



ELA Virtual Learning

6-8 Essential Literacy

April 27, 2020



6-8 Essential Literacy
Lesson: Monday, April 27, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:
Main Idea Monday

I can identify the main idea of a paragraph



WARM UP

Start a new section on your page with today's date, 4/27/2020.

From the next sentence, on your paper write a definition for both **Topic** and **Main Idea**.

*What is the difference between a **topic** and a **main idea**? The **topic** is the general subject of a paragraph or essay. **Topics** are simple and are described with just a word or a phrase. The **main idea** is a complete sentence; it includes the **topic** and what the author wants to say about it.*



WARM UP

These should be your definitions:

Topic: the general subject of a paragraph or essay. Topics are simple and are described with just a word or a phrase.

Main idea: a complete sentence; it includes the topic and what the author wants to say about it.



LEARN

To find the **MAIN IDEA**, read the paragraph or text carefully.

Figure out what the topic is and what the author is trying to say about it.

Look to make sure there are details supporting the main idea.

Read carefully to make sure you have correctly identified the main idea and not simply a supporting detail.

LEARN



MAIN IDEA

The main idea is what the text is mostly about.

C · L · U · E · S

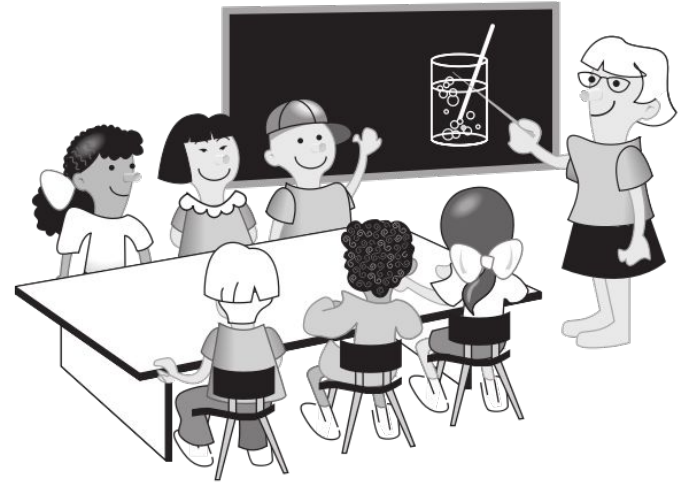
1. What is the text mostly about?
2. Look at the titles and headings.
3. Look at pictures.
4. Sometimes the main idea is the first or last sentence.
5. Look for clue words that are used repeatedly.

It's the BIG IDEA!

PRACTICE

On the next slides, choose the best answer to correctly identify the main idea for each paragraph.

Number your paper 1 - 10 to begin.





PRACTICE

1. A Symbol of Freedom

Edouard de Laboulaye, a French writer and law professor, admired the freedoms enjoyed in the United States. He supported Abraham Lincoln's freeing of slaves during the Civil War. After the war, in 1865, he suggested that France present a statue to the U.S. The statue was meant to honor Lincoln and American democracy. At that time, the French people had little say in their government. Laboulaye hoped the statue would encourage the French to demand more freedom at home. Work began on the project in 1875. Ten years later, the statue, known as the Statue of Liberty, finally arrived in New York.



PRACTICE

1. A Symbol of Freedom

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Edouard de Laboulaye came up with the idea for the Statue of Liberty after the American Civil War ended.
- B. Edouard de Laboulaye wanted the Statue of Liberty to inspire freedom and democracy in France.



PRACTICE

2. Small steps to a happier planet.

Recycling things like paper, plastic, and metal helps the earth by cutting down on trash. Yet many people throw away their newspapers, bottles, and cans instead of recycling them. The question, then, is how to encourage more people to recycle. One way that works is to put recycling containers in more places. Seeing more recycling bins helps people remember to use them. Another way is to teach people why recycling is important. If we make recycling easier and teach people why it matters, more people will join in.



PRACTICE

2. Small steps to a happier planet.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. We can get more people to recycle by putting out more bins and teaching people about why recycling matters.
- B. We need to get more people to recycle so that we stop throwing out so much trash.



PRACTICE

3. Dogs and Wolves

Dogs and wolves are part of the same animal family. Both animals have strong senses of smell and are loyal to their packs. But dogs and wolves are quite different when it comes to people. Dogs are used to living with people and get along well with them. In fact, dogs have been called "man's best friend." Wolves, on the other hand, cannot live with humans. Wolves prefer to live in the wild, where they can hunt for their food. Clearly, dogs belong with people, while wolves do not.



PRACTICE

3. Dogs and Wolves

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Dogs are better suited to living with people than wolves are.
- B. Wolves and dogs are members of the same animal family, so they have many things in common.



PRACTICE

4. Lots of Luck

Many people believe that decorating a home's entrance in certain ways can bring good luck. For example, some people believe that a red front door will bring good fortune. Others, however, might believe that the luckiest color for an entryway depends on the home's position. For example, they might believe that a house facing north should have a blue or black front door. Another popular belief about decorating doors for luck involves a horseshoe. Some people think that hanging a horseshoe above a door brings happiness and fortune to those who live inside.



PRACTICE

4. Lots of Luck

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Some people believe that the way a home's entryway looks can bring good luck.
- B. Some people believe that certain objects can bring good luck.
- C. Some people believe that a red front door will bring good luck.



PRACTICE

5. The Nose Knows

Many sharks swim long distances around the planet. How they do this without getting lost is a mystery. A group of scientists in California thought the sense of smell could be an answer. To find out, they stuffed the noses of one group of sharks with cotton balls. A second group's noses remained unplugged. Both groups were taken to a deep part of the ocean. The sharks that didn't have cotton balls in their noses swam straight toward shore. Those with cotton balls seemed to wander. Therefore, the scientists believe that sharks may indeed use their noses to get around in the ocean.



PRACTICE

5. The Nose Knows

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Scientists know that sharks can swim long distances without getting lost.
- B. To study sharks' sense of smell, scientists stuffed cotton balls in the animals' noses.
- C. Scientists discovered that sharks find their way around by using their noses.



PRACTICE

6. The Dead Sea

Found in southwestern Asia, the Dead Sea isn't a sea at all. It is a salty lake, and it is much saltier than the ocean. In fact, the Dead Sea is so salty that no animals or plants can live in it. When fish are carried from the Jordan River into the Dead Sea, they die right away. The water is even too salty for plants. In fact, there are only a few plants that can grow in the salty dirt near the lake. The Dead Sea certainly does live up to its name!



PRACTICE

6. The Dead Sea

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Any fish that enter the Dead Sea are killed right away.
- B. The Dead Sea is too salty to support plant or animal life.
- C. The Dead Sea is actually a very salty lake.



PRACTICE

7. Did An Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs?

What killed the dinosaurs? Many people believe that the dinosaurs were killed when an asteroid hit the earth. An asteroid is a small, rocky object that orbits the sun. However, some scientists now think that the asteroid wasn't the only cause. Some scientists think that there were climate changes before the asteroid hit. They believe that these climate changes killed some animals and plants that dinosaurs needed for food. Also, some scientists believe there may have been harmful gases in the air that killed many dinosaurs. So, when the asteroid hit, it made things even worse for the dinosaurs.



PRACTICE

7. Did An Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs?

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. It may have been more than just an asteroid that caused the dinosaurs to die.
- B. Dinosaurs may have been killed by gases from volcanoes
- C. Scientists know what killed the dinosaurs.



PRACTICE

8. Working for the Vote

In 1900, Carrie Chapman Catt became president of a women's rights group. The group was called the National American Woman Suffrage Association, or NAWSA. At that time, women weren't allowed to vote. NAWSA was trying to change that. In 1904, Catt left NAWSA to care for her sick husband. By 1915, the group was falling apart. Many of its strongest workers had left. Catt returned as president and became the strong leader the group needed. She won support from state and national leaders. As a result, the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920. Thanks largely to Catt's skills as a leader, women could finally vote in the United States.



PRACTICE

8. Working for the Vote

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Carrie Chapman Catt is a big reason that women won the right to vote in the U.S.
- B. The National American Woman Suffrage Association faced many challenges in the 1900s.
- C. The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920.



PRACTICE

9. A Fearless Explorer

English explorer Henry Hudson made four voyages to find a northern route to Asia. Each time, thick ocean ice brought his trips to an end. Though he never found a northern route, Hudson still became famous. On his voyages, he explored the eastern waterways of North America. He also discovered what would become known as Hudson Bay. A river, bridges, schools, and even towns now bear his name. His efforts helped light the way for more Europeans to settle in North America.



PRACTICE

9. A Fearless Explorer

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Thick ice was the main reason that Henry Hudson failed to make it to Asia.
- B. Henry Hudson tried four times to find a northern route to Asia but had no success.
- C. Henry Hudson never reached his goal, but he is still one of the best-known explorers.



PRACTICE

10. Earth and Mars

Earth is much more welcoming to life than Mars is. Earth's thick atmosphere helps keep the planet warm, with an average temperature of 57°F . In addition, over two-thirds of Earth is covered by water. These conditions make it easy for all kinds of organisms to live here. Mars, on the other hand, has a thin atmosphere and is farther from the sun. Therefore, it is much colder. Mars's average temperature is about -60°F ! In addition, the surface of the planet is mostly dry and dusty. Without enough water and warmth, most organisms would struggle to survive on Mars.



PRACTICE

10. Earth and Mars

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Earth is better able to support life than Mars.
- B. Earth has a thick atmosphere and a warm temperature.



PRACTICE ANSWERS

1. Symbol of Freedom -- B
2. Small steps to a happier planet -- A
3. Dogs and Wolves -- A
4. Lost of Luck -- A
5. The Nose Knows -- C
6. The Dead Sea -- B
7. Did an Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs? A
8. Working for the Vote -- A
9. A Fearless Explorer -- C
10. The Earth and Mars -- A



Additional Resources

Stories from this lesson were found at this [link](#).

The link, IXL, also offers additional tips and strategies as families work to continue learning during this time.

