

# MAIN IDEA

To help us figure out the **main idea**,  
can look for clues:

## Clue #1

Look at the title or  
heading

## Clue #3

Read the topic sentence  
that's the first sentence

## Clue #2

# MAIN IDEA

A **TOPIC** of a text is one or two  
words that tells what it's about.

the topic by  
title.

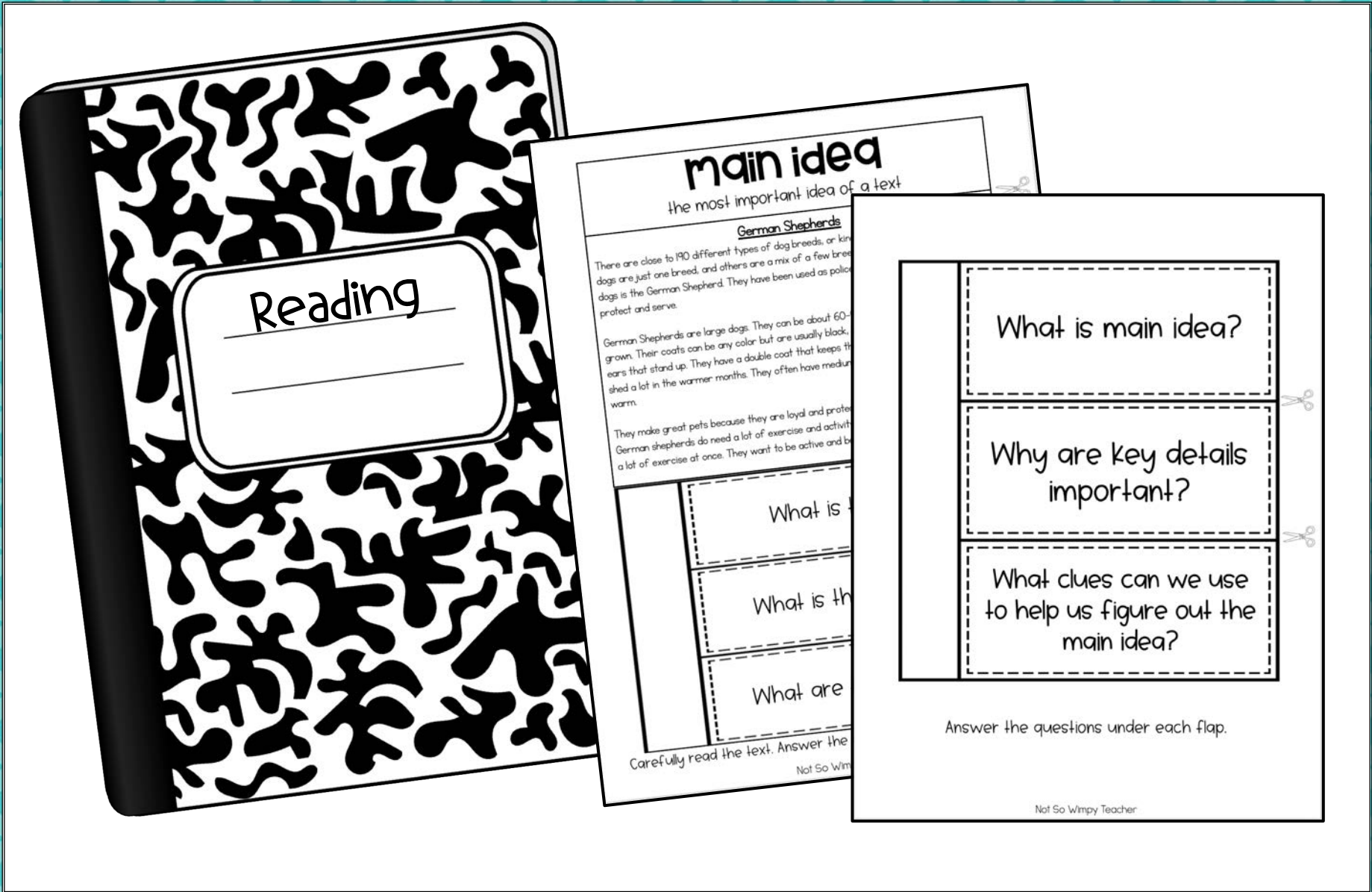
# MAIN IDEA

For example:



The topic of this  
book is giraffes.  
The text is all  
about giraffes.

# PowerPoint to Introduce the Skill



# 2 Interactive Notebook Activities



# Non-Fiction MAIN IDEA



## CENTER ONE

Read the passage on the card carefully. Figure out the main idea of the text and three key details. Write your answer in the recording book.



## CENTER TWO

Read each card. Match the topic sentence to a detail card. Write your answers in the recording book.



## CENTER THREE

Read each task card. Then answer the question. Write your answer in the recording book.



## CENTER FOUR

Read the passage in your recording book. Read the question on each card. Find the answer in the text, and underline it using



## CENTER FIVE

- Choose a non-fiction picture book and carefully read the text. Follow the directions on the center card.
- Read a new book and answer the same question for the second book.



# 5 Centers with a Recording Book

# WRITE ANSWERS

## Main Idea:

# CENTER ONE



ent bears but only one c. That's a polar bear! Polar bears look white and fluffy, but their skin isn't white! The skin under their fur is black. They can stay warm in the cold Arctic because they have a big layer of blubber, or fat, under their skin. That layer of blubber helps to keep the warm in, so they don't get cold.

## Three Key Details

Polar bears are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They are one of the largest carnivores to live on land. They primarily hunt and eat sea lions. They have 42 teeth that help them hunt and eat.

They spend most of their time at sea. They can swim up to about 25 miles per hour! They can swim for a very long time. They have a great sense of smell and can smell a sea lion from over a mile away!

Male polar bears are larger than female bears. Males can weigh up to 1,600 pounds! Female polar bears are only about half of that weight. Baby polar bears are called cubs. When cubs are born, they can weigh only one pound.

# 2 RESPONSE MATCH

# CENTER TWO



There are five different oceans in the world.

3

Giraffes live in Africa in open grasslands.

2

There have been many great presidents.

1

New York has a lot of famous landmarks.

4



# 3 WRITE THE ANSWER

## CENTER THREE



4

ect. They live in colonies, which are groups of ants. They are on every continent except Antarctica. In the ant colonies, different ants have different jobs to help the rest. Ants can carry over five times their body weight! Ants can live up to 30 years, which is the longest life of any



the main idea?

Have you seen the famous Golden Gate Bridge? This bridge is in San Francisco, California. It's a large bridge that goes over the bay. It may be called golden, but it's actually a reddish-orange color. It took the workers over four years to build. It's named one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



1 What clues can help you figure out the main idea?

# 4 COLOR ANSWERS

Jackie Robinson

One of the greatest baseball players of all time is Jackie Robinson. He was the first African-American to play in the Major League. In 1947, he made his major league debut and was named the National League Rookie of the Year.

## CENTER FOUR



Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph  
Underline the answer in red.

What is the main idea?  
Underline the answer in blue.

Underline three key details.  
Underline the answer in green.

# 50 READING RESPONSE

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Idea:



Detail:



Detail:



Detail:

## CENTER FIVE

a. Choose a non-fiction picture book and carefully read the text. Follow the directions on the center card.

b. Read a new book and answer the same questions on the second book.

Write the main idea and details in the graphic organizer in the recording book.

## CHECKING MY WORK

- I completely answered the question.
- I used complete sentences in my answers.
- I used evidence from the text to prove my answer.
- I edited my work for spelling and punctuation.



## A Pleasure

Main Idea - Nonfiction

Polite is not a word people usually use to describe most of the food at Chick-fil-A. From their yummy and fresh food to the friendly service by many people.

Truett Cathy opened the first Chick-fil-A in 1967. The question is, did Cathy know how successful his Georgia diner would be? Chick-fil-A locations opened in America.

Before opening Chick-fil-A, Truett Cathy worked for a fast-food business. Truett learned that he wanted to open a restaurant first people to make a chicken sandwich. It was important to have Sundays so that workers could have time with their families today.

Truett Cathy died in 2014 at age 93. Chick-fil-A has changed. Now, in addition to quick and easy meals, people can also get food. There's a reason why there always seems to be a line at Chick-fil-A restaurants. It is loved by many and will continue to be.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

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2. What key detail from the passage helped you understand the main idea?

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3. Which key detail from paragraph 3 supports the idea that people like fast food?

- a. He was one of the first people to make a chicken sandwich.
- b. Truett Cathy opened the first Chick-fil-A in 1967.
- c. Truett Cathy died in 2014 at age 93.
- d. Now, in addition to quick and easy meals, people can also get food.

not so wimpy

## The Crocodile De

Main Idea - Nonfiction

Don't you hate it when you have food stuck in your teeth? Believe it or not, crocodiles have a way to clean their teeth. Unlike humans, crocodiles can't just grab a toothpick or floss. They use a small bird called the Egyptian Plover to clean their teeth. With the help of a small bird called the Egyptian Plover.

Egyptian Plovers grow to be 7 to 8 inches long and weigh less than a pound. They have orange bellies, black heads, and grayish-blue legs. Female plovers lay their eggs on the sand. The baby birds can run and feed themselves right after they hatch. Plovers are commonly found in the tropical areas of Africa. They are friends to the crocodiles?

These birds may be tiny, but they sure are brave! When a Nile crocodile has a piece of food stuck in its teeth, it will lay on the bank of a river with its mouth wide open. The bird will walk into the crocodile's mouth and chow down on the food that were left behind. This helps both animals; the crocodiles get clean teeth and the birds get fed.

These brave and unique birds may be small in size, but they help crocodiles clean their teeth.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

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2. What clues help you figure out the main idea?

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3. How does this process help both animals? Select two answers.

- a. The crocodiles get clean teeth.
- b. The birds get fed.
- c. The birds clean the crocodile's teeth.
- d. The crocodiles get food.

not so wimpy teacher

## Bouncing Through The Ages

Main Idea - Nonfiction

Have you ever been to a trampoline park? Have you ever known anyone who had a trampoline of their own? Maybe you even have your own trampoline! Trampolines have become a staple in many backyards, but did you know that they have actually been around for thousands of years? It's true! Although, when they first came along, they were quite different from the bouncy backyard toy we know and love today.

Trampolines were first used in ancient China and Egypt. Researchers believe that back then, people used them for religious ceremonies or to get a better look at the areas around them. Early trampolines were made from walrus skin and looked nothing like the trampolines we see today.

The first present-day trampoline was created in 1935 in the basement of a YMCA. The creators were two male gymnasts named George Nissen and Larry Griswold. Their original trampoline had an iron frame, a canvas bed, and rubber springs. This new invention was popular around the world and was used for many things. They were used to train gymnasts and other athletes, as well as pilots, soldiers, and astronauts.

The long and unique history of trampolines is almost as entertaining as bouncing on one.

Trampolines have helped people do many things and will continue to be used for many years to come.

1. What is the main idea?

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2. Give one key detail that supports the main idea.

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3. Where was the first trampoline used?

- a. YMCA
- b. Ancient Egypt and China
- c. United States
- d. San Francisco

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# 3 Passages/Assessments