

## Comprehension: Main Idea Grade: 2

LESSON INFORMATION	PASSAGE INFORMATION
<p><b>Goal:</b> Students learn to identify the main idea of a text and how details support the main idea.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 35–55 minutes</p> <p><b>Class Size:</b> Individual student or small group</p> <p><b>Sample Passage Title:</b> <a href="#">Prairie Dogs</a></p> <p><b>Materials Needed:</b> Copies of passage</p>	<p><b>Genre:</b> Informational</p> <p><b>Grade:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Passages:</b> When selecting passages, be sure that they include rich content and are on the higher end of the qualitative and quantitative text complexity continuum for the grade level.</p>

### Introduction (3 minutes)

#### 1. Preview the text

- Provide a brief explanation of the text.



We are going to read a new passage today. It is an informational text about prairie dogs.

#### 2. Explain the skill

- Provide a brief explanation of the target skill for the lesson.



When we read, we should look for the main ideas of the text. This helps us to build a picture of the text in our minds so we can understand it and remember it later. A main idea is what something is mostly about. It tells about the whole text. Key details in the text support the main idea.

### Close Reading (30 – 50 minutes)

#### 1. Model the skill

- Read the first chapter as a whole group. Randomly call on students to read portions of the text. Ensure your pattern of calling on students is unpredictable so all students continue to read along.
- Once you read the chapter, complete a think-aloud to share the main idea.



Let's see ... what is the main idea of this paragraph? The paragraph introduced me to prairie dogs. It gave me some details about what prairie dogs are and where they live. Overall, the main idea is that prairie dogs are rodents that live in prairies.

# Amplify.

## 2. Practice the skill

- Read the next three paragraphs as a whole group.
- Then ask students to turn and talk to share the main idea with each other.
- If students provide details instead of the main idea, remind them that details support the main idea while the main idea is what the text is mostly about.



**OK, we've read three more paragraphs. Turn and talk and share the main idea. Remember, a main idea is what something is mostly about.**

- Share a model of the main idea.



**Great job! Here's the main idea: Prairie dogs live in towns of many burrows with many rooms. The paragraphs gave us details about what prairie dog homes look like, how their homes are connected to each other and to the grass above, and what prairie dogs do in their homes.**

- Repeat the procedure with the remaining paragraph (complete as many as necessary for students to understand the concept of main idea).
- If students provide details instead of the main idea, remind them that details support the main idea while the main idea is what the text is mostly about.
- *Main idea of final paragraph: Prairie dogs look out for each other and keep each other safe.*
- Find the main idea of the whole text.
- If students provide details instead of the main idea, remind them that details support the main idea while the main idea is what the text is mostly about.



**Now that we've found the main idea of each part of the text. Let's think about what the main idea of the whole text is. Turn and talk and share the main idea of the whole text.**

- Share a model of the main idea.



**Great job! Here's the main idea: Prairie dogs are rodents that live in prairies. Their homes are in towns of many burrows with many rooms. Prairie dogs look out for each other and keep each other safe. The main idea of the whole text puts together the main idea of all of the parts.**

## 3. Ask text-dependent questions

- Ask text-dependent questions about the chapters you read to solidify understanding and highlight how knowing the main idea helps you understand text.



**Now let's answer some questions about the text. Think about the main idea and key details of each part and overall to help you!**

- Where do prairie dogs live?
- What is a group of burrows called?
- How do prairie dogs greet each other?

# Amplify.

- Why do they wait by the tunnel exits?
- What kind of animals can harm prairie dogs?
- What do prairie dogs do when they sense harm?
- What do prairie dogs do when it's safe?

## Wrap Up (2 minutes)

### 1. Encourage use of the skill outside of the lesson

- Restate the target skill and when to apply it.



Today we practiced finding the main idea. A main idea tells what something is mostly about. We can think about the main idea of parts of texts and of the whole text. Doing this helps us build a picture of the text in our minds. When you are reading, try to figure out the main idea!

## Common Core Anchor Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.