Name: _____

Summary and Main Idea Worksheet 2

Directions: Read each passage and on a separate sheet of paper…



1. Create a title for the passage related to the main idea.
2. Accurately summarize the text.
3. Your summary must describe all key ideas from the text.
4. Do **not** include opinions or personal info in your summary.
5. Highlight or underline key ideas in each passage.

What's dressed in all black, practices stealth, and is a master of espionage, sabotage, and assassination? You guessed it: it's a ninja! Perhaps the only thing more elusive than a ninja is the source of the word *ninja*. In China ninja are more often referred to as shinobi. The Chinese word *shinobi*, short for *shinobi-no-mono*, means "to steal away." The word *shinobi* appears in Chinese poems as far back as the eighth century. So how did this word become *ninja*? Some believe that during the Edo period in Japan, the word *shinobi-no-mono* was appropriated and transformed to the very similar word *ninja*. This probably happened because it was a lot quicker and easier to just say *ninja*. It is difficult to see how such a transformation could have occurred when we look at the words using our alphabet, but if you look at the kanji representing these words, it may make more sense to you. This is how you write *shinobi-no-mono* in Chinese: 忍の者. And this is how you write ninja: 忍者. Now do you see the similarities?

1. Main idea related title for the passage:

2. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

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Ninjas used many different tools and weapons to get the job done: throwing stars, bows, acid-spurting tubes to name a few, but the favorite weapon of most ninjas was probably the katana. The katana is a long, curved sword with a single blade and a long grip to accommodate two hands. This sword was often carried in a sheath or scabbard on the ninja's back. Though the sword was primarily used for fighting and killing, the scabbard served a number of purposes too. The ninja could remove the sword, angle the scabbard against a wall, and use it to climb to a higher place. Or, while stealthy negotiating their way through a dark place (such as an enemy's residence at night), ninjas may have used the scabbard as a walking stick, feeling or probing their way around objects so as not to knock into anything and alert the enemy. Perhaps the ninja's most sinister use of the scabbard was to put a mixture of red pepper, dirt, and iron shavings at the top of the scabbard, so that when the ninja drew his sword, his opponent would be blinded. I wonder what a ninja could have done with a Swiss Army knife.

3. Main idea related title for the passage:

4. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

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LIVEWORKSHEETS