

MAIN IDEA

ANCHOR CHART

The **main idea** is what a text is mostly about.



HOW TO FIND IT

- 1 Read the text.
- 2 Ask: What is this mostly about?
- 3 Look for clues.
 - Topic sentences
 - Repeated words
 - Important details
- 4 Write the main idea in your own words.

TEXT STRUCTURE CLUES



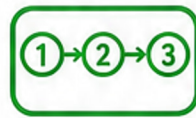
Description

Look for repeated words and details.



Cause and Effect

Look for cause and effect words.



Sequence

Look for order clue words.



Compare and Contrast

Look for how things are alike or different.

MAIN IDEA VS. DETAILS

MAIN IDEA

The big idea.
What the text is mostly about.



DETAILS

The smaller ideas.
Facts or examples that support the main idea.

EXAMPLE

Text: Penguins are amazing birds. They cannot fly, but they are excellent swimmers. They have thick feathers to keep warm. Penguins live in cold places like Antarctica.



Main Idea: Penguins have special features that help them live in cold places.

Details:

- They cannot fly, but they swim well.
- They have thick feathers to keep warm.
- They live in cold places like Antarctica.