

Main Idea & Details

THE PRINTABLE SHELF

Separate the central point from the evidence that supports it.

TOPIC / TEXT

MAIN IDEA — ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2

SUPPORTING DETAIL 3

SUMMARY — MAIN IDEA + STRONGEST DETAILS

Main Idea & Details — Guided

GUIDED VERSION

Name: _____ Date: _____

MAIN IDEA

What is the most important point?

DETAIL 1

Which detail directly supports it?

DETAIL 2

Add another strong, different detail.

DETAIL 3

Use only if it adds useful support.

ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY

Combine the main idea and strongest details.

Main Idea & Details — Completed Example

Original informational practice text · Notice that each chosen detail performs a different job in supporting the main idea.

PRACTICE TEXT — CITY TREES

City trees do more than make a street look green. Their leaves create shade that can make sidewalks and nearby spaces more comfortable on hot days. Tree roots and the soil around them can slow and absorb some rainwater before it reaches storm drains. Trees also provide food, shelter, and nesting places for insects and birds. Because these benefits are different but connected, planting and caring for trees can make a neighborhood more comfortable and support local wildlife at the same time.

MAIN IDEA

City trees help neighborhoods by providing shade, managing some rainwater, and supporting wildlife.

DETAIL 1

Leaves provide shade that can make nearby outdoor spaces more comfortable on hot days.

DETAIL 2

Roots and surrounding soil can slow and absorb some rainwater before it reaches storm drains.

DETAIL 3

Trees provide food, shelter, and nesting places for insects and birds.