

Name _____

Date _____



Taking Notes With Informational Texts: Central Idea and Key Details



The **central idea** (sometimes called the main idea) of an informational text is what the text is all about. We state the central idea in a broad, one-sentence statement.

You can use clues like text features, text structure, and thesis statements to determine the central idea of a text. The key details in a passage will directly support the central idea.

Use the graphic organizer below to record key details from the text to help you determine the central idea.

Text Features
<i>Copy any titles, headings, sub-headings, or bolded words here.</i>

Thesis Statement
<i>A thesis statement summarizes the central idea of a text. If the text has a thesis statement, copy it here.</i>

Text Structure	Author's Purpose
<i>Chronological, Compare & Contrast, Cause & Effect, etc.</i>	<i>To Inform, To Persuade, To Entertain</i>

List the three most important ideas from the text:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

Now, use your notes above to convey the big idea of the text in your own words in a single, concise sentence.

Central Idea