

Main Idea and Details

Why It Matters

Finding the main idea helps you understand what is the most important thing to learn.

What You Need to Know

As you read, look for the **main idea** and **details**.

- The main idea tells you what you are reading about. It is the most important part.
- A detail gives more information. Details explain the main idea.

Main Idea

What is the most important part?

Details

What gives more information?

	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Name _____

Main Idea and Details (continued)

Practice the Skill

DIRECTIONS

Read the paragraph. Circle the first sentence. This tells the main idea. Draw a line under one sentence that gives more information about the main idea.

The government has many jobs. One job is to help keep citizens safe. Another job is to tell citizens what is happening in the community. People in the government also plan ways to make the community a fun place to live.

Apply What You Learned

DIRECTIONS

Complete the chart to identify the main idea and details in the paragraph you read.

Main Idea		
[Large white box for main idea]		
↑		
Details		
[White box]	[White box with lines]	[White box with lines]