Main Idea and Details

What is a main idea?
A main idea is what the text is mostly about.

What are details?
Details are sentences that tell more about, describe or explain the main idea.

How can I find the main idea?

1. Ask yourself, "What is this mostly about?"
2. Look at the title of the text.
3. Look at the pictures.
4. Look for words repeated over and over.
5. Sometimes the main idea is either the first or last sentence in the text.
6. Don't get distracted by interesting information that doesn't support the main idea.

Main Idea

Bats are unusual animals.

Detail 1
Bats are flying mammals.

Detail 2
Bats use echo location to find food.

Detail 3
Bats hang upside down when they sleep.

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