Finding the main idea worksheet

2nd grade reading · Informational Text · RI.2.2

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 11 questions from our finding the main idea practice, easier ones first. Read a question aloud if your child wants that, then check together with the answer key on page 3. Read the passage before the questions that go with it. Circle the letter of the best answer, or the right word where there are no letters.

Honeybees at Work

Honeybees are busy insects. They live together in a hive with thousands of other bees. Each bee has a job. Worker bees fly from flower to flower to collect nectar. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey. Some bees guard the door to keep the hive safe. Others take care of the baby bees. The queen bee lays almost all the eggs. Every bee in the hive helps in some way. Working together, honeybees can make enough honey to last through the winter.

1. **What is the main idea?**

   A. Honey is sweet and sticky. **B.** Every bee in a hive has a job. **C.** Bees have wings.

2. **Which detail supports the main idea?**

   A. Some bees guard the door. **B.** Bees are yellow and black. **C.** Flowers smell nice.

3. **What is the best title?**

   A. Flowers in Spring **B.** A Hive Full of Jobs **C.** How to Eat Honey

4. **Is the main idea that carrots are good for you?**

   > Carrots are good for you. They have vitamins that help your eyes. They are crunchy and sweet. You can eat them raw or cooked.

   ○ **Yes** ○ **No**

5. **What is the main idea?**

   > Frogs start life as eggs in the water. The eggs hatch into tadpoles with tails. Slowly, the tadpoles grow legs and lose their tails. At last, they hop onto land as frogs.

   A. Frogs change as they grow. **B.** Water is wet. **C.** Tadpoles have tails.

6. **What is the main idea?**

   > Maya's backpack holds everything she needs. It has a pocket for pencils, a big space for books, and a side pouch for her water bottle. There is even a secret zipper for her lucky rock.

   A. Maya's backpack holds all her things.
   B. Pencils go in pockets.
   C. Maya likes rocks.

Finding the main idea worksheet

2nd grade reading · questions, continued

7. **What is the main idea?**

> Firefighters do many jobs. They put out fires, of course. They also rescue people from floods and car crashes. Some firefighters visit schools to teach kids about safety.

A. Schools are safe.
B. Fire trucks are big and red.
C. Firefighters help in many ways.

8. **What is the main idea?**

> Winter is Jamal's favorite season. He loves building snow forts with his cousins. He likes sipping hot cocoa by the window. Most of all, he loves sledding down the big hill at the park.

A. Hills are big. **B.** Jamal loves winter. **C.** Cocoa is hot.

9. **Is the main idea that owls have soft feathers?**

> Owls hunt at night. Their big eyes see well in the dark. Their soft feathers make no sound when they fly. Owls can even turn their heads almost all the way around.

○ **Yes** ○ **No**

10. **Which sentence tells the main idea?**

> The lemonade stand was a success. Priya sold forty cups. She ran out of ice twice and had to make more lemonade. By the end, her money jar was full and her cheeks hurt from smiling.

A. Her cheeks hurt from smiling.
B. The lemonade stand was a success.
C. She ran out of ice twice.

11. **Which is a detail, NOT the main idea?**

> Recycling helps the Earth. When we recycle paper, fewer trees are cut down. Recycling cans and bottles means less trash in landfills. It even saves energy.

A. Fewer trees are cut down.
B. Recycling is important for the planet.
C. Recycling helps the Earth.

Answer key: Finding the main idea

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1. **B. Every bee in a hive has a job.**
   The whole passage is about the different jobs bees do in the hive.
2. **A. Some bees guard the door.**
   Guarding the door is one of the jobs the passage describes.
3. **B. A Hive Full of Jobs**
   The passage is about the jobs in a hive, so "A Hive Full of Jobs" fits best.
4. **Yes**
   The first sentence states the main idea, and the other sentences give reasons.
5. **A. Frogs change as they grow.**
   Each sentence shows a stage of growing, so the main idea is that frogs change as they grow.
6. **A. Maya's backpack holds all her things.**
   The paragraph lists all the things the backpack holds, so the main idea is that it holds everything she needs.
7. **C. Firefighters help in many ways.**
   The paragraph lists several jobs, so the main idea is that firefighters help in many ways.
8. **B. Jamal loves winter.**
   All the details are things Jamal loves about winter, so the main idea is that Jamal loves winter.
9. **No**
   Soft feathers is a detail. The main idea is that owls are built for hunting at night.
10. **B. The lemonade stand was a success.**
    Selling forty cups, running out of ice and a full jar all show the stand was a success.
11. **A. Fewer trees are cut down.**
    Fewer trees being cut down is one small fact. The big idea is that recycling helps the Earth.