

Main Idea and Details

What is the text mostly about? Here is how to find out.

TOPIC

Who or what the text is about. It is a word or two.

MAIN IDEA

The most important thing the author says about the topic. It is a sentence.

DETAILS

Facts that tell more about the main idea.

How to find the main idea

- 1 **Find the topic.** Which word do you see again and again?
- 2 **Find the main idea.** What is the author telling you about the topic? Look at the first and last sentences.
- 3 **Find the details.** Which sentences tell more about the main idea?

Try it

Dogs can do many jobs. Some dogs lead people who cannot see. Some dogs herd sheep on farms. Some dogs help find people who are lost.

The main idea is the table top. The details are the legs that hold it up.

TOPIC dogs

MAIN IDEA

Dogs can do many jobs.

DETAIL

Some dogs lead people who cannot see.

DETAIL

Some dogs herd sheep on farms.

DETAIL

Some dogs help find people who are lost.