

Name _____

Date _____

Main Idea and Supporting Details

The MAIN IDEA tells the most important point the author is making about a topic. It is what all or most of the other sentences are about. The main idea is often the first sentence in the paragraph.

The other sentences that give more information and explain or support the main idea are called SUPPORTING DETAILS.

Read the passage. Answer the questions that follow.

Chameleons might change colors for several different reasons. If a chameleon is in the sun, it often changes from brown to light green. This causes the chameleon's skin to reflect the bright sunlight and helps it cool down. If the chameleon is cold, it will change its skin to a darker color. The darker color helps the chameleon soak up heat from the sun. Sometimes chameleons change color based on the mood they are in. If some chameleons get angry, they turn bright colors to let everyone know they are in a bad mood. The next time you see a chameleon, try to figure out why it is changing colors.

1. What is the passage mainly about?
 - a. Chameleons change from brown to light green.
 - b. Chameleons might change colors for several reasons
 - c. Sometimes chameleons change color based on the mood they are in.
2. Which statements support or give more information for the main idea you chose?
 - a. Chameleons change to a darker color when they are cold.

- b. Chameleons change to a light color when it wants to cool down.
 - c. A chameleon is very moody.
 - d. Chameleons change color based on the mood they are in
3. How can you tell that a chameleon is angry? _____
- _____
4. When does a chameleon changes to a dark color? _____
- _____
5. How does the chameleon cool itself down?
- a. It puts on a coat.
 - b. It changes from brown into light green.
 - c. It goes out into the sun.