

# Main Idea and Details of a Picture 1

The **main idea** of a picture tells what the picture is all about. It tells the most important thing about the picture. A **detail** of a picture tells one small thing about the picture. Look at this example.

*main idea* They are playing baseball.

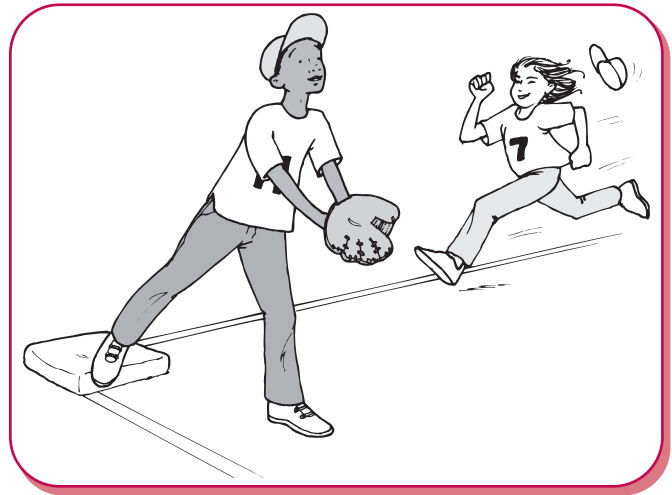
*detail* She is running toward a base.

*detail* Her hat has fallen off.

*detail* The boy has his foot on the base.

*detail* The boy is ready to catch the ball.

*detail* If he catches the ball before she touches the base, she will be out.



➔ Look at the picture below. Then circle whether each sentence tells the **main idea** or a **detail** of the picture.

1. main idea    detail    He has a bow for the gift.

2. main idea    detail    He is using both of his hands.

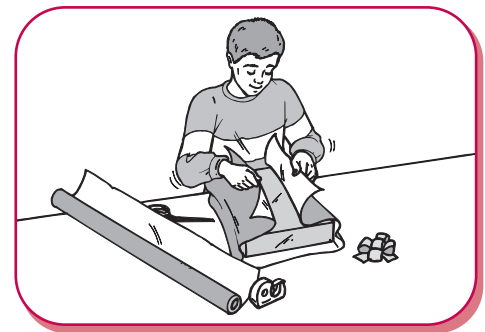
3. main idea    detail    He is wrapping a present.

4. main idea    detail    There is more paper left on the roll.

5. main idea    detail    The present is in a wide box.

6. main idea    detail    He cut the paper to fit the box.

7. main idea    detail    He will use tape to keep the paper in place.



# Topic and Main Idea of a Passage

➔ Read one paragraph at a time to your students. Ask them to identify the topic. Then read the choices for the best sentence to tell the main idea. Have your students justify their choices for each topic and main idea.

1. First you spread the dough. Then you pour tomato sauce on it. Sprinkle it with cheese. You can add some sausage or pepperoni. Then top it with grated cheese. Bake it in a hot oven for 20 minutes. Slice it and serve it warm.

What is the topic of this paragraph? **making a pizza**

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Pizza is healthy for you.
- b. Pizza is easy to make.
- c. This tells how to make a pizza.**

2. It was warm enough to play outside this morning. The snow was just right for rolling into balls. Erin and I made a huge ball for the bottom. Next we put a medium-sized ball on top of it. Then we made a small ball for the head. We used rocks for the eyes and the mouth and a carrot for the nose. Then I wrapped a scarf around the neck. I hope it lasts for weeks!

What is the topic of this paragraph? **making a snowman**

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. They were glad to play outside.
- b. They made a snowman.**
- c. A snowman can last a long time.

# Topic and Main Idea of a School Passage

➔ Read one message at a time to your students. Then ask them to name the topic and use a complete sentence to tell the main idea of the message.

1. Imagine an ocean creature with a tail like a monkey, a head like a horse, and a pouch like a kangaroo. That's a male sea horse, of course! A sea horse looks unusual and it also has strange characteristics. For example, a female sea horse deposits her eggs into the male's pouch. Then the male cares for the eggs until the babies are born. A sea horse has no teeth and no stomach. It is also one of the slowest swimmers in the ocean.

topic: **the sea horse**

main idea: **The sea horse looks unusual and has strange characteristics.**

2. Some materials conduct heat better than others. If you put a metal spoon into a hot bowl of soup, the spoon will heat up quickly. If you put a wooden spoon into the same hot soup, the spoon will not get warm. That's because wood does not conduct heat as well as metal does.

topic: **things conducting heat**

main idea: **Metal conducts heat better than wood.**

3. A canyon doesn't happen overnight. Over thousands of years, a river carries away bits of rock and sand. The rock and sand moving with the water carve out more and more of the river walls. The walls get higher and higher as the river carves lower and lower into the rock and soil. What was once a river bank becomes a canyon wall.

topic: **a canyon**

main idea: **It takes a long time for rock and sand in a river to carve out a steep canyon.**

4. We have learned about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables. Now you will each create an ad for eating fruits or vegetables for snacks. Use good pictures that make people want to eat these healthy snacks. We'll put all of your ads on the bulletin board in the hall.

topic: **creating an ad/a school assignment**

main idea: **Students will create their own ads for fruits or vegetables for snacks and post the ads.**