

Big Idea Detectives

Sort big ideas from small details.

2.15.D "interpret oral, visual, and print material by sequencing, categorizing, identifying the main idea, predicting, comparing, and contrasting."

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAIN IDEA

A main idea tells the big point about a topic. It is often broad and can include many details.

Gardens can provide food and beauty.

DETAIL

A detail tells one small fact about a topic. Details support the main idea.

A purple kite rose above the hill.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each sentence, then circle MAIN IDEA or DETAIL.

1. Our town has places where people work, learn, and play.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

2. Families can celebrate special days in many ways.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

3. The crossing guard holds up a stop sign.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

4. People in a community have different jobs.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

5. A baker makes bread in a bakery.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

6. At the parade, Mia waved a blue flag.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

7. Rules help people stay safe and treat each other fairly.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

8. The fire station has two red trucks.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new MAIN IDEA sentence and one new DETAIL sentence.

MAIN IDEA _____

DETAIL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose two sort items from different categories, and explain why each one is a MAIN IDEA or a DETAIL.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Our town has places where people work, learn, and play.	MAIN IDEA	This is a broad statement about places in a town.
2	Families can celebrate special days in many ways.	MAIN IDEA	This gives the big point about family celebrations.
3	The crossing guard holds up a stop sign.	DETAIL	This tells one specific fact about a crossing guard.
4	People in a community have different jobs.	MAIN IDEA	This is a broad statement about jobs in a community.
5	A baker makes bread in a bakery.	DETAIL	This tells one specific fact about one job.
6	At the parade, Mia waved a blue flag.	DETAIL	This tells one specific event detail.
7	Rules help people stay safe and treat each other fairly.	MAIN IDEA	This gives the big point about why rules matter.
8	The fire station has two red trucks.	DETAIL	This tells one specific fact about a fire station.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MAIN IDEA:** People use maps to find places.
- **DETAIL:** A map key may use a star for a capital city.

Challenge: Item 2 is a MAIN IDEA because it tells the big point about family celebrations. Item 6 is a DETAIL because it tells one small event at a parade.

Accept other answers when the main idea is broad and the detail is one specific supporting fact. Students may explain their choices orally or in writing.