived on farms and made their living by selling food to people in faraway towns. Getting to a town could take two hours or more. They had to travel by horse, which was not easy on the rough terrain. Once in town they sold their goods. Then they would take the long trip back to the farm.

Underline the first sentence of the passage. This is the main idea. Then circle three details that help explain why life in the American colonies was not easy.

Read the table below to see how you can keep track of the main idea and key details in a text.

Main Idea		
Life in the American colonies was not easy.		
Key Detail	Key Detail	Key Detail
People had to work hard to make a living.	Getting to town could take two hours.	Traveling by horse was not easy.

Good readers look for the main idea of a passage by finding its most important details. When you retell the key details in a passage, you can put them together to find the main idea.



Read the first part of a passage about communities. Then read and answer the question that follows.

Genre: Article

What Is a Community? by Clayton James

A community is a group of people who live and work in the same area. People do different things to help make a community.

Think about the people you saw on your way to school today. Maybe you saw a bus driver. A bus driver helps get you to school on time and safely. Maybe you saw a police officer. A police officer makes sure that people follow the laws and stay safe. Maybe you saw a mail carrier, a delivery person, or people on their way to work. All of these people work together to make a community. This community is your city or town.

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What is a detail in the passage that supports the main idea?

First, look for a sentence that tells what the passage is mostly about. What is the main thing you learn from reading this passage?

The main idea and two details that support it are shown in the chart below. Find a third detail from the passage that supports the main idea by filling in the blank in the chart.

Main Idea		
"A community is a group of people who live and work in the same area."		
Key Detail	Key Detail	Key Detail
"A bus driver helps get you to school on time and safely."	"A police officer makes sure that people follow the laws and stay safe."	A city or town is a <u>community</u> .

Fill in the blank below to write about a detail that supports the main idea of the passage.

A detail that supports the main idea of this passage is that a city or town is a community.