

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea **HOMework**

**Directions:** Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Before you put on that *Angry Birds* costume and exhaust yourself roving from door to door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on the tradition in which you are taking part. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1<sup>st</sup> was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts, so they celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bonfires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grew to be candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a television show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted, but this is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

## What's the MAIN IDEA?

Cross out the sentence below that does not fit with the main idea of the paragraph.  
Then, write a better sentence on the lines provided.

Even though spiders are much smaller than humans, many people are absolutely terrified of these 8 legged arachnids. However, most spiders are unlikely to attack humans. Black widow spiders like to hide in dark areas. When spiders see humans, their first reaction is to run away because we are so much bigger than them.

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Nobody likes a bully that fights, hits, pushes, or kicks. Cyberbullying can be extremely harmful to others. Cyberbullying occurs through electronic technology like phones, social media sites, and text messaging. These bullies might try to start rumors, embarrass, harass, or mock other children online. If you or one of your friends has been hurt by cyberbullying, find somebody who can help.

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Learning how to play an instrument like the violin takes a lot of practice and hard work. To play the violin, you must first learn about the different parts of the violin like the bow, strings, bridge, and pegs. Also, violin players must learn where on the violin to place their fingers in order to make the right sound. Learning to play a guitar can also be difficult.

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## Main Idea 2 **Homework**

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. Being a clown isn't all fun and games. Rodeo clowns expose themselves to great danger every time they perform. When cowboys dismount or are bucked off of bulls at riding competitions, rodeo clowns jump in front of the bulls and motion wildly to get their attention. In this way rodeo clowns provide an alternate target, and in doing so protect the rider. So you see, sometimes clowning around can be serious business.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The wolverine, a medium sized mammal weighing no more than 50 lbs., has earned its reputation for ferocity with its documented ability to kill prey many times its size. The reason why wolverines have so many conflicts with other animals (including wolves, cougars, and even bears) is probably because of the wolverine's preferred hunting style. Rather than chasing down or tricking its prey like most hunters, the wolverine prefers to take its meals directly from other hunters. So while a polar bear or a lone wolf might be enjoying a hard earned carcass, a hungry wolverine may try to take his lunch. This keeps the wolverine in plenty of fights.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sometime in December of 1891, Dr. James Naismith, a gym teacher at the YMCA College in Springfield, Massachusetts was trying to keep his gym class active on a rainy day. He wanted a vigorous game that would keep his students moving. After rejecting a few other ideas because they were too rough or not suited for the walled-in gym, Naismith wrote out the rules for a game with peach baskets fixed to ten-foot elevated tracks. Naismith's students played against one another, passing the ball around and shooting it into the peach baskets. Dribbling wasn't a part of the original game, and it took a while to realize that the game would run more smoothly if the bottoms of the baskets were removed, but this game grew to be one of the most popular sports in America today. Can you guess which one?

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea 3 Homework

**Directions:** Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. What do you get when you cross a robot and an astronaut? A Robonaut! Robonauts are robot helpers designed to work side-by-side with astronauts. Work on the first Robonaut began in 1997, and by 2002 Robonaut B was revealed to the public. Robonaut B may have featured interchangeable lower bodies, like four-wheel mode or hydraulic legs, but scientists and engineers continued to improve Robonaut. In February of 2010, Robonaut 2 was released to the public. Robonaut 2 moved four times faster than the first Robonaut. An advanced version of Robonaut 2 was finally tested in outer space in 2011. Robonaut functioned exactly as designed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Automation* is the use of machines to reduce the need for human labor. In other words automation is when jobs done by people become jobs done by robots. Automation can be a good thing. Because of automation, clothing, cars, and other manufactured products are available at good prices and in large supply. But automation can also be a bad thing. Because of automation, there are over 700,000 robots in America alone that do jobs once performed by humans. The way of automation may not be best for humanity, but it is the course we are taking.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. From airplanes to forklifts, hydraulic power is the strength behind many amazing technologies that affect our daily lives, even the brakes on your school bus, but how do they work? First, fluid is rapidly released into a chamber through a valve. As the fluid collects, the valve is slammed shut which causes a pressure spike. Because the chamber is sealed, the pressure has nowhere to go. The hydraulic mechanism channels the pressure and provides great power. And that's how, with the help of hydraulics, Grandma can stop a car with one foot.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Idea Worksheet 4 Homework**

**Directions:** Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. It's hard to imagine what things were like before there was money, but such a time did exist. During these times people exchanged goods using the barter system. The word *barter* means to trade. People using the barter system traded things instead of buying and selling them. So if you were a rice farmer, you would trade your rice with many people to get all of the things that you wanted or needed. Unfortunately, the people from whom you needed things might not want your rice. Isn't it nice to just go to the store and buy candy instead of having to trade rice for it?

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Money is pretty old but nobody knows exactly how old it is. Perhaps the oldest evidence of people using money is in the Code of Ur-Nammu. The Code of Ur-Nammu is a system of laws written around 2050 BC. That's like 4,000 years ago! Many of Ur-Nammu's laws carry fines, such as one stating that if a man is proven innocent of sorcery, his accuser must pay 3 shekels. This ancient document shows me two things: Ur-Nammu didn't tolerate false witch-hunts, and money is very old.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. One particular problem that the U.S. faced when rebelling against the British was currency. While under British control, colonists mainly used British paper money and foreign coins, but after forming a new nation the Americans needed their own currency, so they created Continental currency. Congress issued over 240 million Continental Dollars during the Revolution. Unfortunately, these dollars soon dropped in value, giving rise to the popular expression, "not worth a Continental." By the end of 1778, Continentals were worth 1/5<sup>th</sup> of their face value. By 1780, they were worth 1/40<sup>th</sup>. In the 1790s, the U.S. bought back Continentals for 1% of their printed value. One reason for this decline was economic warfare. During the war the British hired artists to counterfeit Continental Dollars. Large amounts of these counterfeit notes were funneled into the American economy and the value of the Continental Dollar crashed. When people start complaining about today's inflation rates, I tell them about Continentals.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea Worksheet 5 **homework**

**Directions:** Read each passage and ask yourself, “What is the author doing in this paragraph?” Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. Sir Isaac Newton was contemplating the universe in his garden one day in 1665 when he noticed an apple fall from a tree. Newton wondered to himself, “Why should the apple always fall to the ground? Why does it not go sideways or upwards but directly toward the Earth’s center?” After much contemplation Newton concluded that objects are pulled to the Earth through a force that he called *gravity*, which means heaviness in Latin. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1687 Newton formally expressed his law of universal gravitation in series of books called *The Principia*.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In the summer of 1939, a few months before World War II started, Albert Einstein and a group of Hungarian scientists wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In this letter they warned Roosevelt that the Nazi’s were conducting atomic research and that the consequences would be dire if the Nazis were to win the race to build an atom bomb. They recommended that U.S. become involved in uranium research. As a result of this letter, the U.S. joined the atomic race and poured billions of dollars into the development of weaponry. The U.S. won the race and became the first country to build an atomic bomb. The bomb was then used in Japan, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. In 1954, a year before his death, Einstein would refer to the moment that he signed the letter to President Roosevelt as the greatest mistake of his life.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. For most of human history, people thought that the Earth was the center of the universe. Nicolaus Copernicus changed how people understood the universe when he theorized that it was heliocentric, or sun-centered. Interestingly, Copernicus had most of this theory worked out some time before 1514, and his work was fully articulated by 1532, yet publication of this text was not completed until 1543 as he lay dying. Some scholars believe that Copernicus delayed publishing this work because it contradicted the Catholic Church’s view that the Earth was at the center of the universe. Copernicus’s may have been smart in doing so because the Church did not formally accept his view of the universe until 1822, almost 300 years later.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_