

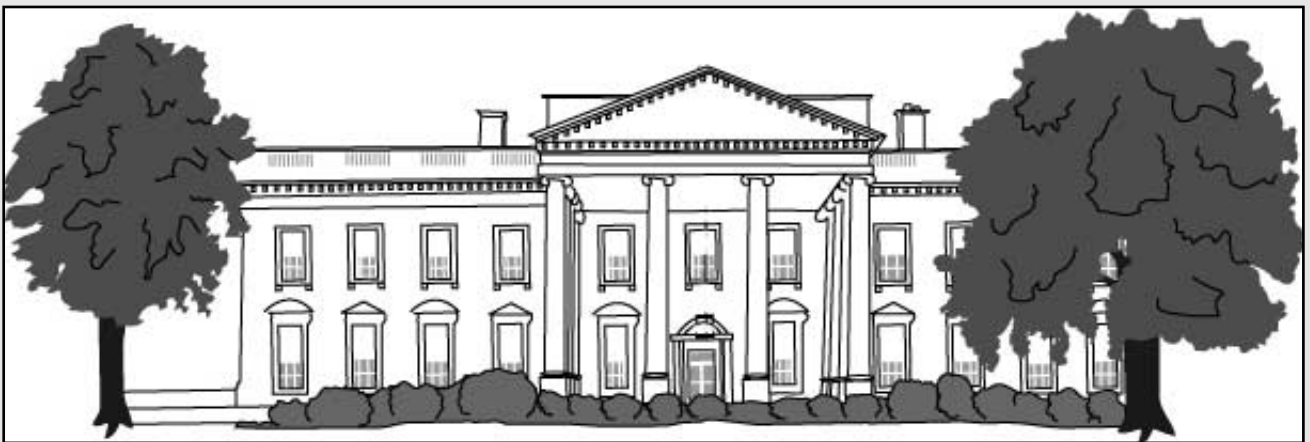
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PART ONE: LEARN ABOUT MAIN IDEA

Read Marta's story about Werribee Mansion. As you read, think about the most important idea in the story.

Werribee Mansion is a large home. The mansion has 60 rooms. There are many bedrooms and reception rooms. There is also a billiard room.

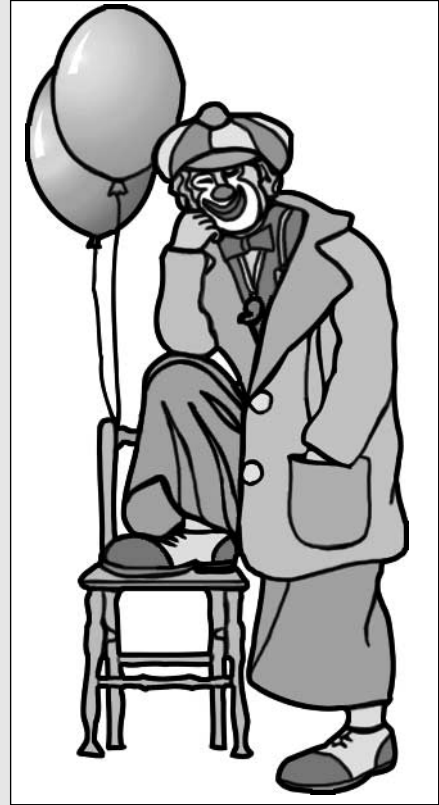


The most important idea in the story is **Werribee Mansion is a large home**. The most important idea in a story is called the **main idea**. The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the last sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes not found in the story. You can figure out the main idea by thinking about what the story is mostly about. Ask yourself, “What is the story telling me?”

Read this story about Pete. As you read, think about the main idea of the story. Then answer the questions.

Pete loves to go to the circus. Some people like to watch the elephants. Others like to watch the lion tamers. But not Pete. Pete likes to watch the clowns. The clowns act silly and make him laugh. Pete can't wait for the next circus to come to his town.



1. What is the main idea of the story?
 - Ⓐ Some people like to watch the elephants.
 - Ⓑ Others like to watch the lion tamers.
 - Ⓒ Pete loves to go to the circus.
 - Ⓓ Pete can't wait for the next circus to come to his town.
2. Where or how did you find the main idea?
 - Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story
 - Ⓑ in the last sentence of the story
 - Ⓒ in the middle of the story
 - Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about

Work with a partner. Talk about your answers to questions 1 and 2. Tell why you chose the answers you did.

Remember: The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ Read the first sentence of the story. The main idea is sometimes found here.
- ★ Read the last sentence of the story. The main idea is sometimes found here.
- ★ Sometimes, the main idea is not found in a sentence from the story. Think about what the story is mostly about. This will help you figure out the main idea.

Read this story about baby animals. As you read, ask yourself, “What is the story mostly about?” Then answer the questions.

A baby cat is called a kitten. Kittens love to play. A baby kangaroo is called a joey. A joey is about the size of a bumblebee when it is born. A baby horse is called a foal. A foal can walk the day it is born! Some people call a small child a kid. Did you know that this is also the name for a baby goat? There are lots of different names for baby animals.



3. What is the story mostly about?
 - Ⓐ A baby cat is called a kitten.
 - Ⓑ A foal can walk the day it is born!
 - Ⓒ There are lots of different names for baby animals.
 - Ⓓ A joey is about the size of a bumblebee.
4. Where or how did you find the main idea?
 - Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story
 - Ⓑ in the last sentence of the story
 - Ⓒ in the middle of the story
 - Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about

Look at the answer choices for each question.

Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

3. What is the story mostly about?

Ⓐ A baby cat is called a kitten.

This answer is not correct.

The story is not mostly about a baby cat.

Ⓑ A foal can walk the day it is born!

This answer is not correct. The story is not mostly about a foal.

● There are lots of different names for baby animals.

This answer is correct. The story is mostly about the different names for baby animals.

Ⓓ A joey is about the size of a bumblebee.

This answer is not correct. The story is not mostly about a joey.

4. Where or how did you find the main idea?

Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story

This answer is not correct. The first sentence of the story says, "A baby cat is called a kitten." This is not what the story is mostly about.

● in the last sentence of the story

This answer is correct. The last sentence of the story says, "There are lots of different names for baby animals." This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.

Ⓒ in the middle of the story

This answer is not correct. The sentences in the middle of the story tell about baby kangaroos and baby horses. They are not what the story is mostly about.

Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about

This answer is not correct. The main idea is found in the last sentence of the story.