



Main Idea and Summarizing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Elephants live in family groups led by the oldest female. They communicate with deep rumbles that travel miles underground. What is the main idea?

- A) Elephants are the largest land animals.
- B) Elephants are social animals that communicate in remarkable ways.
- C) Female elephants are stronger than males.
- D) Sound travels through the ground.

2. Which sentence would NOT belong in a summary of a passage about the life cycle of a butterfly?

- A) A caterpillar hatches from a tiny egg.
- B) The caterpillar forms a chrysalis and becomes a butterfly.
- C) The scientist who first described butterflies wore glasses.
- D) Adult butterflies lay eggs to continue the cycle.

3. A passage says: "The Great Wall of China stretches over 13,000 miles. It was built over many centuries to protect against invasions." What is the main idea?

- A) China has a long history.
- B) The Great Wall is a massive structure built for defense over centuries.
- C) Walls are made of stone and brick.
- D) Thirteen thousand is a large number.

4. A student's summary says: "The article explains that the ocean is blue, has waves, and contains salt." What is the biggest problem with this summary?

- A) It is too long.
- B) It lists details without stating the main idea of the article.
- C) It uses words that are too difficult.
- D) It includes the author's opinion.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. When the main idea is spread across several sentences, the reader must _____ it together.
2. A good summary captures the _____ of the passage without extra detail.
3. Comparing two paragraphs on the same topic helps you see if they share the same _____ idea or present different ones.
4. Signal words like "in conclusion" or "most importantly" can point to the _____ idea.

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Elephants live in family groups led by the oldest female. They communicate with deep rumbles that travel miles underground. What is the main idea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A) Elephants are the largest land animals.<input checked="" type="radio"/> B) Elephants are social animals that communicate in remarkable ways.<input type="radio"/> C) Female elephants are stronger than males.<input type="radio"/> D) Sound travels through the ground. | <p>2. Which sentence would NOT belong in a summary of a passage about the life cycle of a butterfly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A) A caterpillar hatches from a tiny egg.<input type="radio"/> B) The caterpillar forms a chrysalis and becomes a butterfly.<input checked="" type="radio"/> C) The scientist who first described butterflies wore glasses.<input type="radio"/> D) Adult butterflies lay eggs to continue the cycle. |
| <p>3. A passage says: "The Great Wall of China stretches over 13,000 miles. It was built over many centuries to protect against invasions." What is the main idea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A) China has a long history.<input checked="" type="radio"/> B) The Great Wall is a massive structure built for defense over centuries.<input type="radio"/> C) Walls are made of stone and brick.<input type="radio"/> D) Thirteen thousand is a large number. | <p>4. A student's summary says: "The article explains that the ocean is blue, has waves, and contains salt." What is the biggest problem with this summary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A) It is too long.<input checked="" type="radio"/> B) It lists details without stating the main idea of the article.<input type="radio"/> C) It uses words that are too difficult.<input type="radio"/> D) It includes the author's opinion. |

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. When the main idea is spread across several sentences, the reader must piece it together.
2. A good summary captures the essence of the passage without extra detail.
3. Comparing two paragraphs on the same topic helps you see if they share the same main idea or present different ones.
4. Signal words like "in conclusion" or "most importantly" can point to the main idea.
5. A summary of a historical event should include the who, what, when, where, and why.