

Recognizing the Main Idea

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What is a Main Idea?

A paragraph has two essential components:

- 1) The main idea expressed in topic sentence.**
- 2) Additional sentences providing supporting details.**

Identify the main idea in each paragraph. Click on the sentence that states the main idea.

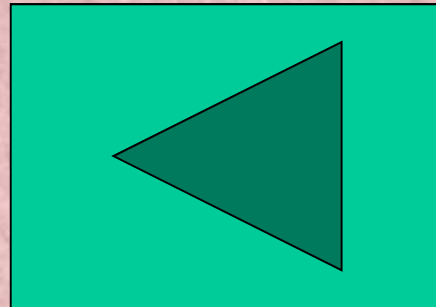
Lantern fish live near the bottom of the ocean where it is very dark, so they carry their own lights. The lights look like tiny glowing pearls. They are called photophores. A lantern fish can flash its photophores on and off.

1)The light looks like tiny glowing pearls.

2) Lantern fish live near the bottom of the ocean where it is very dark, so they carry their own lights.

SM

OOPS! TRY AGAIN.



CORRECT

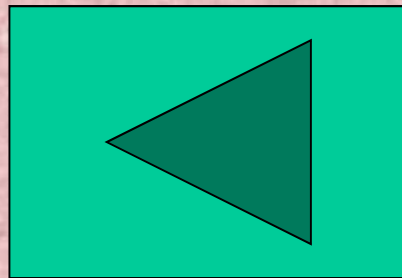


A backswimmer has a rounded back and its underside is flat. When it floats on its back it looks like a little boat. It rows itself along in the water using its two hind legs like oars. The backswimmer spends most of its time upside down.

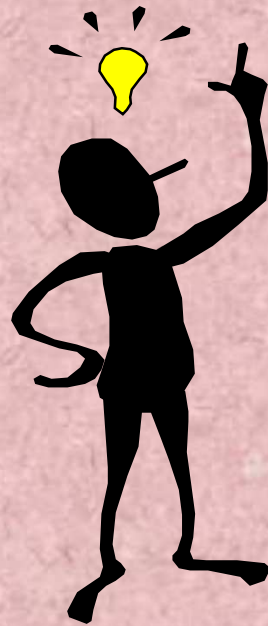
- 1) The backswimmer spends most of its time upside down.
- 2) A backswimmer has a rounded back and its underside is flat.

SM

OOPS! TRY AGAIN.



CORRECT

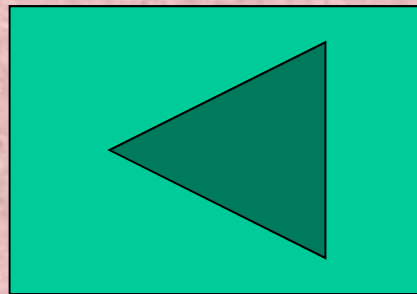


When Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke, people listened. Poor people, rich people, white people, black people, people from other countries-they all listened. Many helped him work, march, sing, and pray for justice. He asked people not to fight with each other. He suggested peaceful ways to solve problems. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a special talent for leadership.

- 1) Many people listened to Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 2) Martin Luther King, Jr. was an influential leader.

SM

OOPS! TRY AGAIN.



CORRECT

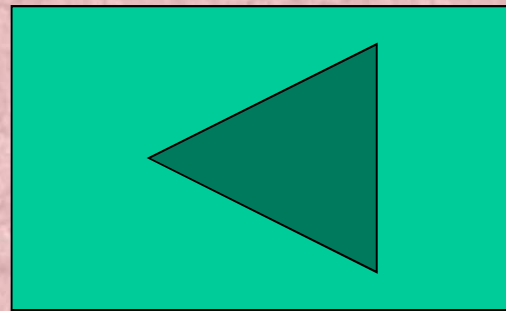


Next time you see lightning, count the number of seconds that pass until you hear thunder. The lightning is a mile away for every five seconds that you count. In this way, you can “measure” how far the lightning is from you. Scientists know that the speed of light is faster than the speed of sound. So calculating the difference between the two speeds, they have developed this easy five-second formula.

- 1) You can figure out how far away lightning is.
- 2) The lightning is a mile away for every five seconds that you count.

SM

OOPS! TRY AGAIN.



CORRECT



That's all folks!

