

SAMPLE PAGES FOR

SOUTH CAROLINA

3RD GRADE READING

THIRD EDITION

CHALLENGE THE

PALMETTO **A**CHIEVEMENT **C**HALLENGE **T**EST

BY

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CPC

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MAIN IDEAS / SUMMARIZING

MAIN IDEAS

Stories of any type are usually written in paragraphs. A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic. That topic is the **main idea** of that paragraph. One sentence in the paragraph may state that topic or main idea. The main idea is what the paragraph is mostly about.

EXAMPLES

Fido was a very unhappy puppy. He never played with his toys. His master never took him out for walks or for rides in the car.

What is the main idea of this paragraph? [2] _____

Your answer would be “Fido was a very unhappy puppy.” This sentence states what the paragraph is mostly about.

On Saturday, Sarah Beth painted the kitchen and living room. On Sunday, she replaced the tiles in the bathroom. She plans to put new carpeting in her bedroom this summer. Sarah Beth is making changes in her apartment.

What is the main idea of this paragraph? [2] _____

Your answer would be “Sarah Beth is making changes in her apartment.” This sentence states what this paragraph is mostly about.

PRACTICE

Write the main idea of each paragraph.

1. Some people think they don't move at all while they sleep. They are sure that they go to bed and never change position. Not true. Studies show that everybody makes at least 8 to 12 big body moves every night. [2]

2. Hurricanes are very strong storms with winds of 74 miles per hour or higher. The storm has a center, or eye, that is circled by powerful winds and storms. The National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, keeps a watch on the storm movement, location, and wind speed. [2]

3. The Cayman Islands are located 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Jamaica in the Caribbean Sea. The three islands that make up the Cayman Islands are named Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac. The capital and largest city, Georgetown, is on Grand Cayman, the largest island. [2]

4. A cavy is the common name for several South American rodents (gnawing animals). Guinea pigs are cavies. Most cavies have fat bodies, short legs, and stiff, bristly hair. All cavies eat plants or seeds. [2]

5. There are many kinds of chocolate: sweet, milk, semi-sweet, unsweetened, and cocoa powder. All chocolate is made from roasted and ground cocoa beans. Sweet, semi-sweet, and milk chocolate are all types that can be eaten straight from the package or can be used in cooking. [2]

6. In 1831, a special lighthouse was built on St. George Island in Florida's Apalachicola Bay. For many years, this lighthouse guided ships into and out of this area for the major cotton growers of Alabama and Georgia. [2]

7. There are many mysteries hidden under the city of Atlanta, Georgia. On June 5, after the old Rick's Department Store was torn down, 7,645 old pieces of history were found. Some items dated back to the beginning of Atlanta. Among these items were an ink well, tobacco pipe, and a teapot. [2]

8. Frederick Douglas, taken from his mother in 1824, worked on a plantation as a slave. His mother walked 24 miles to see him whenever she could. For many years, he had nothing to wear but an old cotton shirt and nothing to eat but crumbs. [2]

9. South Carolina offers tourists and residents a great variety of year-round recreational activities. The mountain regions offer good camping and hiking. Water sports are the major attractions at the resorts on the state's coast. Thousands of tourists also visit the state's historical areas. [2]

10. Pets tell us if they are happy or mad. Dogs growl loudly, cats bend their backs, and crickets make a chirping sound. Birds make a "caw" sound when danger is near, and rabbits thump to warn others of danger. [2]

SUMMARIZING

Another important strategy is summarizing. To summarize, you must write what the passage is about in a few sentences.

EXAMPLE

Kwanzaa is a special week for African-Americans. This holiday began in Los Angeles in 1966. Maulana Karenga, the father of Kwanzaa, believes in the family. Kwanzaa keeps African-Americans remembering their African history.

Summarize this paragraph. [2]

One summary for this paragraph would be:

Kwanzaa is a special week for African-Americans started by Maulana Karenga to help African-Americans remember their African history.

PRACTICE

Summarize each paragraph below.

1. In 1876, in Philadelphia, a new vine from Japan was shown. Kudzu, a vine with green leaves and purple flowers, was the answer to erosion problems for farmers in the 1930's. [2]

2. Glaciers are huge pieces of ice that slowly flow over the land. Low temperatures year round let snow build up and become very thick. The thickness of the ice may be between 300 and 10,000 feet. [2]

3. Many people believe that Africa is full of jungles, wild beasts, and wild, strange people. Movies and books have made Americans believe that Africans are hunting animals with spears and wearing little clothing. However, most wild animals are in reserves, and most Africans dress like Americans. [2]

4. Australia's toad population is in the millions and growing. Toads from Hawaii were brought to Australia in 1935 to eat beetles that were harming the sugar crop. The toad was not interested in eating the beetles, but made itself a home. [2]

5. The country of Holland lies below sea level. Dikes, great walls, hold the North Sea back and keep it from flooding the countryside. The people of Holland have worked for years to keep the walls strong. Strong walls keep the country safe and dry. Even the children of Holland know that a small hole in the dike can be a danger. [2]

6. Mark Twain was the pen name of Samuel Clemens. Clemens was born in 1835 in Florida, Missouri. When he was four, his parents moved to the town of Hannibal, Missouri, where he wrote his novels *Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). These two novels are some of his best known works and are still enjoyed by children and adults around the world. [2]

7. After the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson's plan for restoring the Union, Reconstruction, was to reestablish state governments. Afterwards, the states' delegates to Congress would be readmitted. In South Carolina, a government dominated by ex-Confederates was set up. This government repealed the 1861 Ordinance of Secession and recognized the abolition of slavery. [2]

Chapter 2

8. Antarctica has the coldest temperature (−126.9 degrees Fahrenheit) ever recorded. It contains enough ice to cover the United States with a layer two miles thick. In this, the coldest place on earth, is Mt. Erebus, a volcano with a steaming 1,000 degree lake of lava in the middle. [2]
-
-

9. Blackbeard was the most feared pirate along the coast of North Carolina in the 1700's. He was born in England with the name Edward Teach, but because of his hair, the color of midnight, he was nicknamed Blackbeard. To make himself seem more horrible, he would light slow burning fuses tied to his beard and look like he was about to blow up. [2]
-
-

10. Terry is in third grade and never eats at McDonalds or Kentucky Fried Chicken. Terry is a vegetarian and has not eaten meat since he was six years old. He refuses to eat meat because he likes animals. [2]
-
-

REVIEW

Read each passage and answer the “main idea” and “summarizing” questions.

USING ATLASES AND ALMANACS

Toshiro was very interested in the way Japan had been formed from volcanoes deep in the sea. Once he had learned all he could about Japanese volcanoes from the encyclopedia, his teacher, Mrs. Stewart, told him to check an atlas and an almanac.

An atlas has many maps. The maps and other charts in the atlas show the size, climate, population, and natural features of every area in the world. In addition, an atlas gives information on agriculture, industry, and natural resources. It also includes the capitals, languages, religions, and money used in every country listed.

Almanacs are printed every year. They give the latest information on many areas of interest. Among these are business, sports, and government. The people who have made news in these areas during the past year are also included. Information appears on the latest events from every state in the country and from every country in the world.

A certain map in Toshiro’s atlas showed valleys, plains, and mountains. From it, Toshiro learned that most of Japan is still a country with many mountains. He saw a line of mountains that looked like a spine down a person’s back.

From the almanac, Toshiro learned that Japan belonged to a volcanic area in the Pacific Ocean called the “Ring of Fire.” Toshiro’s almanac named the six

most important volcanoes in Japan. It also included the important facts about each one and the latest year in which each had erupted.

1. In the first paragraph, what is the main idea?
 - Ⓐ Mrs. Stewart told Toshiro to use an atlas and almanac.
 - Ⓑ Toshiro wants to learn all he can about the volcanoes that made Japan.
 - Ⓒ Encyclopedias have good information on volcanoes.
 - Ⓓ There are many volcanoes deep in the sea.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
 - Ⓐ Atlases have many maps.
 - Ⓑ Every country is listed in an atlas.
 - Ⓒ An atlas contains important information, including maps and charts, on every country.
 - Ⓓ Capitals, languages, religions, and money used in every country are listed.

3. In the third paragraph, what is the main idea?
- Ⓐ An almanac gives the latest information yearly on many areas of interest.
 - Ⓑ Almanacs are printed every year.
 - Ⓒ Every country in the world is listed.
 - Ⓓ People in the news are also included in an almanac.
4. What is the main idea of paragraph four?
- Ⓐ Some mountains look like a person's spine.
 - Ⓑ An atlas can show valleys, plains, and mountains.
 - Ⓒ Japan is a country with many mountains.
 - Ⓓ Certain maps show valleys and mountains.
5. In paragraph five, what is the main idea?
- Ⓐ The volcanic area in the Pacific Ocean is the "Ring of Fire."
 - Ⓑ The almanac has information on volcanoes.
 - Ⓒ Eruptions are one of the listings in the almanac.
 - Ⓓ Japan has six important volcanoes and is a part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

SAFE STORAGE

The first rule of storing food in the home is to refrigerate or freeze food right away. Refrigerator temperatures should be 40° to 45° and the freezer should be zero. Check both the refrigerator and freezer often with a good thermometer.

6. Summarize this article. [2]

LEVI STRAUSS

Levi Strauss was born in Germany in 1829. Europe was not a safe place to live at this time, so he decided to move to New York. His two brothers were already living in New York.

Levi found New York a terrible place to live. His sister in San Francisco asked him to come live with her and she paid his way to California.

Levi took material called canvas with him to make tents to sell. It was the wrong kind of material for tents so he made pants for the miners to use that were very strong. This was the beginning of Levi jeans.

7. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
- (A) Europe was not a safe place to live.
 - (B) Strauss had two brothers in New York.
 - (C) Levi Strauss moved to New York hoping to have a better life.
 - (D) Levi Strauss was born in 1829.
8. What is the main idea for the last paragraph?
- (A) The canvas was the wrong kind for tents.
 - (B) Levi took canvas to California.
 - (C) Strauss moved back to Germany.
 - (D) Strauss made strong pants for the miners.

SNACKS

Southerners are crazy about snack foods. Snacks are easy to eat and are good, too. Every year we eat over six pounds of potato chips and almost two pounds of pretzels. We also consume almost two pounds of fruits and over three pounds of tortilla chips each year.

9. Summarize this article. [2]

MAGIC

Magic could slam, shovel, hook, and fire from a three-point range. As for free throws, he led the All National Basketball Association players in shooting. At six feet nine inches, Magic could bump shoulders and leap with anyone.

10. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Magic's special talents made him a good basketball player.
 - (B) Magic never misses a shot.
 - (C) Magic can leap higher than any player.
 - (D) Magic is taller than any player.

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

Magellan was killed in the Phillipines trying to reach the Far East. One of his five ships and eighteen of his 270 men reached the Far East after three years of travelling. The voyage proved that the earth was round.

11. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Magellan died in the Phillipines.
 - (B) Only one ship reached the Far East.
 - (C) Even though Magellan died, his voyage proved that the earth really was round.
 - (D) Only eighteen men sailed around the world.

OCEANOGRAPHY

Oceanography is the study of oceans. It takes in many interests. It is a study of water, waves, and tides. It deals with ocean currents and temperatures. Oceanography is exploring the ocean floor and all the living things of the sea.

12. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Oceanography is the study of the oceans.
 - (B) Waves and tides are in the oceans.
 - (C) Ocean currents and temperatures are important.
 - (D) Many people are interested in the oceans.

THE COOL SCHOOL

Captain David Koltermann and several Air National Guard members attended a Cool School so they could learn to live in the cold. After a day of classes, they knew how to build shelters and how to dress for warmth. They were also taught how to help those with sicknesses or injuries. Finally, they were dropped off in northern Greenland where they had to live for 50 hours in -35° Fahrenheit temperatures.

13. Summarize this article. [2]

THE TAJ MAHAL

The Emperor Shah Johan built the Taj Mahal in northern India during the 1600's. He had this beautiful temple built for his wife. It is one of the wonders of the world. Over 25,000 tourists visit this white marble monument each day.

14. What is the main idea of this passage?
- Ⓐ 25,000 tourists visit the monument each day.
 - Ⓑ The Taj Mahal was built in the 1600's.
 - Ⓒ The Taj Mahal is in northern India.
 - Ⓓ The Taj Mahal was built by Emperor Shah Johan and is a wonder of the world.

BLOOD

The blood carries oxygen from the lungs to each cell in the body. In addition, the blood carries carbon dioxide from the cells to the lungs where it is given off as waste. The blood also carries the nutrients from the food eaten throughout the body.

15. What is the main idea of "Blood"? [2]

THE FLYING FOOL

In 1927, most people thought airplanes were just big, strange toys. But a few brave pilots knew that the airplane was the key to an exciting new future. One of these pilots was a young man from Minnesota. His name was Charles Lindbergh. He was an airmail pilot who had been flying over the United States testing his skills in all kinds of weather.

A man named Raymond Orteig had offered a prize of \$25,000 to any pilot or group of pilots who could fly across the Atlantic Ocean from New York to Paris without stopping. Commander Richard Byrd, the famous explorer, wanted that prize. He planned to fly the Atlantic with another pilot in a giant three-engine plane. Another well-known flier, Clarence Chamberlain, was also going to make the flight with another pilot. It seemed impossible for anyone to do it alone.

But not to Charles Lindbergh. He asked some St. Louis businessmen to pay for a tiny silver plane, with room for one person, that could fly across the ocean. They named the plane the Spirit of St. Louis. Lindbergh flew it to New York, where Byrd and Chamberlain were getting ready to take off. By now, many people were interested in Charles Lindbergh. He was just 25 years old. Newspapers called him “the Flying Fool.”

Bad weather kept all the planes on the ground. Lindbergh knew that the longer he waited, the less chance he’d have to win the prize. He decided to go ahead with his plan to leave New York on May 20, 1927. It was a flight that would make history.

16. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
- (A) Most people thought airplanes were strange toys.
 - (B) Airplanes were the key to an exciting new future.
 - (C) Charles Lindbergh was from Minnesota.
 - (D) Lindbergh tested his flying skills in all kinds of weather.
17. In paragraph two, what is the main idea?
- (A) Charles Chamberlain was a pilot with Richard Byrd.
 - (B) It was impossible for anyone to do it alone.
 - (C) Commander Richard Byrd was a famous explorer.
 - (D) A prize was to be given to any pilot or group of pilots who could fly across the Atlantic without stopping.
18. What is the main idea of paragraph three? [2]

JAMES WATT

James Watt, a Scottish engineer, made the first steam engine. In 1769, he patented his invention. The steam engine, more than any other machine, helped the United States industry grow.

19. What is the main idea of this passage?
- Ⓐ The steam engine was patented in 1769.
 - Ⓑ James Watt was a Scottish engineer.
 - Ⓒ The steam engine was patented.
 - Ⓓ James Watt's invention helped the United States industry grow.

COTTON

Many workers were needed on plantations where cotton was grown in the 1700's. Planting, weeding, pruning, and picking took many hours by hand. Cotton took a long time to grow, and removing the seeds took even longer. A worker could only pick the seeds out of one pound of cotton each day.

20. Summarize this article. [2]

STOPPING CRIME

When you are driving:

- Drive with the doors locked and windows rolled up.
- When you park, lock car doors and trunk and take your key.
- Don't pick up strangers wanting a ride.
- Check inside and underneath the car before getting in.
- Park in well-lit areas.

21. What is the main idea of this passage?

- Ⓐ Always drive with someone in your car.
- Ⓑ Don't pick up strangers.
- Ⓒ Be careful when you are driving or parking your car.
- Ⓓ Put all packages in the trunk.

CIRCLE GRAPHS

Circle graphs show information divided into percents of a whole. The parts of a circle graph should always add up to 100%. To figure the value of a percent in a circle graph, divide the percent by the total.

22. What is the main idea of this passage? [2]

THE LAND OF JALVAAG

Once, when the earth was very young, the gods and goddesses lived in a mountain valley in Jalvaag. Because people were still new in that land, and because life was hard, the gods and goddesses helped them with many jobs.

Askar, the god of field and forest, taught people how to hunt and how to grow food. Rolvast, who made armor and weapons for the gods, gave them fire and showed them how to use it. Dagyar, king of gods and humans, set aside huge mountains of metals and other goods for their use. Making their work easier, he reasoned, would help them to learn quickly the jobs they needed for everyday living.

Soon, however, Dagyar wished he had never given so much help to the humans. They fought over their supplies and complained to the gods when iron or copper or lead ran low.

"I must make these people work harder for what they need," Dagyar decided. "Then they will learn to be happy with the things we now give them." At this, Dagyar waved his hand over the huge piles of gold and silver, copper and iron, lead and zinc. Quickly they were hidden deep in the earth where they could be brought out only with hard work.

From that day on, humans were made to dig far into the earth to find the ore they needed for tools and weapons. They learned that they had to find the goods that they used every day, and not to depend on the gods.

23. What is the main idea of paragraph one?
- Ⓐ Life was very hard in Jalvaag.
 - Ⓑ The earth was very young.
 - Ⓒ Since the earth was young and the people were new to the land, the gods helped them.
 - Ⓓ The gods and goddesses lived in Jalvaag.
24. In paragraph 2, what is the main idea?
- Ⓐ Dagyar was the king of gods and humans.
 - Ⓑ The gods thought that making the people's lives easier would help them learn jobs they needed for everyday life.
 - Ⓒ Rolvast showed the people how to use fire.
 - Ⓓ Askar taught people how to hunt and how to grow food.
25. What is the main idea in the third paragraph?
- Ⓐ The people fought over their supplies.
 - Ⓑ The people complained about copper and lead running low.
 - Ⓒ The gods wished they had not given the people so much help.
 - Ⓓ The gods were pleased with the humans fussing and fighting.

Chapter 2

26. In the fourth paragraph, what is the main idea? Explain in complete sentences. [2]

27. Summarize the last paragraph in complete sentences. [2]
