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# Strategy One FINDING MAIN IDEA

## PART ONE: Think About Main Idea

### WHAT IS MAIN IDEA?

Books and stories all have a main idea. A movie or television show also has a main idea. The main idea tells what something is mostly about.

★ Write the name of a book you have read in school or at home.

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★ Write some of the things that happen in the book.

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★ Tell what the book is mostly about.

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You just wrote about main idea!



Tell your partner about a movie you have seen or a TV show you have watched. Then take turns telling about the main idea of the movie or TV show. Try to tell your main idea in one sentence.



## HOW DO YOU FIND THE MAIN IDEA?

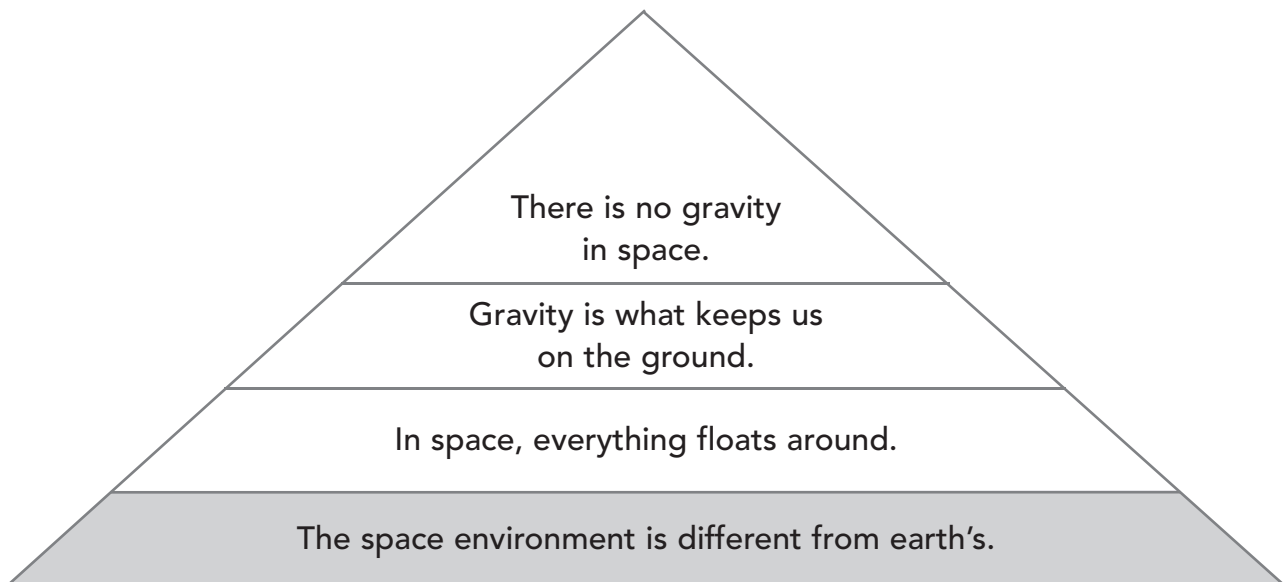
You can find the main idea of most reading passages in the first or last sentence of the passage. Read the passage below.

The space environment is different from earth's. There is no gravity in space. Gravity is what keeps us on the ground. In space, everything floats around.

Think about the most important idea in the passage.

Let's find the main idea.

Look at the pyramid below. The sentences at the top tell about the main idea, but they do not tell the most important idea.



The sentence at the bottom of the pyramid is the most important idea. This sentence tells what the passage is mostly about. The main idea is found in the first sentence of the passage.

You just found the main idea!

Look at the answer choices for each question. Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

3. Who first had the idea of playing Frisbee?

Ⓐ a baker

*This answer is not correct because the bakers made pies. The students who bought the pies came up with the idea for the sport.*

Ⓑ some teachers

*This answer is not correct because teachers are not mentioned in the article.*

● some students

*This answer is correct because the first sentence in paragraph 2 states that ‘Some students invented this sport’.*

Ⓓ Walter Morrison

*This answer is not correct because Walter Morrison made the first plastic Frisbees, but he did not invent the sport.*

4. Where were the first plastic Frisbees made?

Ⓐ at a university

*This answer is not correct because a sentence in the last paragraph states that ‘Walter Morrison and the Wham-O Manufacturing Company began making plastic models’.*

● at the Wham-O Manufacturing Company

*This answer is correct because a sentence in the last paragraph states that ‘Walter Morrison and the Wham-O Manufacturing Company began making plastic models’.*

Ⓒ at the Frisbie Bakery

*This answer is not correct because the pie pans from the Frisbie Bakery were made of metal, not plastic.*

Ⓓ at the Walter Morrison Manufacturing Company

*This answer is not correct because the article does not mention a company with that name. Walter Morrison worked with the Wham-O Manufacturing Company to make the first plastic Frisbees.*

<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>1. What is this letter mostly about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Susan’s life</li> <li>Ⓑ Pets</li> <li>Ⓒ Emma’s life</li> <li>Ⓓ School</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>4. What is Susan’s best friends name?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Katie</li> <li>Ⓑ Anna</li> <li>Ⓒ Rosie</li> <li>Ⓓ Sammy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>2. What is the third paragraph mainly about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Susan’s family</li> <li>Ⓑ Susan’s school</li> <li>Ⓒ Susan’s pets</li> <li>Ⓓ Emma’s school</li> </ul>	<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>5. Which of these happened first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Susan got her own bedroom.</li> <li>Ⓑ Susan’s family moved to Melbourne.</li> <li>Ⓒ Susan got a puppy.</li> <li>Ⓓ Susan started school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>3. How old was Susan when she got a puppy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ 12 years</li> <li>Ⓑ five years</li> <li>Ⓒ six years</li> <li>Ⓓ eight years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>6. You can tell the sequence in the letter mostly by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ looking for clues that tell about times of day, days of the week, months or years.</li> <li>Ⓑ thinking about the main idea.</li> <li>Ⓒ finding facts and details.</li> <li>Ⓓ thinking about the beginning, the middle and the ending.</li> </ul>