

Main Idea

The **main idea** is the most important part of a paragraph or story. It tells what the whole paragraph or story is about.

Supporting details provide the information that supports the main idea. Supporting details can be descriptions, examples, reasons, and comparisons.

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Read each paragraph. Think about the main idea and the details that support the main idea. Write the information in the following boxes.

Did you know that octopuses are extremely smart animals? Octopuses have remarkably large brains for creatures without backbones. Scientists have found that octopuses are able to find their way through mazes, solve problems quickly and even remember those solutions. They are also able to take apart or open almost anything, like clams and even glass jars. Many octopuses have even been observed to break out of their tanks and escape!



Main idea:

Supporting detail 1:

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3:



Mandy the Monkey ate bananas every day. Her mother tried to convince her to eat other types of food, but Mandy would have none of it. She ate bananas for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even as snacks! Mandy would eat her bananas raw, cooked, fried, and baked. Not only that, but all her clothes were yellow and had pictures of bananas on them! It got to the point here her friends called her the “Banana Girl”. To put it simply, Mandy the Monkey was head over heels for bananas.

Main idea:

Supporting detail 1:

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3: