



Main Idea and Summarizing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Coral reefs are home to thousands of fish species. They protect coastlines from storms and provide food for millions of people. What is the main idea?

- A) Fish live in the ocean.
- B) Coral reefs are valuable ecosystems.
- C) Storms damage coastlines.
- D) People enjoy eating seafood.

2. Which detail would NOT belong in a summary of a passage about the invention of the telephone?

- A) Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- B) The telephone changed how people communicate.
- C) Bell enjoyed eating oatmeal for breakfast.
- D) The first phone call was made in 1876.

3. A paragraph says: "Bats use echolocation to find food in the dark. They send out sound waves that bounce off insects and return to their ears." What is the main idea?

- A) Bats eat insects at night.
- B) Sound waves travel through air.
- C) Bats use echolocation to locate their prey.
- D) Insects try to hide from bats.

4. Which is the best one-sentence summary of a passage about how recycling saves energy?

- A) Recycling is nice.
- B) People should recycle paper, plastic, and glass to use less energy and reduce waste.
- C) Factories use machines that need electricity.
- D) Glass bottles can be melted and reused.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. The main idea of a passage is the central _____ the author communicates.
2. A detail about the color of a character's shirt is usually a _____ detail, not a key one.
3. When summarizing, you should keep the same _____ of events as the original text.
4. A topic sentence often states the main idea at the _____ of a paragraph.
5. An effective summary answers the question: What is this passage _____ about?

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Part B: Fill in the Blank

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1. The main idea of a passage is the central message the author communicates.
2. A detail about the color of a character's shirt is usually a minor detail, not a key one.
3. When summarizing, you should keep the same order of events as the original text.
4. A topic sentence often states the main idea at the beginning of a paragraph.
5. An effective summary answers the question: What is this passage mainly about?