

Main Idea, Evidence & Summary

Identify the central idea of a short text, select evidence and write a concise summary.

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 the central idea of a short text, select evidence and write a concise summary.

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 most important point a text develops.

2 Evidence is a detail from the text that supports an idea or answer.

3 A summary keeps the important meaning while leaving out minor detail.

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 short paragraph and choose the best main idea.

Underline two details that directly support the main idea.

Cross out one true but less important detail.

Write a one-sentence summary in your own words.

Compare two summaries and explain which is more precise.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Explain the main idea of a short article or information page to a trusted adult, then point to the evidence that helped you decide.

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 + 3 evidence notes” organiser for a topic you know well.

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

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Can a supporting detail be interesting but not essential?

2. Why should a summary avoid copying every sentence?

3. What makes evidence strong?

Quick review

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

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

Yes.

2. Suggested response

A summary condenses the important meaning.

3. Suggested response

It is relevant and comes from the text.

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:

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