MAIN IDEA AND KEY DETAILS

WORKSHEETS GRADES 1-3

HAS WINGS

MAKES HONEY



LIVES IN A HIVE

30 PASSAGES

3 LEVELS

COLOR + B&W



My name _____

Glue each sentence in it

My name _____

Read. Circle the best answer.

27. Train Ride

We went on a train ride to see Grandma. We sat by the window. We counted cows and barns. The train went clickety-clack. It was a fun trip.

1. It is mostly about ...

A a lost red kite | B a fun train ride | C a big bowl of soup

2. What did they count from the window?

A cows and barns | B birds and boats | C cars and trucks

28. Whales

Whales are very big animals. They live in the sea. They come up to the top to breathe. A mother whale stays close to her baby.

1. It is mostly about ...

A facts about whales | B how to fix a boat | C a trip to the farm

2. Where do whales live?

A in a tree | B in the sea | C in a barn

Main Idea and Key Details Worksheets - multiple choice, passages 27 and 28 - color

Preview · Bright Path Sped

Start Here

Main Idea and Key Details Worksheets: passages, organizers and a sentence sort, grades 1-3

Quick start

1. Read the poster and the finished example together.
2. Hand out a page at each child's level: circle the main idea, sort the sentence cards, or fill in an organizer.
3. Finish with the write-your-own page (page 31).

What's inside

Activity	Pages	Level
Poster: the main idea on top, key details underneath	3	–
A finished example: a passage and its filled-in web	4	–
Three named sets, each topic at three lengths: short (12 texts of 2 to 3 sentences, 4 to a page), medium (12 texts of 4 to 5 sentences, 4 to a page), longer (12 texts of 6 to 8 sentences, 2 to a page)	5–16	● ■ ▲
Multiple choice, short: 12 passages of 1 to 2 sentences, 6 to a page	17, 18	●
Multiple choice, longer: 6 passages of 4 to 5 sentences, 2 questions each, 2 passages to a page	19–21	■
Which detail does not belong: 8 cards of 4 sentences	22	●
Sentence sort: mat A with 6 sentence cards, mat B with 9 sentence cards	23, 24, 25, 26	● ■
Main idea web: 2 passages, one to a page	27, 28	● ■
Box-and-pillar organizer: 2 passages, one to a page	29, 30	■ ▲
Write your own: a topic, a main idea and three key details	31	▲
Ink-saver, black-and-white copies of every student page above	32–60	line art
Answer key: every answer, with the supporting sentences	61–63	–

How to use it

- Start with the poster (page 3) and the finished example (page 4). Ask: "What is it mostly about?" That is the main idea. "What tells more?" Those are the key details.
- Three levels, marked with a small shape: ● **starting**: short texts of 2 to 3 sentences, a picture on every sentence card, the first web has its main idea written in; ■ **building**: texts of 4 to 5 sentences and no clues; ▲ **ready for more**: texts of 6 to 8 sentences, children write the main idea in their own words and then write their own.
- Each of the 12 topics is one text written three ways, so a group can read the same topic at different lengths. The topics sit in three sets: Animals, My Day, Farm and Garden. Every text, counting the three lengths and the multiple-choice passages: 54.
- Cutting pages (24 and 26) have pieces edge to edge, so each cut is one straight line.
- Read passages aloud for children who are not yet reading them alone. Print in color, or use the ink-saver copies on pages 32–60.

Good to know

Every passage and sentence in this pack is invented. The pages practice telling what a short text is mostly about and which sentences tell more; your class's own texts and routines come first.

Our class words for main idea: _____

PREVIEW

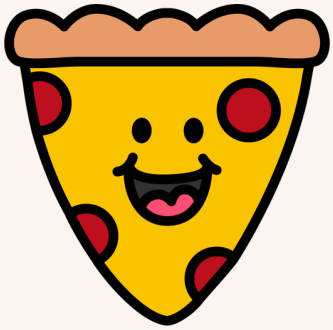
Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Read. Point to each part.

Main Idea and Key Details

Read. Ask: what is it mostly about?



MAIN IDEA

what it is mostly about

Pizza is my favorite food.

KEY DETAIL

tells more

It has gooey cheese.

KEY DETAIL

tells more

The crust is crunchy.

KEY DETAIL

tells more

I eat it on Fridays.

Key details tell more about the main idea.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____

Circle the main idea sentence.

Set 1: Animals medium texts

1. Busy Bees



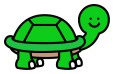
Bees work hard all day. They fly from flower to flower. They collect a sweet juice called nectar. Back at the hive they turn it into honey.

2. Super Jumpers



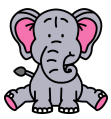
Frogs are great jumpers. Their back legs are long and strong. A frog can leap over a log. It can jump to catch a flying bug.

6. Turtle Shells



A turtle's shell is hard and strong. A turtle can pull its head inside. It can pull in its legs too. A shell keeps a turtle safe.

11. Elephant Trunks



An elephant uses its trunk in many ways. It smells with its trunk. It picks up food with its trunk. It sprays water to take a bath.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Circle the main idea sentence.

Set 2: My Day medium texts

3. Park Day



We had a fun day at the park. We flew a red kite. We ate lunch on a blanket. Then we played tag on the grass.

7. Getting Ready



I eat my breakfast. I brush my teeth. I pack my backpack. I get ready for school every morning.

9. Taking Care of a Dog



A dog needs people to care for it. A dog needs fresh water every day. A dog needs a long walk. A dog needs a soft, warm bed.

10. A Trip to the Zoo



We saw many animals at the zoo. We saw a big gray elephant. We saw a silly monkey. We saw a lion with a big mane.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Circle the main idea sentence.

Set 3: Farm and Garden short texts

5. Pigs in the Mud



Pigs have ways to stay cool.

They roll around in the mud.

Some pigs nap in the shade.

8. Swimming Ducks



Ducks are good at swimming.

Their webbed feet work like paddles.

Oily feathers keep them dry.

4. Apple Colors



Apples come in many colors.

Some apples are red.

Some apples are green or yellow.

12. Ants at Work



Some ants find food.

Some ants take care of the babies.

Ants work as a team.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____

Read. Circle the main idea.

13. 

Horses can run very fast. A horse gallops across the field.

- A how fast a horse can run
- B what a horse likes to eat
- C a horse in a barn

14. 

The sun gives us light. It also keeps us warm.

- A a cold winter night
- B what the sun gives us
- C a big yellow bus

15. 

Mom bakes a cake for my birthday. It has pink frosting.

- A a birthday cake
- B a trip to the zoo
- C a rainy day

16. 

The bus picks up kids each morning. It takes them to school.

- A a kid with a dog
- B a ride on a train
- C the bus that takes kids to school

17. 

A snail moves very slowly. It leaves a shiny trail.

- A how a bird flies
- B how a snail moves
- C a fast race car

18. 

Jo kicks the ball to Max. Max kicks it back.

- A two friends kicking a ball
- B a girl who reads
- C a day at the beach

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Read. Circle the best answer.

27. Train Ride

We went on a train ride to see Grandma. We sat by the window. We counted cows and barns. The train went clickety-clack. It was a fun trip.



1. It is mostly about ...

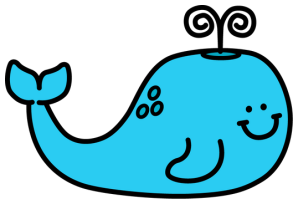
A a lost red kite | B a fun train ride | C a big bowl of soup

2. What did they count from the window?

A cows and barns | B birds and boats | C cars and trucks

28. Whales

Whales are very big animals. They live in the sea. They come up to the top to breathe. A mother whale stays close to her baby.



1. It is mostly about ...

A facts about whales | B how to fix a boat | C a trip to the farm

2. Where do whales live?

A in a tree | B in the sea | C in a barn

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

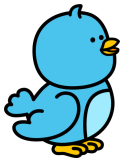
My name _____

✂ Cut out each sentence.

6 sentence cards for mat A

 They use sticks and grass.	 A cat naps in the sun.	 Birds build nests.
 Cats sleep a lot.	 The nest holds the eggs.	 A cat curls up on a soft bed.

The small picture on a card tells you its topic.

Topic key:  **Cats**  **Birds**

Remember:

MAIN IDEA: what it is mostly about
Cats sleep a lot.

KEY DETAIL: tells more
A cat naps in the sun.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Read. Write 3 key details.

9. Taking Care of a Dog



A dog needs people to care for it. A dog needs fresh water every day. A dog needs a long walk. A dog needs a soft, warm bed.

KEY DETAIL

KEY DETAIL

MAIN IDEA

A dog needs people to care for it.

KEY DETAIL

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Pick a topic. Write your own.



DRAW YOUR TOPIC

MY MAIN IDEA
What is it mostly about?

KEY DETAIL 1

KEY DETAIL 2

KEY DETAIL 3

PREVIEW

Need a start? Pick one.

This is about ... | I know a lot about ... | My favorite thing is ...

One thing is ... | It can ... | I like it because ...

My name _____

Circle the main idea sentence.

Set 1: Animals short texts

1. Busy Bees



Bees work hard all day.

They fly from flower to flower.

They make sweet honey.

2. Super Jumpers

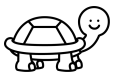


Frogs are great jumpers.

Their back legs are long and strong.

A frog can leap over a log.

6. Turtle Shells



A turtle can pull its head inside.

It can pull in its legs too.

A shell keeps a turtle safe.

11. Elephant Trunks



An elephant uses its trunk in many ways.

It smells with its trunk.

It sprays water to take a bath.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Circle the main idea sentence.

Set 2: My Day short texts

3. Park Day



We had a fun day at the park.

We flew a red kite.

We ate lunch on a blanket.

7. Getting Ready



I eat my breakfast.

I brush my teeth.

I get ready for school every morning.

9. Taking Care of a Dog

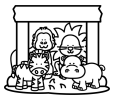


A dog needs people to care for it.

A dog needs fresh water every day.

A dog needs a long walk.

10. A Trip to the Zoo



We saw many animals at the zoo.

We saw a big gray elephant.

We saw a silly monkey.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Write the main idea.

Set 2: My Day longer texts

9. Taking Care of a Dog



A dog needs people to care for it. A dog needs fresh water every day. A dog needs good food at mealtime. A dog needs a long walk. A dog needs a soft, warm bed. A dog needs a brush to keep its fur neat. A dog needs lots of love.

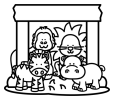
The main idea is ...

_____

_____

_____

10. A Trip to the Zoo



We saw many animals at the zoo. We saw a big gray elephant. We saw a silly monkey swinging by its tail. We saw a lion with a big mane. We saw a bright parrot in a tree. We had a snack by the penguin pond. We were sad to go home.

The main idea is ...

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Write the main idea.

Set 3: Farm and Garden longer texts

4. Apple Colors



Apples come in many colors. Some apples are bright red. Some are green. Others are yellow. A few are red and yellow together. We can find them all at the market. Pick your favorite color!

The main idea is ...

12. Ants at Work



Some ants dig the tunnels. Some ants find food. They carry it back to the nest. Some ants take care of the babies. Some ants keep the nest clean. Every ant has a job to do. Ants work as a team.

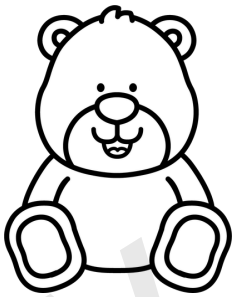
The main idea is ...

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Circle the best answer.

25. A Bear's Day



A bear spends its day looking for food. It digs for roots with its big claws. It catches fish in the river. It picks sweet berries from the bushes. Bears are always busy finding food.

1. It is mostly about ...

- **A** how a bear finds food
- **B** where a bear sleeps
- **C** how a bear plays with friends

2. How does a bear dig for roots?

- **A** with a little shovel
- **B** with its big claws
- **C** with its long tail

26. Foxes at Night



A fox hunts at night. It listens for a mouse in the grass. Then it jumps high and pounces. Soon the fox has a snack. By morning it is back in its den.

1. It is mostly about ...

- **A** how to fix a bike
- **B** where a fox goes to school
- **C** how a fox hunts at night

2. How does the fox catch a mouse?

- **A** It swims across the river.
- **B** It digs a big hole.
- **C** It jumps high and pounces.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue each sentence in its box.



Cats

MAIN IDEA	KEY DETAIL	KEY DETAIL



Birds

MAIN IDEA	KEY DETAIL	KEY DETAIL

Your turn!

DRAW	MY MAIN IDEA
	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

✂ Cut out each sentence.

9 sentence cards for mat B

 Some boats have a sail.	 Their ears are long and soft.	 A farmer takes care of the cows.
 They turn their ears to hear.	 Boats float on water.	 Rabbits have big ears.
 Some cows give us milk.	 A big boat can carry many people.	 Cows live on a farm.

The small picture on a card tells you its topic.

Remember:

MAIN IDEA: what it is mostly about
Rabbits have big ears.

KEY DETAIL: tells more
They turn their ears to hear.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Fill in the pillars.

12. Ants at Work



Some ants dig the tunnels. Some ants find food. Some ants take care of the babies. Ants work as a team.

Write the main idea in your own words.

MAIN IDEA

KEY DETAIL

KEY DETAIL

KEY DETAIL

PREVIEW

Answer Key, Short Multiple Choice

Short passages 13 to 24 (pages 17 and 18)

13. Fast Horses: **A. how fast a horse can run**
The text says: Horses can run very fast. A horse gallops across the field.

14. The Sun: **B. what the sun gives us**
The text says: The sun gives us light. It also keeps us warm.

15. Birthday Cake: **A. a birthday cake**
The text says: Mom bakes a cake for my birthday. It has pink frosting.

16. The School Bus: **C. the bus that takes kids to school**
The text says: The bus picks up kids each morning. It takes them to school.

17. Slow Snails: **B. how a snail moves**
The text says: A snail moves very slowly. It leaves a shiny trail.

18. Kick the Ball: **A. two friends kicking a ball**
The text says: Jo kicks the ball to Max. Max kicks it back.

19. Tigers: **B. how stripes help a tiger**
The text says: Tigers have orange fur with black stripes. The stripes help them hide in tall grass.

20. My New Book: **C. reading a book with dad**
The text says: I love my new book. I read it with my dad every night.

21. Lions: **A. how lions live together**
The text says: Lions live in big groups. A group of lions is called a pride.

22. Making My Bed: **B. making a bed**
The text says: I make my bed each morning. I pull up the blanket and fix my pillow.

23. Monkeys: **C. how monkeys climb**
The text says: Monkeys climb trees. Their long tails help them hang on.

24. Goats: **B. how goats climb**
The text says: Goats climb up rocks and hills. They can balance on tiny ledges.

Which detail does not belong (page 22): the sentence to circle

1. Spiders: **I like to ride my bike.**

2. Seals: **Our bus is yellow.**

3. Sharks: **Grandma bakes bread.**

4. Zebras: **My desk has a lamp.**

5. Hippos: **We played a game of tag.**

6. Pandas: **It rained on Monday.**

7. Dolphins: **I lost my red mitten.**

8. Hens: **I wear a red hat.**

Each wrong choice is about something the passage never mentions, or about only one detail. If a child picks one, ask: "Does the whole passage tell about that?" Every passage is invented.

PREVIEW