



Main Idea and Key Details

Today's Standard

3.RI.2 - Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Summarizing a news article; Explaining the main idea of a science experiment; Identifying key points in a historical text; Describing the main idea in a biography; Summarizing a chapter in a textbook

Today I Learned

Today we learned how to find the main idea of a text and the key details that support it. The main idea is what the author wants to tell us about the topic.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think the main idea is the same as the topic, but it's not. The topic is what the text is about, and the main idea is what the author wants to say about it. Another mistake is thinking all details are important. Only some details help explain the main idea.

Quiz Me

- What is the main idea?
- How do details help the main idea?
- What is the topic of a text?
- Can all details be important?
- Why is it important to find the main idea?

Help Me

The main idea is what the author wants to tell us about a topic. For example, if you read about how plants grow, the main idea could be that plants need sunlight and water. Knowing the main idea helps us understand what we read better.