

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

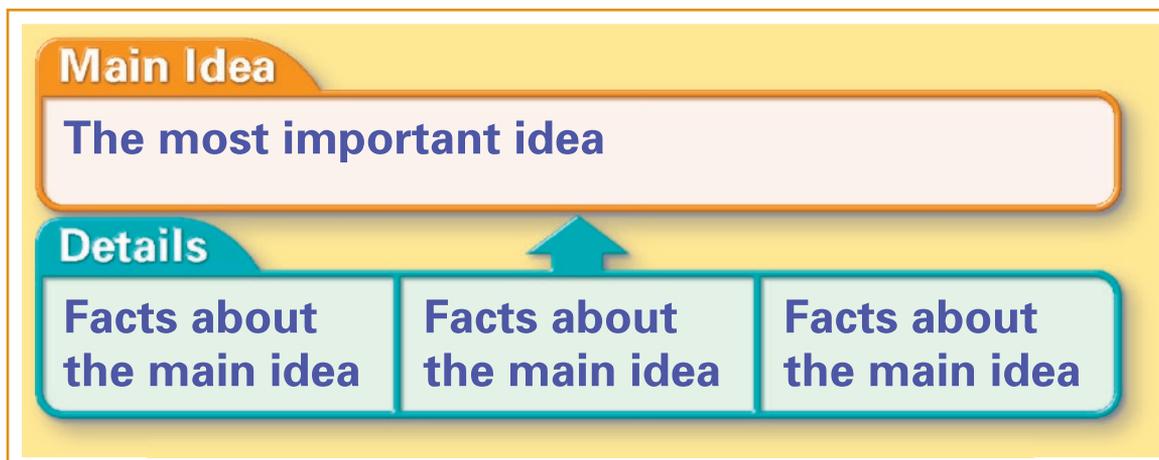
DIRECTIONS Read the information about identifying the main idea and details. Then apply what you learn.

Why It Matters

The **main idea** is the most important idea in the paragraph or passage. The main idea is often the first sentence in the paragraph or first paragraph in a passage.

Finding the main idea can help you quickly identify the topic and understand what the paragraph or passage is about. The supporting **details** help you better understand the main idea.

Using a graphic organizer can help you keep track of the main idea and details. This can help you see how details, such as facts, ideas, and other information, are related. This will help you better understand what you are reading.



Name _____

Main Idea and Details (continued)

Practice the Skill

Read the paragraph that follows. Highlight the main idea. Then, underline the supporting details.

The office of state governor can be a step toward becoming president of the United States. George W. Bush was governor of Texas before he became president. Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas. Ronald Reagan was governor of California. Jimmy Carter was governor of Georgia.

Apply What You Learned

Read the paragraphs. Then answer the questions.

On January 20, 1981, Ronald Reagan became the fortieth president of the United States. His background helped prepare him for this important job.

After college, Reagan worked as a radio sports announcer. His radio job gave him practice in speaking to large audiences.

In 1937, Reagan became a Hollywood actor. Acting taught him how to express himself in front of cameras. It taught him skills that would help him earn the nickname “the Great Communicator.”

In 1966, Reagan was elected governor of California. He served as governor for two terms. During those years, he learned how to run a state. All of these experiences would help prepare him to run a country.

Main Idea and Details

1. Which paragraph states the main idea of this passage?
2. Which paragraphs give supporting details about the main idea?