Facts and details

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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The **main idea** of a story is what the whole story is *mostly about*.

Facts and details are *small pieces of information* that make the story more interesting.

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As you read this story, think about what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The Scientific Method

In ancient times, people tried to explain the world around them based on what they saw. People in ancient times saw that the sun came up from one side of the earth, moved across the sky, and went down on the other side. Based on this observation, they believed that the sun travels around the earth. Going directly from observation to conclusion is called non-scientific thinking.

Here is an example of non-scientific thinking. Maybe you had a sick stomach, and ate a candy bar. An hour later, you observed that you felt much better. You might conclude that it was the candy bar that made you feel better. But there are other possible explanations for the observation. Maybe you had taken some medicine an hour earlier, and it took a while to work. Maybe enough time had passed, and you would have felt better without eating the candy bar. Non-scientific thinking happens all the time.

The scientific method is a way of thinking that helps you to avoid drawing incorrect conclusions. It helps you to avoid non-scientific thinking. It reminds you to treat your first conclusion as one of several possible conclusions. It reminds you to gather evidence to support your conclusion.

The five steps in the scientific method begin by questioning an observation, and end with a conclusion that is based on evidence. **Step 1** in the scientific method is to *ask a question* about your observation, such as, "What makes a sick stomach feel better?" **Step 2** is to state a possible answer to the question, or a *hypothesis*, such as, "A candy bar makes a sick stomach feel better." **Step 3** is to *test the hypothesis*. This can be done in many different ways. You could wait until you have a sick stomach again, eat a candy bar, and see what happens. You could ask a lot of people if eating a candy bar had ever made a sick stomach feel better. Figuring out how to test a hypothesis is what makes science challenging. **Step 4** is to *think about the findings*—think about what happened when you tested the hypothesis. **Step 5** is to *draw a conclusion*—and share it with the rest of the world.

1. What is this whole story *mostly about*?

   A. Going directly from observation to conclusion is called non-scientific thinking.
   B. The scientific method is a way of thinking that helps you to avoid drawing incorrect conclusions.
   C. Non-scientific thinking happens all the time.

2. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

   A. People in ancient times believed that the sun travels around the earth.
   B. People in ancient times knew that the earth was round.
   C. People in ancient times didn't try to explain the world around them.

3. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

   A. In the example, observation proved that eating a candy bar made a sick stomach feel better.
   B. In the example, there could be several reasons your sick stomach felt better after you ate a candy bar.
   C. In the example, there is only one explanation for why a sick stomach would feel better after you ate a candy bar.

4. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

   A. In the example, you could test your hypothesis by not eating a candy bar the next time you have a sick stomach.
   B. In the example, you could test your hypothesis by eating a different kind of candy bar the next time you have a sick stomach.
   C. In the example, you could test your hypothesis by eating a candy bar the next time you have a sick stomach.

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5. What is another *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

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