Name:	Date:

Reading: Summarize

Practice

Summarizing is briefly stating in your own words the main points in a piece of writing. Pausing to summarize what you have read helps you to check your understanding before you read further. A good summary is much shorter than the original. It includes only the main idea and the most important details.

Read the example. Then, circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

Original

The freshman class at Springfield High School held a fundraiser last Saturday, November 19. The fundraiser was held in the Springfield High gym. The weather was nice and sunny, and the event was a sell-out, with ticket sales and donations totaling $495. The money will go toward the annual freshman picnic, which will be held on May 19. The most exciting part of the evening was a performance by the band Spring Break. This talented foursome consists of Ray Lopez on rhythm guitar and vocals, Ben Bradley on lead guitar, Kira Sax on bass and vocals, and Terrence Owens on drums.

Summary

Saturday's fundraiser at Springfield High School raised $495 for the annual freshman picnic. A performance by the band Spring Break was a highlight of the sold-out benefit.

1. What is the main idea of the original example?

A. The picnic is on May 19.
B. The freshman class held a fundraiser.
C. Spring Break performed.
D. Terrence Owens plays the drums.

2. Which of these sentences gives the most important information?

A. The weather was nice and sunny. . . .
B. The fundraiser was held in the Springfield High gym.
C. The event was a sell-out, with ticket sales and donations totaling $495.
D. This talented foursome consists of Ray Bradley on lead guitar. . . .

3. What word could be deleted from the summary without taking away important information?

A. fundraiser
B. annual
C. freshman
D. sold-out

4. Why is the date of the freshman picnic not included in the summary?

A. Everyone already knows it.
B. The report is on the band.
C. It is the main idea of the paragraph.
D. It is not a main idea.

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Name:	Date:

Reading: Summarize

Assess

A **Read the following passage. Then, answer the question and complete the activities that follow.**

Our bodies are adapted to Earth's gravity. Our muscles are strong in order to overcome gravity as we walk and run. Our inner ears use gravity to keep us upright. And because gravity wants to pull all our blood down into our legs, our hearts are designed to pump hard to get blood up to our brains.

In space, the much weaker gravity makes the human body change in many unexpected ways. In microgravity, your blood is rerouted, flowing from the legs, which become thin and sticklike, to the head, which swells up. The extra liquid in your head makes you feel like you're hanging upside down or have a stuffed-up nose.

—from "Life Without Gravity" by Robert Zimmerman

1. What is the main idea of the passage? _____

_____

2. Name two details that support the main idea. _____

_____

3. Write a brief summary of the passage on the lines provided. _____

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