

# MAIN IDEA

PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS, & ACTIVITIES

## MAIN IDEA MATCHING: PANDAS



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Directions: Supporting details explain more about the main idea. Without reading a passage, match each supporting detail to its main idea by writing the letter of the main idea in the box.

### MAIN IDEAS

- A. Panda babies are helpless creatures.
- B. A panda's diet consists mainly of bamboo.
- C. Adult pandas are interesting animals.
- D. Pandas are an endangered species.

MAIN IDEA      SUPPORTING DETAIL

## BALD EAGLES

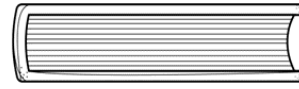
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



32, the bald eagle is covered in feathers from an old

the world. They have a general size of 28 - 38 inches. They use their talons (up to 10,000 pounds) to catch their prey by attacking their prey with their

main idea and key detail



**SUPPORTING DETAIL**  
Animals that only eat plants are called herbivores.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL**  
Omnivores are animals that eat both plants and meat.

**MAIN IDEA SORT**

**MAIN IDEA:**  
Animals may be grouped according to the food they consume.

## Hammerhead Sharks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Hammerhead sharks are fascinating creatures. Most of these sharks live in warm waters near the coastlines or far offshore, all around the world. Most hammerheads migrate to cooler water in the summer months. Although they travel in large groups with as many as 100 sharks during the day, they like to hunt alone at night.

There are nine different species of hammerheads, but only three are dangerous to humans; the great hammerhead, the smooth hammerhead, and the scalloped shark. Hammerhead sharks come in a variety of sizes and weights, with the great hammerhead being the largest of them all. It can grow up to 20 feet in length and weigh up to 1,000 pounds. However, most hammerhead species are fairly small and considered harmless to humans.

Hammerhead sharks are gray-brown to olive-green on top. Underneath, they are off-white, which allows them to blend in well in the water. One of its most recognized features is the shape of its head. It looks somewhat like a hammer, with its eyes set far apart at each end of its head. On the tops of their bodies,

DETAIL:

KEY DETAIL:

### MAIN IDEA 1

The potato chip was an invention that accidentally happened. George Crum was a chef trying to please a customer who kept sending his French fries back to the kitchen. The customer kept complaining that he wanted the fries crispier and thinner. So Crum kept slicing potatoes and cooking them until they became the crispy potato chips we know today.

### MAIN IDEA 2

A rhinoceros is a large animal that lives in Southeast Asia and in Africa. Rhinos have either one or two horns on their snouts. These horns are made of keratin, which is what your fingernails and hair are made of. One interesting fact about rhinos is that they have three toes on their feet. Rhinos have keen senses of hearing.



4TH - 5TH GRADES  
THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

# 9 MAIN IDEA PASSAGES TO SCAFFOLD LEARNING

3 Color-Coding

3 Open-Ended

3 Multiple Choice

## DISNEYLAND'S FIRST DAY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the paragraph and identify the main idea and three supporting details, and then summarize.

Disneyland, in Anaheim, California, attracts about 15 million visitors each year. The park was not so happy on the first day it opened, still known as "Black Sunday," as it was a disaster in Disneyland's history. A number of unexpected things happened on such an unsuccessful first showing. For example, the police department closed the park for a few hours because of a loose temperature gauge that fell down with a crowd of people. The softening of the ground softened the chocolate. The rest of the day was a disaster, though Disneyland eventually earned a successful first showing.

## CHOCOLATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chocolate's history is very interesting. Chocolate was discovered around 600 A.D. in Mexico by the Mayan people. The Mayans, as well as the Aztecs, used cacao beans (seeds inside chocolate pods) as a form of money. However, their favorite thing to make with chocolate was a special drink similar to hot chocolate. Legend says that the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, drank 50 cups or more each day and would serve it to his guests in golden goblets. Although people in North and South America were familiar with chocolate, Europeans were unaware of this treat. Finally, early explorers brought chocolate back to Europe. In more recent history, chocolate has been popular in times of peace and in times of war. In fact, during World War II, American soldiers received chocolate candy bars from the United States government.

Directions: Underline the main idea and three supporting details in the passage using the colors shown below.

MAIN IDEA:



RED

SUPPORTING DETAILS 1:



PURPLE

SUPPORTING DETAILS 2:



GREEN

SUPPORTING DETAILS 3:



BLUE

© The Teacher Next Door

## THE PYRAMIDS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In ancient Egypt, pyramids were built as royal tombs, where ancient Egyptians buried their kings, called Pharaohs, and their royal families. The first pyramid was built about 5,000 years ago and is called the Djoser Pyramid. Today, about 130 pyramids have been discovered. Nearly all Egyptian Pyramids are located on the west bank of the Nile.



Archaeologists have tried to figure out how the pyramids were built without modern machines. They believe that thousands of workers cut large blocks of limestone and then slowly moved the blocks up the pyramid on ramps. As a result, the pyramid was built slowly, one block at a time. For example, scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build the Great Pyramid of Giza. Pharaohs realized how long pyramids took to build and usually started the construction of their pyramids as soon as they became rulers.

Pyramids were built with valuable materials. Some pyramids had treasures inside. For example, the Great Pyramid of Giza had a chamber even inside.

The base of the pyramids was made of limestone. These were the same stones used to build the Great Pyramids. When the pyramids were built, the guards would stand in front of the entrance.

Pyramids were built with valuable materials. Some pyramids had treasures inside. For example, the Great Pyramid of Giza had a chamber even inside.

The pyramids were built with valuable materials. Some pyramids had treasures inside. For example, the Great Pyramid of Giza had a chamber even inside.

The pyramids were built with valuable materials. Some pyramids had treasures inside. For example, the Great Pyramid of Giza had a chamber even inside.

© The Teacher Next Door

## LUNAR NEW YEAR



Before the Lunar New Year's Day, many Asian families prepare their homes. They start with a top-to-bottom cleaning. This cleaning symbolizes the idea of getting rid of the old and welcoming the new. Besides cleaning, homes are decorated in a variety of ways, depending on where people live and how wealthy their households may be. Red is considered a lucky color and is the most popular color. It can be seen everywhere. Red door couplets (poems) on red paper with black calligraphy are posted on door frames. Paper cutouts, mystic knots, and lanterns are also popular, as well as goldfish (this word sounds like "surplus") and pineapple (this

# 32 TASK CARDS FOR FOCUSED PRACTICE

## MAIN IDEA

1

The potato chip was an invention that accidentally happened. George Crum was a chef trying to please a customer who kept sending his French fries back to the kitchen. The customer kept complaining that he wanted the fries crispier and thinner. So Crum kept slicing potatoes and cooking them until they became the crispy potato chips we know today.

© The Teacher Next Door

## MAIN IDEA

2

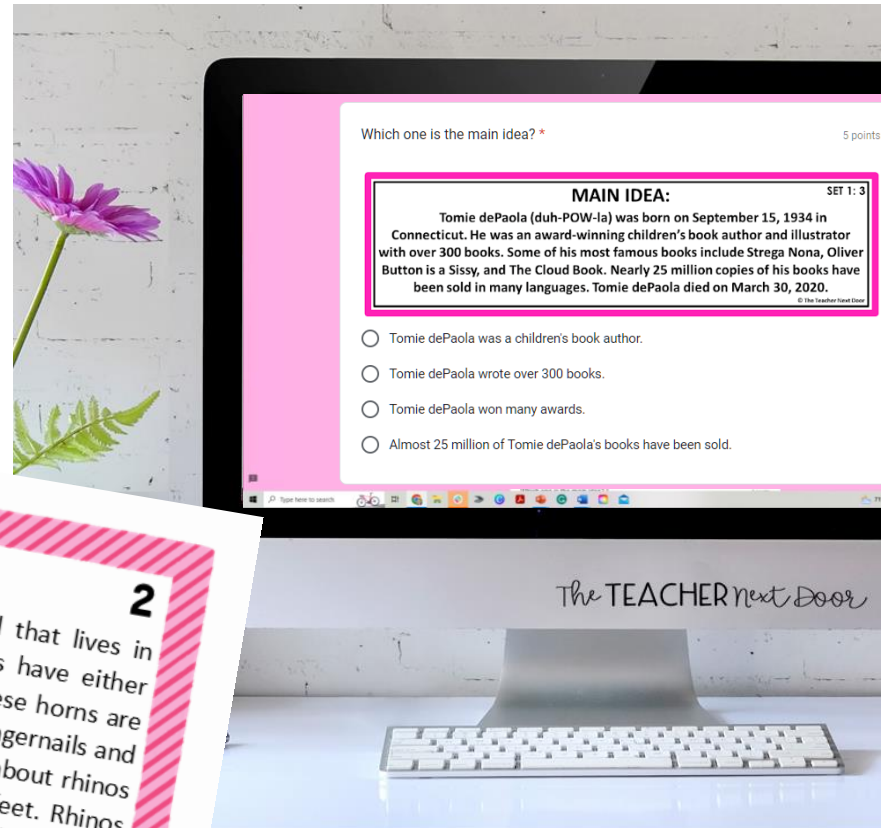
A rhinoceros is a large animal that lives in Southeast Asia and in Africa. Rhinos have either one or two horns on their snouts. These horns are made of keratin, which is what your fingernails and hair are made of. One interesting fact about rhinos is that they have three toes on their feet. Rhinos have keen senses of hearing and smell but very poor eyesight. They have been known to charge trees, mistaking them for other animals. Rhinos are an endangered species.

© The Teacher Next Door

## MAIN IDEA

Tomie dePaola (duh-POW-la) was born on September 15, 1934 in Connecticut. He was an award-winning children's book author and illustrator with over 300 books. Some of his most famous books include *Strega Nona*, *Oliver Button is a Sissy*, and *The Cloud Book*. Nearly 25 million copies of his books have been sold in many languages. Tomie dePaola died on March 30, 2020.

© The Teacher Next Door



## WORKS WELL FOR:

- Small groups/partners
- Whole Class Games
- Scoot/Scavenger Hunts

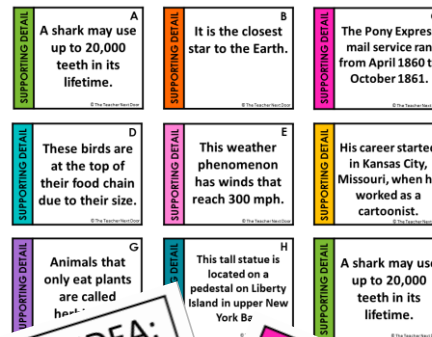
The TEACHER next Door

# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES TO MAKE LEARNING FUN

## "What's in the Bag?" Activity



## Sorting Game



**MAIN IDEA:**  
Bald eagles are skilled predators.

**MAIN IDEA:**  
Sharks are interesting animals.

## Ideal for:

- Whole group practice
- Small groups/partners
- Centers

# ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR EXTRA PRACTICE

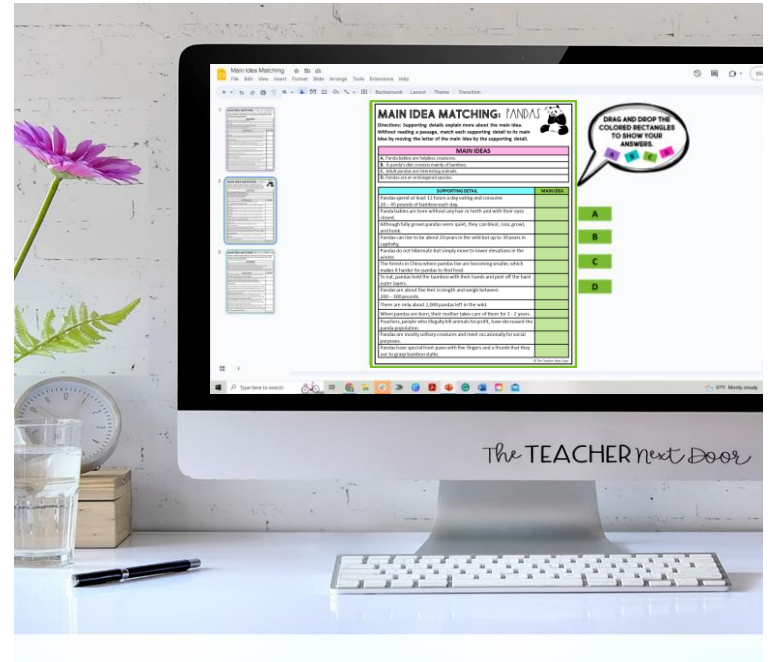
## 3 Matching Pages:



Match supporting details  
main ideas

## 10 Anchor Charts

## 10 Graphic Organizers

To use with any nonfiction text



**THE MAIN IDEA**   
and **KEY DETAILS** 

THE MAIN IDEA IS A SENTENCE THAT TELLS WHAT THE TEXT IS MOSTLY ABOUT.

KEY DETAILS GIVE THE READER INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAIN IDEA.

KEY DETAILS SUPPORT THE MAIN IDEA:



- Reasons
- Descriptions
- Facts
- Explanations
- Examples
- Smaller ideas

**EXAMPLE:**  
MAIN IDEA:  
Some animals use camouflage to help them survive.

KEY DETAILS: (Each detail talks about animals camouflaging)

- A leopard can hide easily in the tall, brown grass.
- The leafy seadragon blends in with kelp in the ocean.
- The white fur of a mountain hare helps it hide in the snow.

© The Teacher Next Door

**THE MAIN IDEA**   
and **KEY DETAILS** 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


TOPIC

MAIN IDEA

KEY DETAIL    KEY DETAIL    KEY DETAIL

SUMMARY

© The Teacher Next Door

writing a  **NONFICTION SUMMARY**

WRITING A SUMMARY IS A SHORT WAY TO TELL ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE TEXT!

S= \_\_\_\_\_

A= \_\_\_\_\_

M= \_\_\_\_\_

I= \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* END WITH A \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION VERBS:

© The Teacher Next Door

# TEACHERS ARE SAYING THIS:

The content is interesting and engaging for the kids, the skills align with the standards dead-on, and the digital component with google classroom saves the day every day.  
(Gabriela V.)

This resource provides for easy differentiation and multiple opportunities to practice main idea, supporting details, and summary.  
(Cassandra K.)

This packet is well worth the price! It has a lot of hands-on activities for main idea.  
(Susan S.)

Students love the topics for the sample stories. I love that it's easy to check student understanding through Google Forms!  
(Lindsey H.)



SAVE more and get MORE when you purchase the

# Reading Bundle

CLICK [HERE](#) to take a look!

## ULTIMATE READING SKILLS COMPANION

**MAIN IDEA**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

4th/5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

3rd - 5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**ELEMENTS OF POETRY, DRAMA, AND PROSE**  
TEACHING PAGES, PASSAGES & FLIPBOOK, & GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

3rd - 5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**THEME**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

4th/5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**TEXT EVIDENCE USING INFORMATIONAL TEXT**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, AND GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

4th - 5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**INFORMATIONAL TEXT STRUCTURES**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

4th/5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**INFERENCES USING LITERATURE**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

3rd - 5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**INFERENCES USING INFORMATIONAL TEXT**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

4th - 5th Grades  
The TEACHER next Door

**CHARACTERS, SETTINGS, AND EVENTS**  
PASSAGES, TASK CARDS, GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS & ACTIVITIES

The TEACHER next Door

**CAUSE AND EFFECT USING INFORMATIONAL TEXT**  
Passages, Task Cards, Posters, and Graphic Organizers

The TEACHER next Door

10 ESSENTIAL SKILLS GRADES 4 & 5

More Reading Resources:

**DIGITAL READING BUNDLE: 20 READING UNITS: FICTION AND NONFICTION**

**DIGITAL READING BUNDLE for GOOGLE SLIDES**  
INTERACTIVE UNITS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK OR READING CENTERS

4th Grade  
The TEACHER next Door

CLICK [HERE](#) to take a look!

**DIGITAL READING BUNDLE: 20 READING UNITS: FICTION AND NONFICTION**

**DIGITAL READING BUNDLE for GOOGLE SLIDES™**  
INTERACTIVE UNITS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK OR READING CENTERS

5th Grade  
The TEACHER next Door

CLICK [HERE](#) to take a look!

The TEACHER next Door

**At *The Teacher Next Door*, we know that you strive to be an effective reading teacher while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. In order to do that, you need resources that are impactful, yet simple. The problem is that most reading resources and curriculums out there are far from simple. The pages upon pages of daily lesson plans are just plain overwhelming. We believe teachers should be living their lives outside the classroom, and not spending hours lesson planning and searching for resources.**

**Now, more than ever, teachers need space to be themselves, which is why we create and support teachers with timesaving tips and standards-aligned resources.**

**We can't wait to help you get started.**

**A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER: Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers by providing ready-to-use resources that target standards and help students grow in amazing ways.**

**REACH OUT AT: [contact@the-teacher-next-door.com](mailto:contact@the-teacher-next-door.com)**



*The TEACHER Next Door*