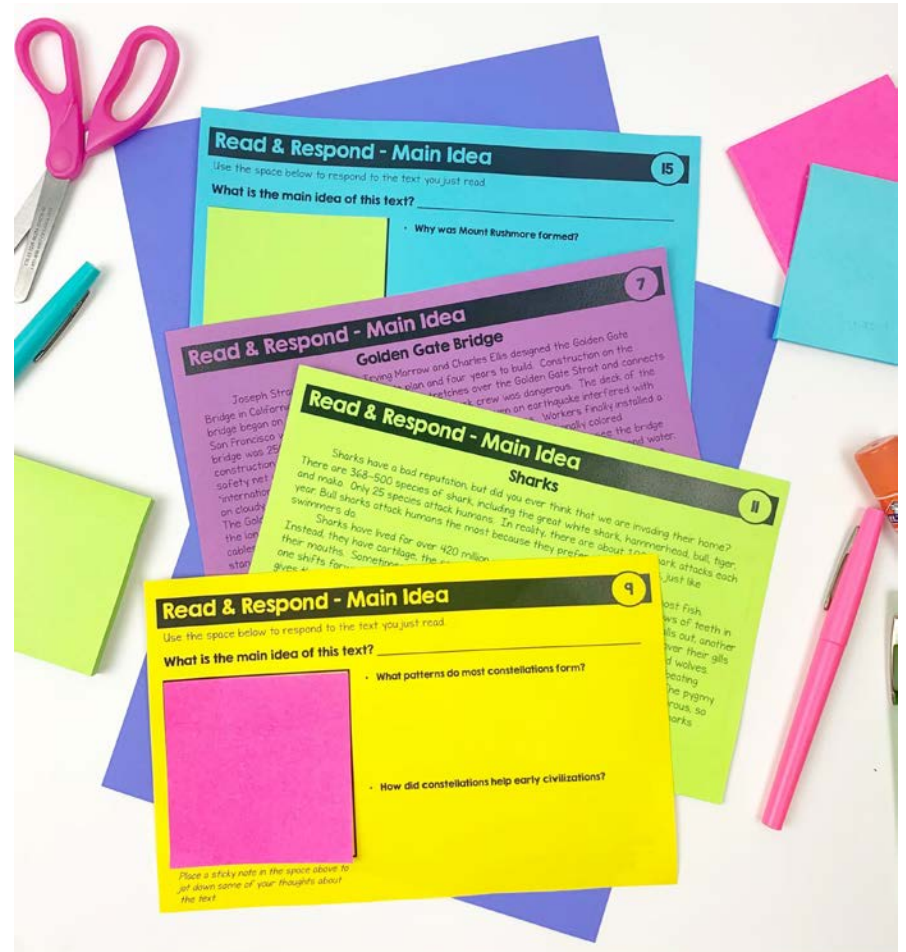
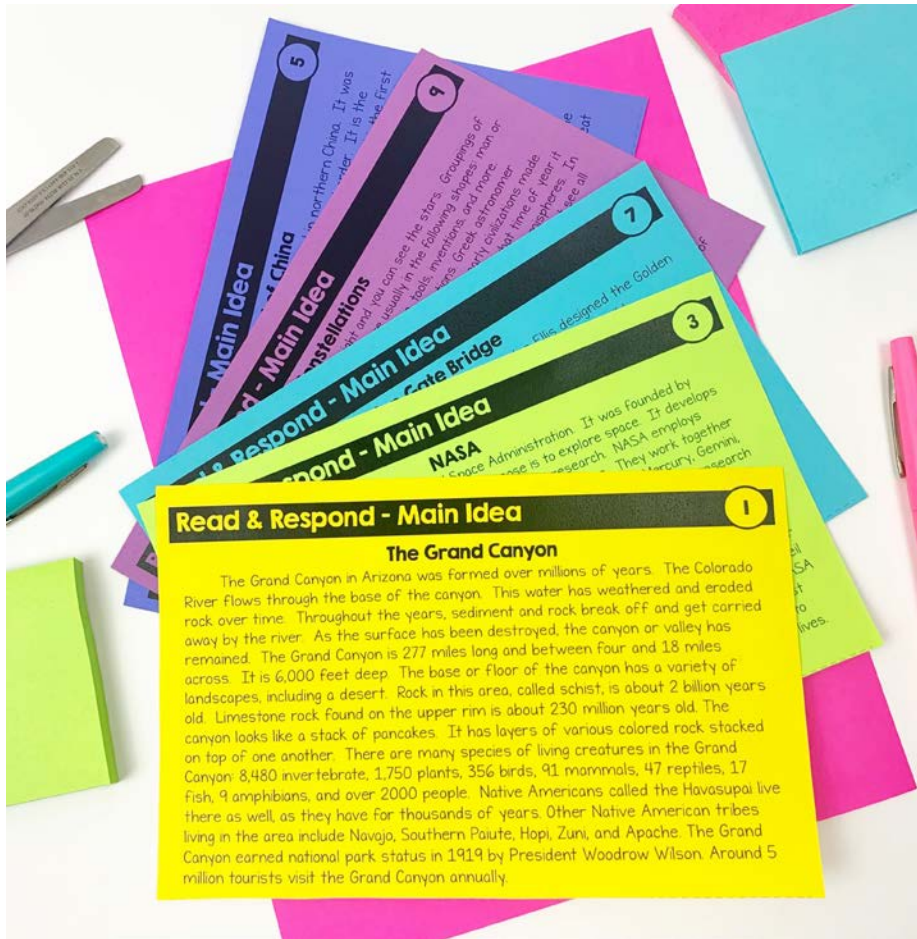


MAIN IDEA

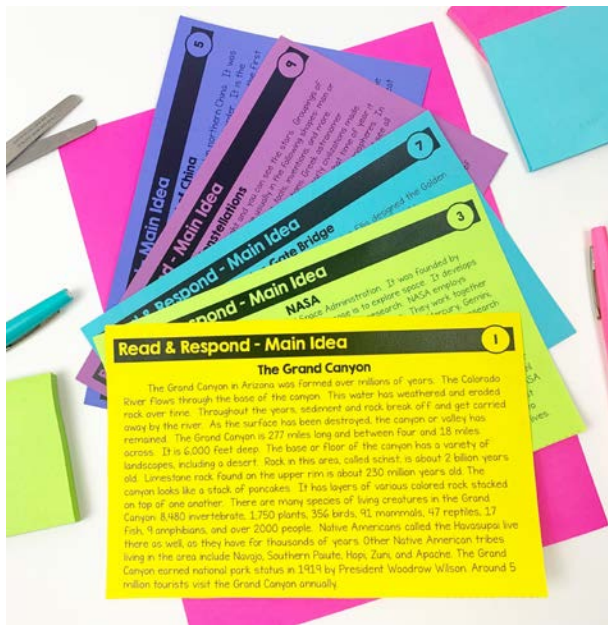
READ & RESPOND TASK CARDS



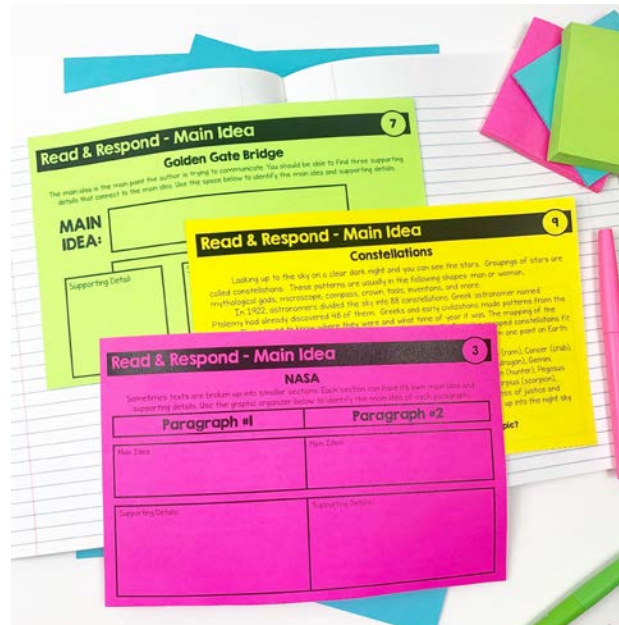
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short non-fiction passages that will help you teach, practice, and reinforce how to identify the main idea of a text.

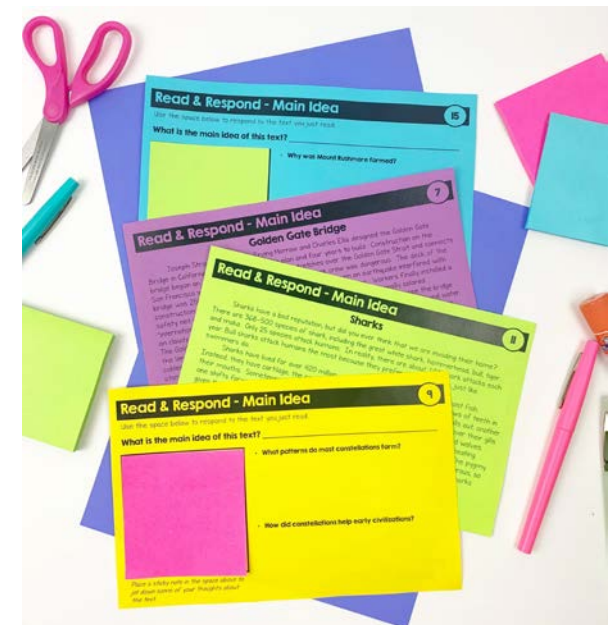
Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



Option #1 - Just the text



Option #2 - Text and Graphic Organizer Template

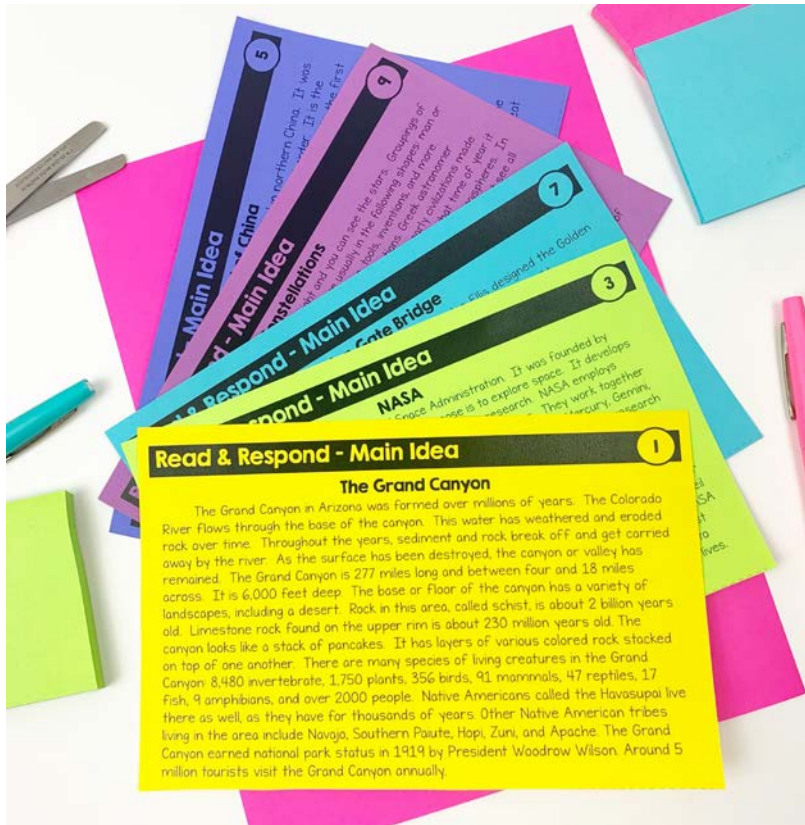


Option #3 - Text and Response Questions

Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #1 - Just the Text

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short non-fiction reading passages (takes up half a page). The passages lend themselves to identifying the main idea of the text, but you really could use them to teach any non-fiction skill.

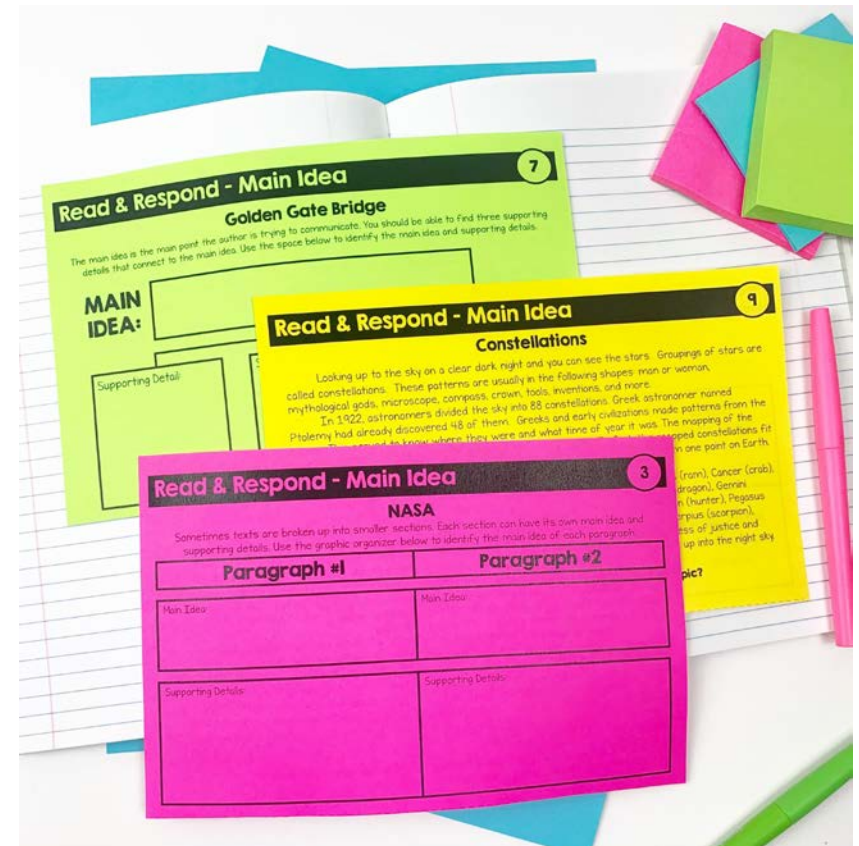


- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on a separate page.

Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

One of the printing options includes the passage and a graphic organizer template. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.

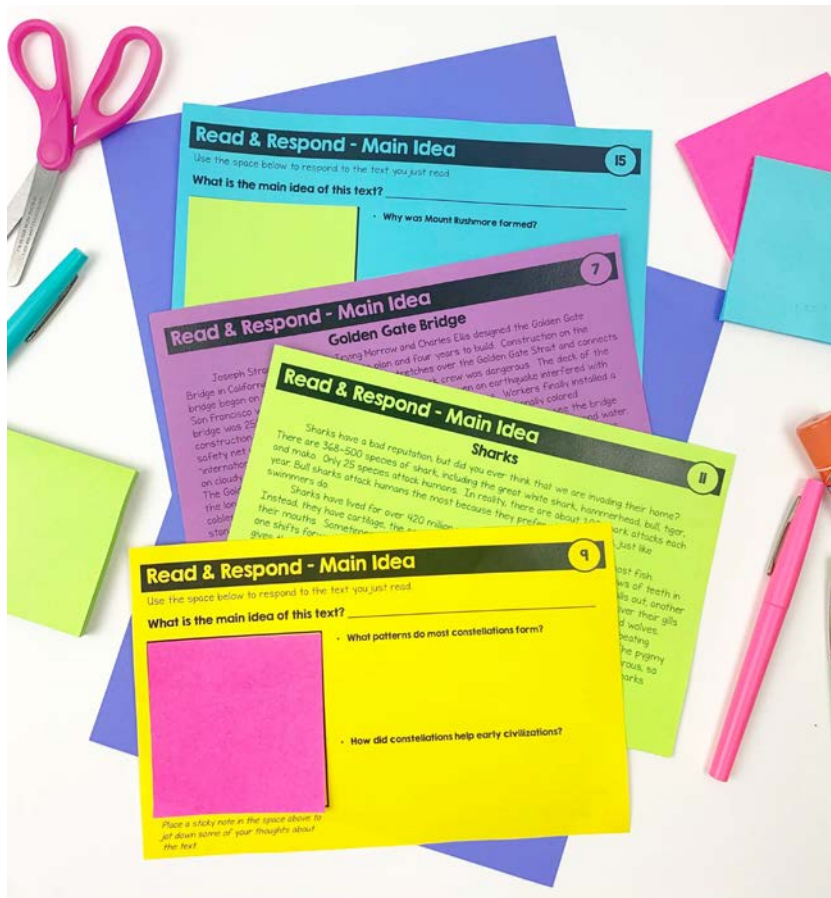
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about what the main idea of the text is.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students organize their thinking about how to identify the main idea of the text.



Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

One of the printing options includes the passage and reading response questions. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.



- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about what the main idea of the text is.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down notes to help them determine the main idea. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

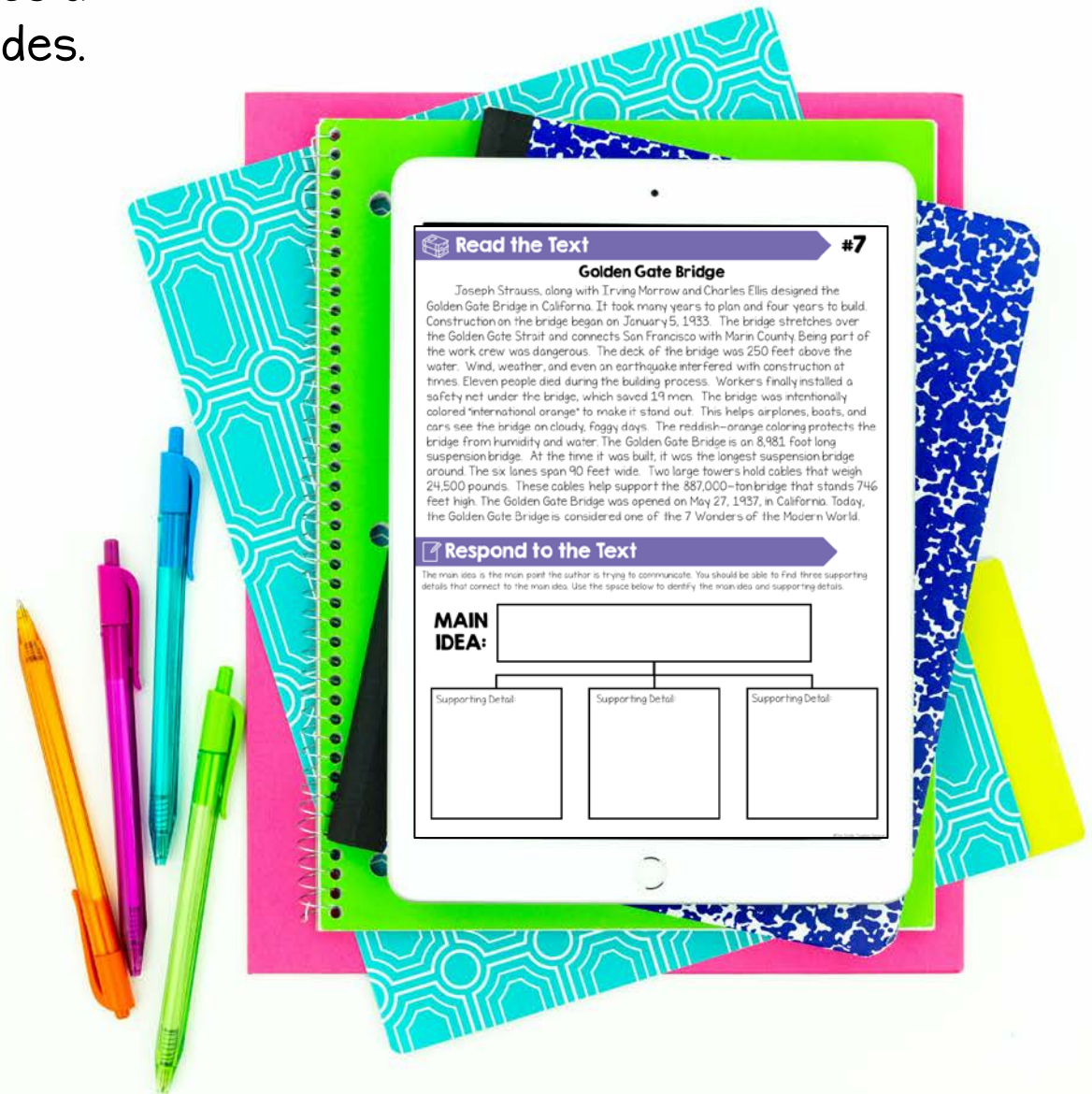
Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

There are three different digital versions included (to match the three different printing options).

- **Option 1:** The text with a generic space for student response.
- **Option 2:** The text with the graphic organizer at the bottom (this one is pictured to the right)
- **Option 3:** The text with the text-based comprehension questions on the bottom.



A LOOK INSIDE...(option 1)

Read & Respond - Main Idea 1

The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon in Arizona was formed over millions of years. The Colorado River flows through the base of the canyon. This water has weathered and eroded rock over time. Throughout the years, sediment and rock break off and get carried away by the river. As the surface has been destroyed, the canyon or valley has remained. The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long and between four and 18 miles across. It is 6,000 feet deep. The base or floor of the canyon has a variety of landscapes, including a desert. Rock in this area, called schist, is about 2 billion years old. Limestone rock found on the upper rim is about 230 million years old. The canyon looks like a stack of pancakes. It has layers of various colored rock stacked on top of one another. There are many species of living creatures in the Grand Canyon: 8,480 invertebrates, 1,750 plants, 356 birds, 91 mammals, 47 reptiles, 17 fish, 9 amphibians, and over 2,000 people. Native Americans called the Havasupai live there as well, as they have for thousands of years. Other Native American tribes living in the area include Navajo, Southern Paiute, Hopi, Zuni, and Apache. The Grand Canyon earned national park status in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson. Around 5 million tourists visit the Grand Canyon annually.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 2

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are columns of air that rotate very fast and form a funnel. They are also known as twisters, cyclones, and funnels. They have high-speed winds that cause destruction to trees, buildings, and more. These violent windstorms are gray colored with an elephant during thunderstorms with Second, cold wind up above the wind directions and upward at high speed hour funnel forms. The funnel touches the ground, it is between 65 and 250 miles 500 feet wide. However, are measured by wind speed. In the US, tornadoes are northern Texas to South

Read & Respond - Main Idea 7

Golden Gate Bridge

Joseph Strauss, along with Irving Morrow and Charles Ellis designed the Golden Gate Bridge in California. It took many years to plan and four years to build. Construction on the bridge began on January 5, 1933. The bridge stretches over the Golden Gate Strait and connects San Francisco with Marin County. Being part of the work crew was dangerous. The deck of the bridge was 250 feet above the water. Wind, weather, and even an earthquake interfered with construction at times. Eleven people died during the building process. Workers finally installed a safety net under the bridge, which saved 19 men. The bridge was intentionally colored 'international orange' to make it stand out. This helps airplanes, boats, and cars see the bridge on cloudy, foggy days. The reddish-orange coloring protects the bridge from humidity and water. The Golden Gate Bridge is an 8,981 foot long suspension bridge. At the time it was built, it was the longest suspension bridge around. The six lanes span 90 feet wide. Two large towers hold cables that weigh 24,500 pounds. These cables help support the 887,000-ton bridge that stands 746 feet high. The Golden Gate Bridge was opened on May 27, 1937, in California. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge is considered one of the 7 Wonders of the Modern World.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 8

Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, originally was a tower for the World's Fair in 1889. Gustave Eiffel was a French civil engineer in charge of building the famous landmark. He had previously worked on designing parts of the Statue of Liberty. It took two years, two months, and five days to build the Eiffel tower, also known as 'Iron Lady'. The Eiffel Tower represents the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. It also symbolizes love. It was only supposed to last for 20 years. However, its strength and purpose has helped it long surpass its original timeline. The iron lady is made of corrosion-resistant wrought iron and weighs about 10,100 tons. In addition, the tower broadcasts radio and television programs. Since it was built, it has been painted every seven years for a total of 18 times. It takes 15 months and 25 painters to paint the tower by hand using paintbrushes. The tower was designed to mimic Egyptian pyramids in shape. Standing at 1,000 feet tall, it was once the tallest structure in the world. It does, however, shrink about six inches in cold weather. It also sways about two to three inches in the wind. 20,000 lightbulbs light up the Eiffel Tower at night. Sometimes they have light shows for special occasions. The Eiffel Tower is an incredible structure and anyone who visits sure is glad it lasted much longer than its builders anticipated.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 3

NASA

NASA is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It was founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower on July 29, 1958. NASA's purpose is to explore space. It develops technology and spacecraft to send people into space to do research. NASA employs astronauts, researchers, scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. They work together to develop, plan, and carry out missions to space. It has developed the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs to learn how to fly in space. Astronauts conduct scientific research while in orbit. NASA sends satellites in space to discover more about Earth and weather. Additionally, NASA studies solar systems with space probes. These probes have studied each planet and more.

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Read & Respond - Main Idea 4

Ice Hockey

People are zipping by on ice skates. Large wooden sticks are trying to shoot a small black puck into a net. This is hockey – a fast-paced, exciting sport with a long history. Ancient civilizations developed similar ideas with balls and sticks, but no ice.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 11

Sharks

Sharks have a bad reputation, but did you ever think that we are invading their home? There are 368–500 species of shark, including the great white shark, hammerhead, bull, tiger, and mako. Only 25 species attack humans. In reality, there are about 100 shark attacks each year. Bull sharks attack humans the most because they prefer shallow waters, just like swimmers do. Sharks have lived for over 420 million years. They don't have bones, like most fish. Instead, they have cartilage, the same thing in our ears and noses. They have rows of teeth in their mouths. Sometimes, they could have 3,000 teeth at one time. If a tooth falls out, another one shifts forward. Sharks must continuously move, or they will die. Water gliding over their gills gives them oxygen. Sharks have keen senses. They have better vision than cats and wolves. They can smell a drop of blood in the water. They can feel electrical impulses like a beating heart. And, they can even hear fish thrashing about for away. Sharks vary in size. The pygmy shark is only 7 inches long, but the whale shark can be over 50 feet. They are carnivorous, so they eat meat. While orca and killer whales have been known to attack great whites, sharks really are the kings of the ocean.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 12

American Football

Football is an American sport developed in the late 1800s on college campuses. It is based on two English sports, Rugby and soccer (also called football). Walter Camp, coach and player at Yale University, established the rules. Thus, he is considered the father of football. There is some controversy over the first game ever. Some claim the first game was McGill University playing against Yale in 1869. Others suggest Rutgers and Princeton played the first game on November 6, 1869. In the beginning, football was violent, with many injuries, and even death. By 1892, competition began in Pittsburgh. It was the Allegheny Athletic Association (AAA) versus the Pittsburgh Athletic Club (PAC). Former Yale student William Pudge Heffelfinger earned \$500 to play football. He was the first person to get paid to play football.

In 1920, the American Professional Football Association was formed. By 1924, it was renamed the National Football League (NFL). The NFL has 2 divisions. The National and American divisions each have 16 teams. The NFL created an annual event called the Super Bowl. Football is one of the most-watched professional sports in the US. The Super Bowl is one of the most popular televised events of the year. Millions tune in to see the games, the advertisements, and the halftime show. It was unlikely that Walter Camp knew just how big the sport would become when he was dreaming up the rules to the game.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 5

Great Wall of China

The 2,300-year-old Great Wall of China is located in northern China. It was built to protect China from enemy attacks and to protect the border. It is the longest man-made structure ever built standing at 13,170 miles. Qin Shi, the first Emperor of China, ordered the first wall segment. The first sections of wall were built with earth, stones, and wood. Bricks, tiles, and stones were added later on. They even used a paste made from sticky rice to glue the bricks together! The wall was rebuilt and lengthened over time by the Ming Dynasty. Parts of the wall are 33 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The wall has over 7,000 watchtowers in addition to blockhouses for soldiers. There are even beacon towers to send signals. They estimate that 800,000 to one million people built the wall. Many died during the construction, some of which are buried under parts of the wall.

The wall sits atop a mountain. When enemies would arrive, they would be exhausted. Protectors of the wall would fire arrows and roll huge stones off the wall to prevent an attack. They also resorted to charging on horseback. The Great Wall of China is one of the 7 Wonders of the World.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 6

Hurricanes

A hurricane is a violent storm on earth with powerful winds and heavy rain. Depending on where the storms are located, hurricanes can also be called cyclones, typhoons, and tropical storms. If the storm forms in the Atlantic or Northeast Pacific,

Read & Respond - Main Idea 13

Blizzards

Blizzards are extremely dangerous snowstorms. In order for a storm to be categorized as a blizzard, it must have sustained winds of 35 mph, and visibility must be less than a quarter-mile for three or more hours, as well. Due to the high winds, snow blows around, and can often times make it impossible for people to see objects and landmarks that are right in front of them. When this happens, the blizzard is described as having whiteout conditions. But there can even be a blizzard without snowfall. Ground blizzards happen when the already fallen snow gets blown around. Large low-pressure storms clash with high pressure to cause a blizzard. The moisture from oceans and lakes rises and creates clouds. The clouds grow as warm and cold air mix. When freezing temperatures join the mix, a blizzard can form. The aftermath of a blizzard can be challenging. Wind, ice, and heavy snow can create a lot of damage. There can be power outages, property damage, falling trees, and car accidents. Transportation is difficult, so schools and businesses will often shut down in the middle of a snowstorm. Trees, plants, and crops can also die. After the snow melts, flooding can happen. People and animals can get seriously hurt or even die from exposure during a blizzard.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 14

Whales

Whales are gentle giants. Even though they live in the ocean, whales are not considered to be fish. They are actually warm-blooded mammals. They breathe air and grow inside their moms until they are born, then they are nursed. Whales approach the surface of the water to breathe through a blowhole. Some can remain underwater for 35 minutes and others for 90 minutes. Like dolphins, whales use half their brain while resting to know when to resurface for air. Whales are classified by how they feed. The two main groups are baleen whales and toothed whales. Baleen whales have comb-shaped fibers called baleen that filters the food and water. Baleen whales open their mouths wide. The baleen filters out the water leaving krill (similar to shrimp) and plankton. Toothed whales feed on fish like tuna, cod, salmon, and seals. Baleen whales have two blowholes while toothed whales have only one. 79 to 84 whale species include blue whales, humpback, and minke. Whales communicate by breaching (when most of their body leaves the water and splashes back down), tail slapping, and charging. They also make sounds and sing to each other. Blue whales (baleen whales) are the largest whale species. In fact, one measured 110 feet long – larger than a dinosaur! Between the 17th and 20th centuries, whales were hunted for oil, blubber, food, and other resources.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

Read & Respond - Main Idea 1

The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon in Arizona was formed over millions of years. The Colorado River flows through the base of the canyon. This water has weathered and eroded rock over time. Throughout the years, sediment and rock break off and get carried away by the river. As the surface has been destroyed, the canyon or valley has remained. The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long and between four and 18 miles across. It is 6,000 feet deep. The base or floor of the canyon has a variety of landscapes, including a desert. Rock in this area, called schist, is about 2 billion years old. Limestone rock found on the upper rim is about 230 million years old. The canyon looks like a stack of pancakes. It has layers of various colored rock stacked on top of one another. There are many species of living creatures in the Grand Canyon: 8,480 invertebrates, 1,750 plants, 356 birds, 91 mammals, 47 reptiles, 17 fish, 9 amphibians, and over 2,000 people. Native Americans called the Havasupai live there as well, as they have for thousands of years. Other Native American tribes living in the area include Navajo, Southern Paiute, Hopi, Zuni, and Apache. The Grand Canyon earned national park status in 1909 by President Woodrow Wilson. Around 5 million tourists visit the Grand Canyon annually.

THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 2

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are columns of air that rotate very fast and form a funnel. They are also known as twisters, cyclones, and funnels. They have high-speed winds that cause destruction to trees, buildings, and more. These violent windstorms are gray colored with an elephant-like trunk that hits the ground. Tornadoes usually form during thunderstorms with specific conditions. First, there is a wind on a lower level. As the warmer air surges upward, swirling air. A funnel forms. The funnel touches the ground, and sizes can range from a few inches to over 1,000 feet wide. Tornadoes can cause a lot of damage using the Enhanced Fujita Tornado Scale. This path runs through the Rocky Mountains.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 1

The Grand Canyon

The main idea is the main point the author is trying to communicate. You should be able to find three supporting details that connect to the main idea. Use the space below to identify the main idea and supporting details.

MAIN IDEA:

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 2

Tornadoes

Sometimes you can figure out the main idea by paying attention to some of the most important details in the text. Use the space below to jot down the topic and 3 key details. Use that information to help you determine the main idea of the text.

Key Detail

Topic of Text

Key Detail

Key Detail

MAIN IDEA:

Read & Respond - Main Idea 3

NASA

NASA is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It was founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower on July 29, 1958. NASA's purpose is to explore space. It develops technology and spacecraft to send people into space to do research. NASA employs astronauts, researchers, scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. They work together to develop, plan, and carry out missions to space. It has developed the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs to learn how to fly in space. Astronauts conduct scientific research while in orbit. NASA sends satellites in space to discover more about Earth and weather. Additionally, NASA studies solar systems with space probes. These probes have studied each planet and more.

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THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 4

Ice Hockey

People are zipping by on ice skates. Large wooden sticks are trying to shoot a small black puck into a net. This is hockey – a fast-paced, exciting sport with a long history. Ancient civilizations developed similar ideas with balls and sticks, but no ice. Curved sticks are found in Egyptian carvings. Ancient Greeks played keritzon with horn-like sticks. Some people from

Read & Respond - Main Idea 3

NASA

Sometimes texts are broken up into smaller sections. Each section can have its own main idea and supporting details. Use the graphic organizer below to identify the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph #1	Paragraph #2
Main Idea	Main Idea
Supporting Details	Supporting Details

Read & Respond - Main Idea 4

Ice Hockey

You can use the topic sentence to help you determine the main idea. The topic sentence is one sentence the author will use to communicate what the text is mostly about. See if you can find the topic sentence in this text. Then, use your own words to write the main idea.

Topic Sentence
(use the author's words)

Main Idea
(use your own words)

Read & Respond - Main Idea 5

Great Wall of China

The 2,300-year-old Great Wall of China is located in northern China. It was built to protect China from enemy attacks and to protect the border. It is the longest man-made structure ever built standing at 13,170 miles. Qin Shi, the first Emperor of China, ordered the first wall segment. The first sections of wall were built with earth, stones, and wood. Bricks, tiles, and stones were added later on. They even used a paste made from sticky rice to glue the bricks together! The wall was rebuilt and lengthened over time by the Ming Dynasty. Parts of the wall are 33 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The wall has over 7,000 watchtowers in addition to blockhouses for soldiers. There are even beacon towers to send signals. They estimate that 800,000 to one million people built the wall. Many died during the construction, some of which are buried under parts of the wall.

The wall sits atop a mountain. When enemies would arrive, they would be exhausted. Protectors of the wall would fire arrows and roll huge stones off the wall to prevent an attack. They also resorted to charging on horseback. The Great Wall of China is one of the 7 Wonders of the World.

THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 6

Hurricanes

A hurricane is a violent storm on earth with powerful winds and heavy rain. Depending on where the storms are located, hurricanes can also be called cyclones, typhoons, and tropical storms. If the storm forms in the Atlantic or Northeast Pacific, they are called hurricanes. If the storm is situated in the Northwest Pacific near Japan, they are called typhoons, and the storms are

Read & Respond - Main Idea 5

Great Wall of China

The topic of the text can usually be stated in just a few words. The topic is the BIG idea of the text. The main idea is usually a complete sentence and communicates what the author wants you to know about the big idea.

What is the Topic?

What is the Main Idea?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 6

Hurricanes

Sometimes texts are broken up into smaller sections. Each section can have its own main idea and supporting details. Use the graphic organizer below to identify the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph #1	Paragraph #2
Main Idea	Main Idea
Supporting Details	Supporting Details

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

Read & Respond - Main Idea 1

The Grand Canyon

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THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 2

Tornadoes

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THINK:

- What is the main point of the text?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 3

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THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 4

Ice Hockey

People are zipping by on ice skates. Large wooden sticks are trying to shoot a small black puck into a net. This is hockey – a fast-paced, exciting sport with a long history. Ancient civilizations developed similar ideas with balls and sticks, but no ice. Curved sticks are found in Egyptian carvings. Ancient Greeks played keritzon with horn-like sticks. Some people from

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THINK:

- What is the main point the author wants you to know about this topic?
- What details support your thinking?

Read & Respond - Main Idea 6

Hurricanes

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Read & Respond - Main Idea 1

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• Explain how the Grand Canyon was formed?

• Why do you think there are so many living creatures that call the Grand Canyon home?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 2

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• How does a tornado form?

• Why are tornadoes so destructive?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 3

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• List some of the firsts that NASA has accomplished.

• What are some of the ways that NASA explores space?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 4

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• Explain the origin of ice hockey.

• What detail do you think is most significant to the text?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 5

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• What was the purpose of building the Great Wall of China?

• What are some of the significant features of the Great Wall of China?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

Read & Respond - Main Idea 6

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What is the main idea of this text?

• What are some other terms for hurricanes?

• What is one detail you learned about hurricanes?

Place a sticky note in the space above to jot down some of your thoughts about the text.

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