

Main Idea

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The **main idea** of a text tells what the text is mostly about. **Supporting details** are the sentences that support the main idea.

Directions: Read the paragraphs below. Then choose the best main idea from the multiple choice options. Highlight or underline one supporting detail in the text. An example has been done for you.



EXAMPLE:

Pizza is a favorite food in the United States.
Pizza is from Italy in the late 1800s. It became popular in the United States after World War II.
People like to add toppings. Some toppings are pepperoni, sausage, and vegetables. These toppings give pizza more flavor. Pepperoni is America's favorite topping.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Pizza is made from flour.
- b. Pizza was first made in Italy.
- c. You should eat the delicious pizza.
- ☒ d. Pizza is a popular meal in the United States.

1. Living things are organisms with certain characteristics. They need water, food, and air to survive. They grow and change, and they move on their own. Living things reproduce, or make more of themselves. For example, plants and animals are living things. Plants make their own food and animals eat plants or other animals for food.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. There are four characteristics of living things.
- b. Animals make their own food.
- c. All living things need sunlight.
- d. Plants eat other plants.

2. Have you ever seen a giraffe at the zoo?
Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world. The average height of a giraffe is 16-18 feet tall. This animal has a very long neck and legs. Giraffes eat the leaves from tall trees. Other animals cannot reach that high. Male giraffes are even taller than female giraffes.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Giraffes are extremely tall animals.
- b. Giraffes don't sleep very much.
- c. Giraffes are unique animals.
- d. Giraffes eat leaves.

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MULTIPLE CHOICE

Continued

3. Hurricanes are large storms. They begin over the ocean. They gather heat and energy from the water. Hurricanes move slowly to land as they grow stronger. Hurricanes are dangerous because of their size. They are also dangerous because of high winds and big waves. Hurricanes can bring flooding, power outages, and tornadoes.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Hurricanes are summer storms.
- b. Hurricanes are one type of storm.
- c. Hurricanes are large, dangerous storms.
- d. Hurricanes are just like tornadoes and floods.

4. One way to stay healthy is to exercise. Exercise helps you feel better, lose weight, and grow stronger. Taking a walk is a form of exercise. It helps you go outside and get fresh air. Playing a sport is another form of exercise. This is a fun way to be active. Taking classes at a gym is a way to be healthy and fit. There are many types of exercise you can do to improve your health.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Choose a fun way to exercise.
- b. There are many types of exercise.
- c. If you are not happy, exercise will fix it.
- d. There are many ways to make yourself feel better.

5. Birds are a special type of animal that you may see either walking or flying in the air. Birds have two legs, which are often covered with scales. A bird's body is covered with feathers and they have wings. The feathers help birds fly and control their body temperature. Birds have bones that are light so they can fly easily. A beak is a special word to describe the bird's nose. The beak is used for eating. Beaks can be different in size, shape, and color. Birds are a type of animal with very unique features.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Birds have a beak.
- b. Light bones help birds fly.
- c. Birds have unique features.
- d. Birds have feathers and two legs.

