

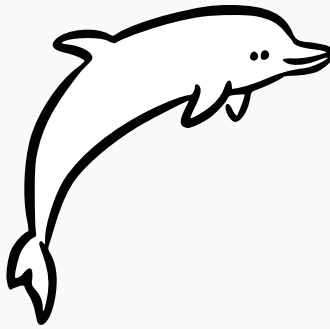


Find the Big Idea: Sea Animals and National Parks

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Lesson:

Each passage below is built from small details. Your job is to notice which details repeat or belong together, then name the one big idea they all point to. A detail that is true but only covers part of the passage is too small to be the key idea.



Every morning, a small boat slides into a quiet ocean bay. The team on board counts the dolphins that jump near the bow. They watch the seabirds that circle and dive above the water. They also record the tides as the water rises and falls along the shore. Each observation goes into a notebook, page after page. One week, the notes showed something interesting. On mornings when the tide rushed in fast, more birds arrived to feed near the waves. On calm mornings, the dolphins stayed farther from shore. By comparing pages from different days, the team began to see patterns. The dolphins, the seabirds, and the tides were not separate stories. Together, the notes helped the team understand how the animals and the changing water are connected in the bay.

Three details, one big idea

	What it shows
They count dolphins	an animal is recorded
They watch seabirds	an animal is recorded
They record the tides	a water change is recorded
Key idea	the team studies animals and water together

Read down the first column. When every detail points the same way, that direction is the key idea.

Detail 1: The team counts dolphins. Detail 2: The team watches seabirds. Detail 3: The team records the tides. All three details are observations of the bay, so the key idea is: the team studies how animals and water changes connect in the bay.

Early in the morning, before most visitors arrive, workers move along the trails of a national park. They pick up trash left near the paths so the walkways stay clear. They fix signs that point hikers the right way so no one gets lost. They also check the fire rings at each campsite to make sure they are safe to use. The jobs do not stop there. On busy days, the workers greet families and answer simple questions. They remind visitors to stay on marked paths and to respect plants and animals. After a storm, they clear fallen branches so hikers do not trip. Before a holiday weekend, they test the water taps at every campsite. Day after day, these small jobs add up, keeping the park clean, safe, and ready for every guest.

Find the details that fit

They pick up trash left near the paths so the walkways stay clear. They fix signs that point hikers the right way so no one gets lost. They also check the fire rings at each campsite to make sure they are safe to use.

1. "pick up trash left near the paths" — They clear trash from the paths
2. "fix signs that point hikers the right way" — They fix signs so hikers stay on track
3. "check the fire rings at each campsite to make sure they are safe" — They make sure fire rings are safe

Three marked details from the park passage. All three are about keeping the park safe and ready.

Detail 1: Workers pick up trash near the paths. Detail 2: Workers fix signs for hikers. Detail 3: Workers check the fire rings. All three details are ways of caring for the park, so the key idea is: park workers keep the park clean, safe, and ready for visitors.

Details that build the key idea

Bay observations

dolphins
seabirds
tides
notebook

Park care actions

trails
campsites
trash
signs

Sort details from each passage into the group they support.

When several details point to the same topic, they reveal the key idea. One detail on its own, like 'they fix signs' is true, but it only covers a small piece, so it is too small to be the key idea of the whole passage.

Instructions:

Read each question carefully. Use the details in the passage or situation to find the big idea. Choose the best answer.

1. A team watches a bay each morning. They count dolphins, watch seabirds, and record tides. What is the key idea?

- ☐ A) The team is watching life in the bay.
- ☐ B) The team is fishing for dinner.
- ☐ C) The team is building boats.
- ☐ D) The team is teaching children to swim.

2. Which detail is most important for the key idea in the bay passage?

- ☐ A) The team hears a loud bell.
- ☐ B) The team wears shoes on the boat.
- ☐ C) The team records the tides moving in and out.
- ☐ D) The team brings a red lunch box.

3. Which set of details best shows the big idea in the bay passage?

- ☐ A) Cars, roads, and houses.
- ☐ B) Lunch, backpacks, and maps.
- ☐ C) Sandcastles, shells, and kites.
- ☐ D) Dolphins, seabirds, and tides.

4. A student says the key idea is only about dolphins. What is wrong with that idea?

- ☐ A) It says the team is indoors all day.
- ☐ B) It leaves out the seabirds and tides.
- ☐ C) It says the team is not working.
- ☐ D) It says the water never changes.

5. Which sentence best explains why the team keeps a notebook?

- ☐ A) To draw pictures of boats for fun.
- ☐ B) To count how many snacks they eat.
- ☐ C) To remember the names of fish only.
- ☐ D) To learn how animals and water changes connect.

6. Read this summary: 'Workers greet families, answer questions, and pick up trash.' Which big idea does it support?

- ☐ A) Workers are helping visitors and caring for the park.
- ☐ B) Workers are making the park noisy.
- ☐ C) Workers are planting a zoo.
- ☐ D) Workers are learning to swim.

7. New scene: A ranger walks a trail, fixes a sign, and picks up trash. What is the key idea?

- ☐ A) The ranger is taking a nap.
- ☐ B) The ranger is leaving the park.
- ☐ C) The ranger helps keep the park safe and clean.
- ☐ D) The ranger is fixing only one sign.

8. Which detail does not fit the idea of park workers keeping things safe?

- ☐ A) They play music all afternoon.
- ☐ B) They remind visitors to stay on marked paths.
- ☐ C) They check the fire rings.
- ☐ D) They fix signs for hikers.

9. Two details from the passage are: 'pick up trash' and 'fix signs.' What key idea do they support?

- ☐ A) The workers are only there for fun.
- ☐ B) The workers care for the park.
- ☐ C) The workers are building a new city.
- ☐ D) The workers are looking for sea animals.

10. A student says the park passage is mostly about families. What is the best response?

- ☐ A) No, because the workers care for the park in many ways.
- ☐ B) No, because the passage is only about trails.
- ☐ C) Yes, because the park has no workers.
- ☐ D) Yes, because families are the only detail.



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(Answer Key)

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1. A team watches a bay each morning. They count dolphins, watch seabirds, and record tides. What is the key idea?

Hint: Think about what all three details have in common.

Answer: A) The team is watching life in the bay.

Explanation: The details all show that the team is watching changes and animals in the bay.

2. Which detail is most important for the key idea in the bay passage?

Hint: Choose the detail that connects to the whole passage.

Answer: C) The team records the tides moving in and out.

Explanation: Recording the tides is important because it shows the team is studying changes in the bay.

3. Which set of details best shows the big idea in the bay passage?

Hint: Pick details that belong together.

Answer: D) Dolphins, seabirds, and tides.

Explanation: Dolphins, seabirds, and tides are the details that best show the bay idea.

4. A student says the key idea is only about dolphins. What is wrong with that idea?

Hint: Look at all the details, not just one.

Answer: B) It leaves out the seabirds and tides.

Explanation: The passage includes dolphins, seabirds, and tides. The key idea is bigger than one detail.

5. Which sentence best explains why the team keeps a notebook?

Hint: Think about what the notes help the team learn.

Answer: D) To learn how animals and water changes connect.

Explanation: The notes help the team learn how animals and water changes connect.

6. Read this summary: 'Workers greet families, answer questions, and pick up trash.' Which big idea does it support?

Hint: Ask what these actions all have in common.

Answer: A) Workers are helping visitors and caring for the park.

Explanation: These actions show workers helping visitors and keeping the park ready for guests.

7. New scene: A ranger walks a trail, fixes a sign, and picks up trash. What is the key idea?

Hint: Look at the repeated actions.

Answer: C) The ranger helps keep the park safe and clean.

Explanation: The details show that the ranger helps keep the park safe and clean.

8. Which detail does not fit the idea of park workers keeping things safe?

Hint: Choose the detail that does not match the other park jobs.

Answer: A) They play music all afternoon.

Explanation: Playing music is not one of the worker jobs in the passage.

9. Two details from the passage are: 'pick up trash' and 'fix signs.' What key idea do they support?

Hint: Both details show care and responsibility.

Answer: B) The workers care for the park.

Explanation: Both details support the idea that workers care for the park.

10. A student says the park passage is mostly about families. What is the best response?

Hint: Families are mentioned, but look at the worker jobs too.

Answer: A) No, because the workers care for the park in many ways.

Explanation: Families are part of the passage, but the main idea is about workers caring for the park.