

Main Idea & Supporting Details

Identify what a short paragraph is mostly about and select details that support that idea.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Identify what a short paragraph is mostly about and select details that support that idea.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 The main idea is the central point, not every detail.

2 Supporting details explain or develop the main idea.

3 A detail can be true but still not support the paragraph's main idea.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Read a paragraph about bees and choose the best main idea.

Underline two details that support it.

Cross out one interesting but unrelated detail.

Write a heading that matches the main idea.

Summarise a paragraph in one sentence.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Listen to a short explanation from a trusted adult and say the “big idea” in your own words.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a main-idea umbrella: main idea on top, three supporting-detail raindrops below.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Is the main idea always the first sentence?

2. What makes a detail “supporting”?

3. Why can headings help readers?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Main Idea & Supporting Details”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

It directly explains/develops the central point.

3. Suggested response

They signal what a section is mainly about.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

Print. Learn. Grow.