

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the passage and complete the diagram. State the main idea and three supporting details. Then answer the question below the diagram.

Rosalynn Carter, the wife of President Jimmy Carter, took her role as First Lady seriously. She did not let her time in the White House pass her by. Mrs. Carter attended official meetings and represented the United States on business trips. Mrs. Carter also supported programs to help

needy citizens. For example, she worked to improve the lives of elderly people and citizens with mental health problems. Another accomplishment of Mrs. Carter was pointing out the importance of the performing arts to our society.

Main Idea

1. Rosalynn Carter took

Supporting Details

2. She attended

3. She represented

4.

5. What is a one-sentence summary of this passage?



Home Activity Your child identified the main idea and supporting details in a nonfiction passage. Together, read an article about a famous person. Work with your child to identify the main idea and supporting details of the article. Then ask your child to summarize the article.

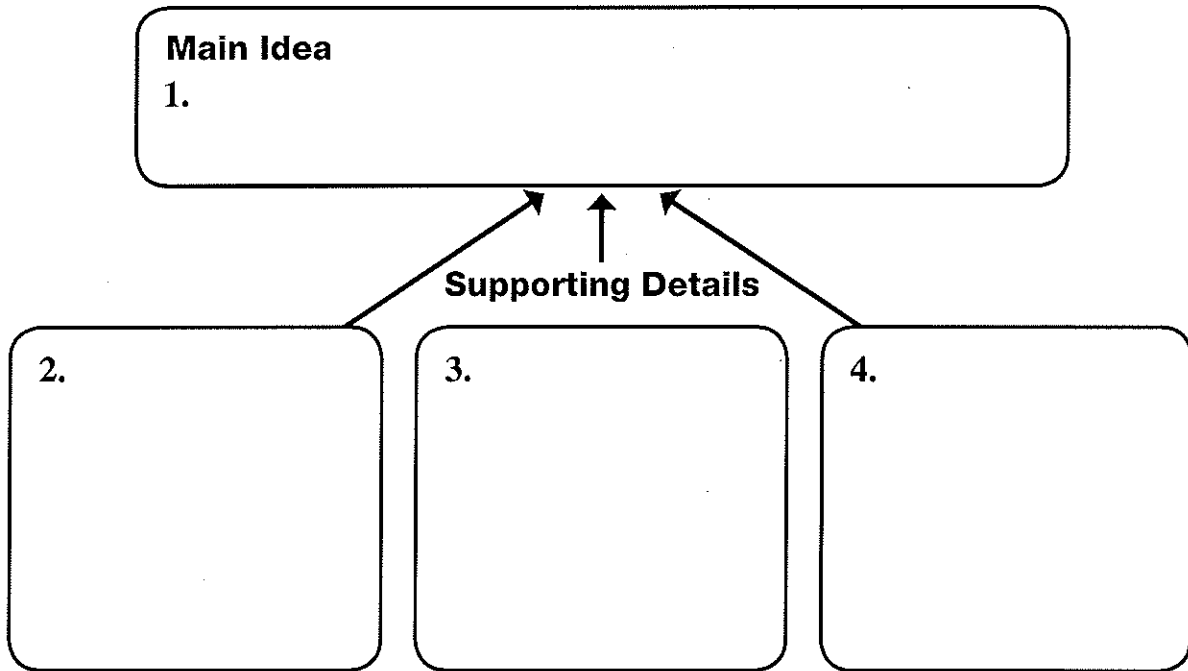
Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the following passage. Complete the diagram by stating the main idea and three supporting details. Then answer the question below the diagram.

<p>The President has a difficult job, but at least there are people to help the President along the way. These special people are called the Cabinet. The President gets to choose the members of the Cabinet, but the members of the United States Senate must approve them.</p> <p>Each member of the Cabinet represents</p>	<p>a department of the government. Some examples of these departments are Education, Homeland Security, and Transportation. The Cabinet meets with the President to talk about issues that affect their departments. In these meetings, the President gets good advice on what decisions to make.</p>
---	---



5. What is a one-sentence summary of this passage?



Home Activity Your child used a graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of a passage. Work with your child to identify the main idea and supporting details for individual paragraphs in a magazine or newspaper article about government. Challenge him or her to summarize the entire article.

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea from a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The government of the United States has its share of responsibilities, but so do you. In order for the nation to do well, citizens have to do their part.

One responsibility of citizens is taking part in elections. Once you turn eighteen years old, you are given the right—and the responsibility—to vote. Citizens vote for

officials to be their representatives. In this way, each citizen has a say in governing the country.

Another responsibility of all citizens, no matter what age, is to obey laws. The nation's laws are written to keep citizens safe and protected.

1. In three or four words, tell what the passage is about.

2. What is the main idea of the passage?

3. What is one important detail that tells more about the main idea?

4. What is another detail that supports the main idea?

5. In one sentence, write a summary of this passage.

© Pearson Education 4



Home Activity Your child identified the main idea and supporting details in a short nonfiction article and wrote a summary of it. Read a magazine or newspaper article about citizens' involvement in government. Work together to write a short summary of the article.