



Main Idea and Summarizing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: A passage about the water cycle has the main idea that clouds are white and fluffy.

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence: When you summarize a fiction story, you should copy the dialogue word for word.

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: The main idea of a paragraph is always the very first sentence.

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. A _____ detail is one that is interesting but not needed to understand the main idea.
2. The main idea tells the _____ point the author wants readers to understand.
3. When you summarize, you should keep events in the same _____ as the original text.
4. Asking "What is this passage mostly about?" helps you find the _____ idea.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between a topic and a main idea?

2. Why should a summary be shorter than the original passage?

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: A passage about the water cycle has the main idea that clouds are white and fluffy.

Rewrite: A passage about the water cycle has the main idea that water moves through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation in a continuous cycle.

2. Fix the sentence: When you summarize a fiction story, you should copy the dialogue word for word.

Rewrite: When you summarize a fiction story, you should describe the main events in your own words without copying dialogue.

3. Fix the sentence: The main idea of a paragraph is always the very first sentence.

Rewrite: The main idea of a paragraph is often in the first sentence, but it can appear anywhere or be implied.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. A minor detail is one that is interesting but not needed to understand the main idea.
2. The main idea tells the biggest point the author wants readers to understand.
3. When you summarize, you should keep events in the same order as the original text.
4. Asking "What is this passage mostly about?" helps you find the main idea.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between a topic and a main idea?

A topic is the subject of a passage in one or two words, while the main idea is the specific point the author makes about that topic.

2. Why should a summary be shorter than the original passage?

A summary should be shorter because its purpose is to give only the most important information so
