

Lesson: Main Topic and Summarizing

Lesson Topic: Determine the main topic of a text

Question 1:

First, look at the title of this article.

Cosmic Formations

Written by Juliana Sartor

When you look up at night, chances are you can see some stars in the sky. The farther away you are from well-lit cities and towns, the more stars you can see. Depending on where you are, you might even be able to see part of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, in the sky...

Based on the title, which topic might this text be about?

- the invention of rocket ships
- the shapes of things under a microscope
- the shapes of things in space
- the destruction of space

Question 2:

Read the first two paragraphs of this text.

Cosmic Formations

Written by Juliana Sartor

When you look up at night, chances are you can see some stars in the sky. The farther away you are from well-lit cities and towns, the more stars you can see. Depending on where you are, you might even be able to see part of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, in the sky. A galaxy is a collection of stars held together by gravity. You can see our galaxy while being a part of it because it has a particular shape. Scientists have observed that there are several different potential shapes of galaxies.

The Milky Way is one shape of galaxy: a spiral shaped galaxy. This means that it has a cluster of stars, matter, and a black hole in the center, and "arms" that stick out from the center and spiral around it. The part of the Milky Way that we can see is one of the arms spiraling out around the center. Our galaxy only has two arms, but other spiral galaxies have many. The arms are where young stars are born, so they are often brighter than the center. Spiral galaxies are just one shape of galaxy.

Which is the thesis statement?

- When you look into the sky at night, chances are you can see some stars in the sky.
- Spiral galaxies are just one shape of galaxy.
- Scientists have observed that there are several different potential shapes of galaxies.
- The reason you can see our galaxy while being a part of it is because it has a particular shape.

Question 3:

Read the first two paragraphs of this text.

Cosmic Formations

When you look up at night, chances are you can see some stars in the sky. The farther away you are from well-lit cities and towns, the more stars you can see. Depending on where you are, you might even be able to see part of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, in the sky. A galaxy is a collection of stars held together by gravity. You can see our galaxy while being a part of it because it has a particular shape. Scientists have observed that there are several different potential shapes of galaxies.

The Milky Way is one shape of galaxy: a spiral shaped galaxy. This means that it has a cluster of stars, matter, and a black hole in the center, and "arms" that stick out from the center and spiral around it. The part of the Milky Way that we can see is one of the arms spiraling out around the center. Our galaxy only has two arms, but other spiral galaxies have many. The arms are where young stars are born, so they are often brighter than the center. Spiral galaxies are just one shape of galaxy.

Which sentence in the second paragraph best supports the thesis?

- The Milky Way is one shape of galaxy: a spiral shaped galaxy.
- The arms are where young stars are born, so they are often brighter than the center.
- The part of the Milky Way that we can see is one of the arms spiraling out around the center.
- Our galaxy only has two arms, but other spiral galaxies have many.

Question 4:

Read the first two paragraphs of this text.

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When you look up at night, chances are you can see some stars in the sky. The farther away you are from well-lit cities and towns, the more stars you can see. Depending on where you are, you might even be able to see part of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, in the sky. A galaxy is a collection of stars held together by gravity. You can see our galaxy while being a part of it because it has a particular shape. Scientists have observed that there are several different potential shapes of galaxies.

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Which sentence is a piece of evidence that helps further explain the thesis?

- The farther away you are from well-lit cities and towns, the more stars you can see.
- A galaxy is a collection of stars held together by gravity.
- Depending on where you are, you might even be able to see part of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, in the sky.
- This means that it has a cluster of stars, matter, and a black hole in the center, and "arms" that stick out from the center and spiral around it.

Question 5:

Which is the main topic of *Cosmic Formations*?

- Scientists have studied galaxies for a long time.
- All galaxies have spiraling arms.
- Galaxies are clusters of stars in space.
- Galaxies can be shaped one of several ways.

Lesson Topic: Determine the main idea of a paragraph

Question 1:

Read the text below.

Still, people saw ways to improve the record player. Most early record players sent sound out through a big horn to make their recordings louder. Many people felt the sound didn't come out loud enough, so other inventors figured out ways to use electricity to make the sound louder. These speakers became so powerful that a single record player could provide music to huge rooms full of people, just as they do today.

Which is the topic sentence of this paragraph?

- Most early record players sent sound out through a big horn to make their recordings louder.
- Many people felt the sound didn't come out loud enough, so other inventors figured out ways to use electricity to make the sound louder.
- These speakers became so powerful that a single record player could provide music to huge rooms full of people.
- Still, people saw ways to improve the record player.

Question 2:

Read the text below.

Still, people saw ways to improve the record player. Most early record players sent sound out through a big horn to make their recordings louder. Many people felt the sound didn't come out loud enough, so other inventors figured out ways to use electricity to make the sound louder. These speakers became so powerful that a single record player could provide music to huge rooms full of people, just as they do today.

Based on the topic sentence, the main idea of this paragraph is the ways the record player was improved.

Which detail best supports this main idea?

- A single record player could provide music to huge rooms full of people.
- Most early record players sent sound out through a big horn to make their recordings louder.
- Many people felt the sound didn't come out loud enough, so other inventors figured out ways to use electricity to make the sound louder.
- Still, people saw ways to improve the record player.

Question 3:

The paragraph below is missing a topic sentence.

These trees can grow over 350 feet tall. The tallest redwood on record is 378 feet high, which is taller than the Statue of Liberty! Scientists do not know why redwood trees can grow so tall, but their very long lifespans probably have something to do with it.

Which of the following is the best topic sentence for this paragraph?

- The most impressive feature of the redwood tree is its height.
- Redwood trees are some of the oldest trees on Earth today.

- Redwood trees grow along the Pacific coast in California.
- Redwood trees are practically identical to most other conifers, or pine trees.

Question 4:

Read the text below.

Dolphins have amazing minds and memories. Sometimes groups of dolphins who haven't seen each other in a long time will greet each other like old friends. Unfortunately, their strong memories can sometimes cause them more harm than good. If a dolphin is involved in a traumatic event, like getting tangled in a net or put in captivity, it is hard for it to recover. The emotional stress and memories from the event can stay with a dolphin for life.

Which is the main idea of this paragraph?

- Dolphins are very intelligent animals.
- Dolphins have bad dreams about captivity.
- Dolphins are the smartest ocean animal.
- Dolphins live in the deep ocean.

Question 5:

Read the text below.

Drawbridges were also a helpful defense against attacking armies. Drawbridges were designed to be lifted up in the event of an attack. If the bridge was in raised position, the invaders would have a hard time crossing the moat and entering the castle. This allowed the king to retain his power for extra precious minutes.

Which is the main idea of this paragraph?

- Drawbridges went over moats.
- Drawbridges were one form of defense for a castle.
- Kings needed to protect their castles.
- Drawbridges were important mechanical inventions.

Lesson Topic: Understand how main topics, main ideas, and supporting details fit together

Question 1:

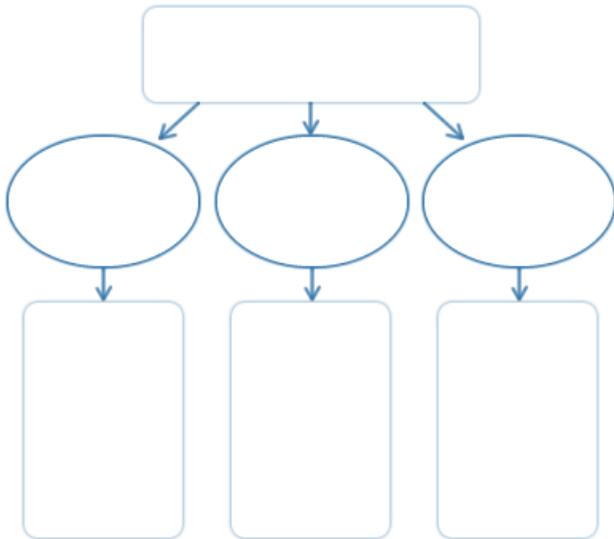
The main topic of a text is *children should not watch television*.

Which of the following are relevant main ideas?

Check all that are true.

- Watching television can interfere with children's abilities to fall asleep and to sleep restfully.
- Educational television shows can increase children's literacy and creativity.
- When children watch television, they are inactive and not getting much-needed exercise.
- Television, cable, and the electricity it takes to run a TV are all costly for adults.
- Television promotes bad behaviors, such as swearing and violence.

Question 2:



Which information goes in the middle row of this graphic organizer?

- the supporting details within each paragraph
- the main topic of the whole text
- the title of the text
- the main idea of each paragraph

Question 3:

The main topic of a text is *the weather associated with different cloud types*.

Which are relevant main ideas?

Check all that are true.

- Cumulus* clouds typically bring nice weather.
- Continuous rain and snow usually accompany *altostratus* clouds.

- Cumulonimbus* clouds are often seen during thunderstorms.
- Some cloud formations create really beautiful sunsets.
- Cirrus* clouds form very high up in Earth's atmosphere.

Question 4:

The main idea of a paragraph is *the benefits of yoga*.

Which are relevant supporting details?

Check all that are true.

- Many ancient meditative activities are becoming popular again today.
- Yoga can help lower your blood pressure and heart rate.
- One yoga posture many people have heard of is downward facing dog.
- It is important to exercise three to five times a week.
- Many people who practice yoga feel more aware of themselves and the world.

Question 5:

Supporting Detail 1: Protein provides necessary nutrients to help the body repair itself.

Supporting Detail 2: Protein is a source of long-lasting energy.

Supporting Detail 3: Many people who eat a protein-heavy breakfast stay fuller longer.

Which main idea is best supported by these details?

- Turkey, chicken, nuts, and beans are all great sources of protein.
- It is important and beneficial to consume enough protein in your diet.
- Eating a diet low in fat might help ward off heart disease.
- Macronutrients* include protein, fat, and carbohydrates.

Correct Answers

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the shapes of things in space

Question 2:

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Question 3:

Our galaxy only has two arms, but other spiral galaxies have many.

Question 4:

This means that it has a cluster of stars, matter, and a black hole in the center, and "arms" that stick out from the center and spiral around it.

Question 5:

Galaxies can be shaped one of several ways.

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Still, people saw ways to improve the record player.

Question 2:

Many people felt the sound didn't come out loud enough, so other inventors figured out ways to use electricity to make the sound louder.

Question 3:

The most impressive feature of the redwood tree is its height.

Question 4:

Dolphins are very intelligent animals.

Question 5:

Drawbridges were one form of defense for a castle.

Lesson Topic: Understand how main topics, main ideas, and supporting details fit together

Question 1:

Television promotes bad behaviors, such as swearing and violence. | When children watch television, they are inactive and not getting much-needed exercise. | Watching television can interfere with children's abilities to fall asleep and to sleep restfully.

Question 2:

the main idea of each paragraph

Question 3:

Cumulus clouds typically bring nice weather. | *Cumulonimbus* clouds are often seen during thunderstorms. | Continuous rain and snow usually accompany *altostratus* clouds.

Question 4:

Yoga can help lower your blood pressure and heart rate. | Many people who practice yoga feel more aware of themselves and the world.

Question 5:

It is important and beneficial to consume enough protein in your diet.