

Lesson

1

Objective: Identify the main idea and supporting details.

CSE: Can understand the main ideas in short, simple stories on familiar topics.

Read It Right!

Main Ideas and Details

The **main idea** is the most important thought of a paragraph or text. To find the main idea, ask yourself: *What is being said about the person(s), thing(s), or idea (topic)?* Sometimes, the main idea is stated clearly, that is, it appears in the text. But some other times, the main idea is unstated and has to be inferred from all the sentences and ideas in the text.

Main ideas always have supporting details. In a fiction story, these **details** give more information about the plot, the characters, or the setting. In a non-fiction text, they give specific information and examples.

Vocabulary

breeze improve sand
seashells shore surf

Do you know what these words mean? You can use the Glossary at the end of your book.

- 1** Read the text below. In teams, discuss what you think the main idea is.

Dear Emily,

I'm writing this postcard from the beach. I'm having so much fun! This is the *best* summer vacation ever!

It's sunny and hot. I thought the ocean water was going to be warm, too, but it is actually a little cool. I can still swim for hours every day, I never get tired. I've **improved** my swimming a lot in just a few days.

I also jump the waves with my little brother on the **shore**, and sometimes we make **sand** castles—he brings water in his bucket and I help him make the castle.

Yesterday I collected pretty little **seashells** and made a bracelet with them. I'll make one for you.

Tomorrow we'll go water skiing because my dad loves water sports. I can't wait, I'm sure it will be an adventure.

It's really wonderful here. See you soon!

Love, Samia



- 2** Check (✓) what "shore" means.

- ☐ large body of salt water with waves
- ☐ where mountain and water come together
- ☐ where water and sand come together

- 3** Answer the questions to analyze details given in the text.

a What activities did Samia do at the beach?

b Which expressions does she use to express how she feels at the beach?

Reader's Coach

If you cannot find the main idea of a text, the title will usually guide you. You can also look for repeated words or ideas.

4 What do you think is the main idea of the text?

By Yourself

5 Look at the pictures and read the text.

The Beach



People usually go to the beach during the summer because of the nice weather. Imagine the beautiful and peaceful landscapes. The beach seems like a very relaxing place.

Experts say that the beach is good for our health because there are many ways to relax there. The beach's relaxing properties are related mainly to the senses. Let's see. You can look at the blue color of the ocean. You can listen to the waves and feel the

breeze. You can smell the ocean. You can feel the warm sand on your feet. You can sit on the sand and rest all day. All these simple activities can relax you.

In addition, at the beach you can do sports. Sports are relaxing, too. For example, you can run on the sand or swim in the ocean. You can **surf** or just jump the waves with your family.

If you need to relax, the beach can be a very good place.



Amazing Info

Beach tourism goes hand in hand with warm or hot weather but there are plenty of beaches with year-round cold weather, as in England or Sweden; these beaches are usually not visited by many tourists.

Comprehension Check

6 Answer the questions in your notebook.

- a Why do people usually go to the beach during the summer?
- b What are three relaxing elements you can find at the beach?
- c What is the importance of the title?

Comprehension Skills Practice

7 Work in small teams to answer the questions.

- a Which sentence gives the idea of the first paragraph of "The Beach"?

- ☐ The beach is better in the summer.
- ☐ Beaches always have beautiful landscapes.
- ☐ The beach seems like a very relaxing place.
- ☐ Exercising can truly relax you.

- b Which sentence is not a supporting detail for the main idea?

- ☐ The beach is good for your health.
- ☐ It is better to go to the beach in the summer.
- ☐ The sound of the waves can be relaxing.
- ☐ You should not go to the beach in the winter.

- c Is the main idea in "The Beach" stated or unstated?

- d What is the main idea of "The Beach"?

**Remember that
the main idea is the most
important thought of
a paragraph.**

- 8** Work in pairs. Reread "The Beach" and answer the question by completing the table.

What helps people relax at the beach?	

Word Power

- 9** Match each word to its meaning by writing the letters on the lines provided.

- a** improve ____ the land along the edge of a body of water
b shore ____ the very tiny, loose pieces of rock that cover beaches, deserts, etc.
c sand ____ to ride on waves standing on a special board
d seashells ____ the hard, empty shell of a small sea creature (such as a clam)
e breeze ____ to be better at something or to make something better
f surf ____ a gentle wind

Connecting Ideas

In your notebook, write a short postcard to a friend about (choose one):

- a fun trip you took
- activities that make you feel relaxed

Make sure your main idea is clear. Include supporting details.



Objective: Learn how to draw conclusions.

CSE: Can predict what a short, simple text is about from the title, a picture, etc., if guided by questions or prompts.

Read It Right!

Drawing Conclusions

A **conclusion** is an opinion you reach after taking into consideration all the information you have. To draw conclusions, it is important that you collect information. This information is called *evidence* or *clues*. You can use the evidence to explain how you came to a conclusion. So, **drawing a conclusion** is like playing detective: You need to look for as many clues as possible to solve a mystery. If you do not collect all the important information, you might come to the wrong conclusion. To draw conclusions check all the information and details in the story.

Vocabulary

centuries	mark
changed	too many
fresh	wet

Do you know what these words mean? You can use

- 1 Look at the pictures and read the title. In small groups, discuss what you think the text is about.

A Necessary Invention

Some inventions are created by accident while others are created as a solution to a problem.

Some **centuries** ago, people had to eat everything on the same day they bought it. Then they realized ice kept food **fresh** for several hours, even one whole day, so they started using ice and cold temperatures to keep food fresh.

People froze food especially in the winter because there was not much to hunt, fish, or collect. This means there was not much fresh food in the markets.

Richer people had cool rooms at home. Others put ice in boxes or just kept ice around the food.

Nowadays we have an invention that solves this problem. What invention do you think it is?



- 2 Look for words in the text that fit the following definitions.

a periods of 100 years _____

b recently picked produce or prepared food; not frozen

Reader's Coach

You can use your own experiences and knowledge to draw a conclusion. For example: What happens to food if you leave it out for a long time?

3 Answer the questions to draw conclusions about the text.

a What was the problem people had during the winter some centuries ago?

b What was the solution people found to that problem?

c How do you keep food fresh for several days at home?

By Yourself

4 Look at the pictures and discuss in pairs what problem the invention described in the text solved. Then read the text.

A Story About How Humans Started to Write

This story happened a long time ago in a faraway country. People lived in nature happily—they spoke to each other, but they didn't write anything because writing didn't exist. They worked the land



and had animals. First, they lived in little towns, and then the towns started to grow. Sometimes they had too many vegetables or **too many** animals, so they decided to sell or exchange the extra food and animals.



One day, a man didn't remember how many cows he had sold and he started making marks on **wet** pieces of clay with a stick. The **marks** were drawings. If he sold three cows, he drew three cows.



After some time, another person **changed** this because he didn't want to make so many drawings. He used lines to mean 1 and circles to mean 10. This way he could count! So, for 23 bananas, he wrote OO III and then drew just one banana.



Amazing Info

In 1968, Spencer Silver invented a weak adhesive that everybody thought useless; but Arthur Fry used it to create little pieces of paper that could be stuck on books without damaging pages: post-its were born.

Comprehension Check

5 Answer the questions.

a What is the story about?

b What problems does the story describe?

c What would you do if there were no paper or pens available? What natural elements from the environment would you use to write?

Comprehension Skills Practice

6 Check (✓) the correct option.

a At the beginning of the story...

- ☐ only written words existed.
- ☐ only spoken words existed.
- ☐ written and spoken words existed.
- ☐ there were no existing words.

b Why did people start "writing"?

- ☐ to do drawings on clay
- ☐ because they wanted a change
- ☐ to record things from nature
- ☐ to remember what they sold

7 Work in pairs. Reread the text to answer the questions.

a Why did people write on wet clay and not on dry clay?

b Why did they change the way they recorded their sales or exchanges?

c Was the invention of writing an accident or a solution to a problem?

You discussed this question after reading the text, did your conclusion change? Discuss.

8 Answer the question.

How did you record your experiences before you learned how to write?

9 Read the conclusion and write clues. Check the text and use your own experience.

Details from the Text	What I Know	My Experience	Conclusion
			Drawings were the beginning of the writing system we use today.

Word Power

10 Complete the texts by writing a suitable word from the box on the lines provided.

too many centuries wet marks changed fresh

- a Many _____ ago, people sometimes had _____ vegetables that were going bad, so they decided to start selling or exchanging them. They didn't know how to _____ them fresh at first.
- b Writing _____ the world. People could finally record information. How did they do it? They used _____ clay and made _____ on it. Then they let it dry. Very imaginative, don't you think?

Connecting Ideas

Choose one of the inventions in the texts and write a short evaluation: Do you think they were good inventions? Why? Use the information in the texts and your own experience in your conclusions.