

# SMART™ Lesson

## Reading Comprehension: Main Idea and Details

### What is Main Idea and Details?

The main idea is the most important idea in a text. It tells you what the text is mostly about. Details are the facts, examples, and supporting information that help explain the main idea. Understanding the main idea and details of a text is important for understanding what the author is trying to communicate.

### Example

Let's read a short paragraph and identify the main idea and details:

*The sun is a star. It is the center of our solar system. It is very hot and gives us light during the day.*

**Main Idea:** The sun is a star and the center of our solar system.

**Details:** It is very hot and gives us light during the day.

### Practice Questions

Read the following short passages and answer the questions below:

#### Passage 1:

*Cats are cute and furry animals that make great pets. They like to sleep a lot and can be playful when they want to be. Cats will also catch mice and other small animals.*

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
2. What are some details that support the main idea?

#### Passage 2:

*Mountains are tall landforms that are higher than hills. They are formed by tectonic plates moving against each other. Popular mountain activities include hiking, skiing, and rock climbing.*

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
2. What are some details that support the main idea?

#### Passage 3:

*The moon is Earth's only natural satellite. It is about one-quarter the size of Earth and has no atmosphere. The moon affects the ocean tides and is the subject of many scientific studies.*

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
2. What are some details that support the main idea?

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Main Idea and Details

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