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PART ONE: LEARN ABOUT MAIN IDEA

Read this story about dogs. As you read, think about the most important idea in the story.

A pet dog needs many things. A dog needs a soft bed. It also needs special food made for dogs and a dish for water. You might also want to give your dog a toy to play with.



The most important idea is in the first sentence of the story.
The most important idea in the story is **A pet dog needs many things.**

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 in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the last sentence of a story.

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

Today is the first day of school. Meg has been waiting for this day. She can't wait to begin year one. But Meg cannot go to school today. She cannot meet her new teacher. She cannot be with all her friends. Meg is sick with the flu.



1. What is the main idea of the story?
 - Ⓐ Meg cannot meet her teacher.
 - Ⓑ Meg is sick with the flu.
 - Ⓒ Today is the first day of school.
2. Where did you find the main idea?
 - Ⓐ in the first sentence
 - Ⓑ in the second sentence
 - Ⓒ in the last sentence

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.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the last sentence of a story.

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

Cats come in many shapes and sizes. Some cats are wild cats. Lions and tigers are two wild cats. Wild cats live outside. Other cats are house cats. House cats live inside with people.

Some cats are grey, and some are white. Some are dark, and some are light. Many cats have stripes or patches.

Some cats do not have any fur at all. These cats look as if they are bald! Some cats are white and have blue eyes. These cats often cannot hear.



3. What is the story mostly about?
- Ⓐ Many cats have stripes or patches.
 - Ⓑ Cats come in many shapes and sizes.
 - Ⓒ Some cats cannot hear.
4. Where did you find the main idea?
- Ⓐ in the first sentence
 - Ⓑ in the second sentence
 - Ⓒ in the last sentence

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?

- Ⓐ Many cats have stripes or patches.

This answer is not correct.

This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that have stripes or patches.

- Cats come in many shapes and sizes.

This answer is correct. The story is mostly about different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.

- Ⓒ Some cats cannot hear.

This answer is not correct.

This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear.

4. Where did you find the main idea?

- in the first sentence

This answer is correct. The first sentence of the story says, "Cats come in many shapes and sizes." This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.

- Ⓑ in the second sentence

This answer is not correct.

The main idea is in the first sentence of this story.

The second sentence says,

"Some cats are wild cats."

This is just one idea in the story. The story is not mostly about wild cats.

- Ⓒ in the last sentence

This answer is not correct.

The last sentence of the story says,

"These cats often cannot hear." The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear.

The story is mostly about

different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.