

ENGLISH · GRADES 2–4

Main Idea & Supporting Details

What is the writer really trying to say?

Two key terms

The MAIN IDEA is the BIG point the writer wants you to take away from the passage. It's usually one sentence. SUPPORTING DETAILS are the smaller facts, examples, or reasons that PROVE the main idea — they back it up. A good test: cover up the main idea. Could you guess it from the details?

Passage 1

Bees are amazingly important to us. They pollinate flowers as they collect nectar, helping fruits and vegetables grow. About one in three bites of food we eat exists thanks to bees. They also make honey — the only food made by an insect that humans eat. Without bees, our food choices would be very limited.

Passage 1 — questions

1. What is the MAIN IDEA of this passage? (One sentence.)
2. List THREE supporting details from the passage.

Passage 2



Exercise has many benefits beyond just looking fit. It helps you sleep better at night because tired bodies fall asleep faster. It boosts your mood by releasing chemicals called endorphins. It improves your concentration so school work feels easier. And, of course, it makes your heart and lungs stronger.

Passage 2 — questions

1. What is the MAIN IDEA?
2. List FOUR supporting details from the passage.
3. Could the title of this passage be 'Why Exercise Matters'? Why or why not?

