Homes for Bats

Find the main idea and the details that build it.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2 "Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that tell why people build bat houses. Then number three details that show how a bat house helps bats.

A Bridge for Bats

1 Every evening, Mexican free-tailed bats fly from their daytime roosts to hunt insects. In some towns, old buildings and trees where bats rest have disappeared. To give bats a safe place to sleep, people build bat houses. These wooden shelters have narrow spaces that feel like the cracks bats use in nature. A house can hold a small group of bats.

2 Bat houses must be placed carefully. A house needs several hours of sunlight so it stays warm enough for bats and their pups. It is usually mounted high on a pole or building, where cats and other animals cannot easily reach it. A clear flight path lets bats swoop in and out without hitting branches.

3 When bats have a good roost, they can spend the night catching moths, beetles, and other flying insects. A bat house does not always attract bats right away, so people may need to wait. Still, communities put up bat houses because these shelters protect bats and help them continue their important work as insect hunters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

2. Name two details that show how a bat house can be a safe place for bats.

3. How does mounting a bat house high on a pole or building support the main idea?

4. Recount one key detail from paragraph 1 and one key detail from paragraph 3. How do these details support the main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of the passage. State the main idea in your first sentence, then recount three different key details that support it.

ANSWER KEY

Homes for Bats

GRADE 3 · RI.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words that tell why people build bat houses. Then number three details that show how a bat house helps bats. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the passage?	**Bat houses give bats safe places to rest and help them continue hunting insects.**
2	Name two details that show how a bat house can be a safe place for bats.	**Possible answers: It has narrow spaces like natural cracks, it gets sunlight to stay warm, it is placed high away from animals, or it has a clear flight path.**
3	How does mounting a bat house high on a pole or building support the main idea?	**It helps keep cats and other animals from easily reaching the bats, so the bats have a safer place to rest.**
4	Recount one key detail from paragraph 1 and one key detail from paragraph 3. How do these details support the main idea?	**Paragraph 1 says bat houses have narrow spaces like natural cracks. Paragraph 3 says bats with a good roost can catch insects. Together, these details show that bat houses give bats shelter and help them keep doing their work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bat houses give bats safe places to rest, which helps them keep hunting insects. Their narrow spaces are like natural cracks, so bats can sleep safely. Sunlight and a high spot keep the house warm and harder for animals to reach. With a good roost, bats can catch flying insects at night.

Accept a main idea that includes both safe shelter for bats and their continued insect hunting. Accept different accurate key details from the passage when the student clearly explains how they support the main idea.