

The **main idea** is the **most important idea of a text**.

- ▶ The **main idea** is often **found in a sentence at the beginning** or at the **end of a paragraph**.
- ▶ **Key details** are sentences that **provide more information to support the main idea**.



John Marshall

¹John Marshall was an important person in United States history. ²He fought as a captain in the Revolutionary War. ³The Revolutionary War was the war for American independence from Britain. ⁴Marshall was the **Secretary of State** under President John Adams. ⁵He also **served as Chief Justice** of the Supreme Court. ⁶Marshall was the fourth chief justice.

CFU

Which sentence supports the main idea that John Marshall was an important person in the United States history? Explain.

- A** John Marshall served in the House of Representatives.
- B** John Marshall became a lawyer in 1781.

What is the difference between main idea and key details?

- 1 Read the text.
- 2 Identify key details. (underline)
- 3 Discern the main idea. (box)

Parks

¹Parks are visited by many people every day. ²There are many fun activities to do at the park. ³Skating is one thing that can be exciting. ⁴On the weekends is when the most skaters come out. ⁵Bicycling is another thing that can be enjoyed. ⁶Many parks even have a special path for bicycles. ⁷Playing volleyball is also very enjoyable. ⁸Many teams are always competing with each other.

- 1 Read the text.
- 2 Identify key details. (underline)
- 3 Discern the main idea. (box)

Stems

¹Plants have many parts. ²Stems do several things for plants. ³Stems hold the plant and leaves up so that they will be in the sunlight. ⁴Without light, the plants cannot survive. ⁵Stems carry water and food to other parts of the plant. ⁶The water and food has to be transported from the roots up. ⁷Stems can also store food for the plant. ⁸The stored food is the part of the plant that we sometimes eat.

Skill Closure

- 1 Read the text.
- 2 Identify key details. (underline)
- 3 Discern the main idea. (box)

Basketball

Basketball is a very popular sport. Basketball players learn many skills when playing basketball. They learn how to dribble and pass the ball. Dribbling is one of the most important skills to learn. Basketball players also learn how to control the ball. Without control, they cannot score. Most importantly, basketball players learn how to work together with their teammates.

Concept Closure

Write an explanation.

Lamar would like to add the following sentence below to the passage about *basketball* as supporting evidence.

Does the sentence support the main idea? Explain.

Basketball players learn to shoot the ball from different places on the court.

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about discerning the main idea?

Word Bank

main idea
discern
key details
support

- 1 Read the text.
- 2 Identify key details. (underline)
- 3 Discern the main idea. (box)

Rainforests

¹A rainforest has smaller plants that grow on the ground and lower level of the forest. ²The plants thrive beneath the larger plants and trees. ³Animals such as the poison dart frog and the capybara also live there. ⁴Most of the animals in the rainforest live in the canopy. ⁵The rainforest also has insects and colorful birds, such as toucans. ⁶These animals live among the trees of the rainforest. ⁷A rainforest is full of many kinds of plants and animals.



Exercising

¹Exercise can improve how you feel and help you sleep better. ²We all have experienced how tired we are after we exercise. ³Exercise helps make your heart and lungs strong. ⁴Doctors always recommend exercise to people with heart problems. ⁵It also helps control your weight or lose weight. ⁶Without exercise it is more difficult to keep your weight down. ⁷Exercising can help you in many ways.



**Listening**

Listen to the text.

Answer the questions about the text.

1 What is the main idea of the passage?

- A** People from all over the world have many celebrations.
- B** American Indians had celebrations for a variety of purposes.
- C** The wanted to ensure a good harvest.

2 What would be another detail that supports the main idea?

- A** Some American Indians wore clothing made from leather.
- B** Some American Indians lived in a traditional home called the tepee.
- C** American Indians had many festivities for salmon fishing.



Reading

Which three sentences belong in a paragraph that has the main idea of “Seeds are dispersed in a number of ways.”

Some seeds are light or have wings to help them float in the air. **Yes** **No**

Some plants, like ferns, don't produce seeds. **Yes** **No**

Some seeds have barbs or hooks to catch on fur and feathers of animals. **Yes** **No**

Some seeds need light to grow. **Yes** **No**

Some seeds can float on the water and are carried by rivers and streams. **Yes** **No**

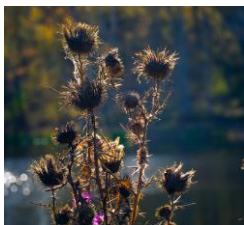
 Writing

Write a paragraph with key details.

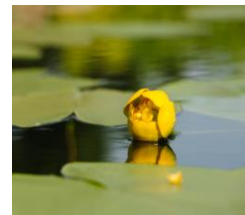
Use the pictures to add additional details to the key details. Read the passage.



Dandelion seeds are dispersed by air



Cocklebur seeds are dispersed by fur



Yellow waterlily seeds are dispersed by water

Seeds are dispersed in a number of ways.



roller coaster



popcorn



show

There are many exciting things to do at an amusement park.
