

Determining Central Idea and Writing Summaries of Informational Texts

Aligns directly to CCSS
RI.4.2, RI.5.2, RI.6.2,
RI.7.2, RI.8.2, and
RI.9-10.2

Summarizing a Non-Fictional Text

In one or two words, who or what is the text about? (You can usually tell from the title)

What are the 3 MOST important things we learn about this topic from this text?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? Write this in ONE sentence.

Using your CENTRAL idea as your topic sentence and the 3 most important things above that as your details, write a one-paragraph summary of the text on the lines below.

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Determining Central Idea

Directions: Complete the following chart to determine the central (main) idea of a text.

Copy down the title, headings, sub-headings, bold and italicized words in the document:

What is the PURPOSE of the text?

How is the text STRUCTURED?

What are the three MOST important points being made in the text?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SO... What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? (Write your three main points into one complete, concise sentence)

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SUMMARIZING a NON-FICTIONAL TEXT

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What are the 3 MOST important things we learn about this topic from this text?

1. _____
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