

MAIN IDEA task cards

2nd & 3rd GRADE

13. Main Idea & Details

Lines from one star to another create shapes called constellations. They look like a crab, a dipping spoon, or an archer. Scientists use 88 constellations to map out areas of the sky. Constellations define areas of space. In this way, the entire night sky is divided like a patchwork quilt.

What is the main idea?

- a There are 88 constellations in the night sky.
- b One constellation looks like a dipping spoon.
- c Use your imagination to see pictures in the night sky.
- d Constellations are star patterns that help map the sky.

Main Idea & Details



15. Main Idea & Details

Lunch from the school cafeteria offers a lot more variety than lunch from home. Most cafeterias offer a different special each day. It might be meatloaf or tacos or chicken. There are usually other options to choose from as well. Many schools offer pizza, hamburger, chicken patty, PB & J, or yogurt lunch every day. When students pack a lunch at home, they might not have that many different options during the week. Usually it's the same turkey and cheese sandwich every day.

What is the main idea?

- a Save money by packing your own lunch for school.
- b Students love delicious school lunches.
- c School lunches are healthier than lunches from home.
- d School lunches have more variety than bag lunches.

14. Main Idea & Details

Niagara Falls isn't just one waterfall. It's three. The river splits to flow around a small island called Goat Island. The branch of the river that flows north of the island is on the US side. It forms the American Falls and the narrow Bridal Veil Falls. The other branch of the river flows around the west side of Goat Island. It forms the Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side of the border.

What is the main idea?

- a Millions of people visit Niagara Falls each year.
- b Niagara Falls is in the US and Canada.
- c Niagara Falls is made up of three waterfalls.
- d The Niagara River flows around Goat Island.

16. Main Idea & Details

You probably use a pencil every day, but do you know how it is made? First, trees are cut into wood blocks and then into slices. A machine cuts grooves in the wood slices. Each groove holds the writing material. This is made of a graphite mixture called lead. Another wood slice is glued over the top, like a sandwich. When the glue dries, the pencils are shaped and cut apart from one another. Last, an eraser is added to the end.

What is the main idea?

- a Kids today are too wasteful with pencils.
- b There are many steps in making a pencil.
- c Pencils are made of wood, which comes from trees.
- d You might like working in a pencil factory someday.

20.

Main Idea & Details

Contrary to what you may have heard, snakes cannot actually dislocate their jaw. Instead, the bones and ligaments around the snake's skull and jaw are flexible. They stretch freely around the snake's prey. This allows snakes to eat animals that look much larger than the snakes are. Small snakes can swallow an egg or a mouse. Large snakes have been known to swallow deer, pigs, and crocodiles.

What is the main idea?

- a Snakes have flexible bones in their jaw and skull
- b Not all snakes have to eat live animals
- c There are many myths about snakes
- d Snakes are adapted to swallow large prey

29.

Main Idea & Details

Sitting Bull was chosen to become chief of the Sioux tribes in 1868. They made peace with the US government that same year. A treaty said the land in South Dakota belonged to the Native Americans. But that peace ended when gold was found in the Black Hills. White men rushed into South Dakota in search of gold. The government allowed them onto Native land. Sitting Bull led the Sioux people in defending their land.

What is the main idea?

- a The US government didn't keep its promise.
- b Gold has caused many conflicts throughout history.
- c The Sioux tribes chose Sitting Bull as their chief.
- d Sitting Bull led the Sioux during a hard time.

30.

Main Idea & Details

Schools that follow a five-day schedule have costs for each of those days. They use heat and electricity five days a week. They have to pay bus drivers, custodians, and cooks for five days of work. If the school district cut one day a week, it could save money by cutting down on these costs. School districts would only have to pay for four days of bills. They wouldn't have to pay bus drivers, custodians, and cooks as much as they do now. Teachers could still use the fifth day to work from home.

What is the main idea?

- a There are advantages to a 4-day school week.
- b School staff get paid too much for working 5 days.
- c Students would prefer a 4-day school week.
- d It is very expensive to run a school.

Answer Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Card #	Answer	Card #	Answer
1.	b	16.	b
2.	d	17.	d
3.	a	18.	
4.	b	19.	
5.	c	20.	d
6.	a	21.	c
7.	d	22.	b
8.	b		c
9.	c	24.	d
10.	c	25.	a
11.	a	26.	c
12.	b	27.	b
13.		28.	c
14.	c	29.	d
15.	d	30.	a

17.

Main Idea & Details

The Eiffel Tower in Paris was never meant to be a permanent fixture. It was built as an exhibition for the 1889 World Fair. After more than two years of construction, the tower was unveiled. It was supposed to be taken down after the Fair, but then the newly-invented radio became popular. It was decided that the tall metal structure would make an excellent radio tower. Now, it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the world.

What is the main idea?

- a The 1889 World Fair was held in Paris
- b The Eiffel Tower took more than 2 years to build
- c You should go to Paris to visit the Eiffel Tower
- d The role of the Eiffel Tower changed over time

18.

Main Idea & Details

Want to ride the world's tallest roller coaster? Then visit Six Flags in Jackson, New Jersey. It's home to Kingda Ka. It takes riders high into the air and then drops them 418 feet down the track. The coaster reaches a speed of 128 miles per hour and is over in less than a minute. Only time will tell if Kingda Ka will keep its title. Skyscraper in Orlando, Florida has announced plans for a new ride called Skyscraper. It will drop riders 570 feet from a tower.

What is the main idea?

- a One roller coaster can reach speeds of 128 mph.
- b Jackson, New Jersey is a fun place to visit.
- c Kingda Ka is the tallest roller coaster in the world.
- d The world's tallest roller coaster is Skyscraper.

19.

Main Idea & Details

Lots of schools no longer teach cursive writing, but it's a skill everyone should learn. Doing so will keep the knowledge alive. If people stop learning and using cursive, we might someday forget how to use it. Historical documents will become impossible to read. Cursive is fun to learn and beautiful to look at. It's also faster than printing once you get good at it.

What is the main idea?

- a There are many reasons to keep teaching cursive.
- b People don't use cursive because they use electronics.
- c Many historical documents are written in cursive.
- d Cursive is faster to write than printing.



Main Idea & Details Challenge

Write 1-3 supporting details for each passage.



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Main Idea & Details



Ways to Use Task Cards

1. **Centers**
2. **Scoot:** Pass out one card for each student. Set a timer and say, “scoot!” when the timer goes off. Students move seats to the next card. They continue to rotate until they are back at their original seat.
3. **Scavenger Hunt:** Hide cards around the room. Students search for cards and answer them.
4. **Jenga:** Number Jenga blocks. Students stack the blocks, then take turns pulling blocks. Students answer the corresponding number card.
5. **Whole class practice:** Teacher displays card on the projector. Students answer on mini white boards.
6. **Exit Tickets:** Give each student a task card at the end of the lesson. Have them answer on a sticky note.



1. Main Idea & Details

Dolphins use their senses. They search for food with a type of sonar called echolocation. This involves making clicking sounds. When the sound waves hit an object, they bounce off the object and come back to the dolphin. This tells the dolphin the location, shape, size, and speed of the object. Dolphins also have sharp eyesight. They can see well both under and above water. On the other hand, dolphins have a poor sense of smell. They also have a poor sense of taste.

What is the main idea?

- a. Dolphins are interesting.
- b. Dolphins use their senses.
- c. Dolphins have sonar.
- d. Dolphins do not have a strong sense of smell.



2. Main Idea & Details

Becoming an astronaut is a difficult process. It takes years of education and training. It also takes a lot of skill and some luck.

Candidates must have a degree in math, science, or engineering. Then, they need related work experience. All astronaut candidates must pass a physical fitness test. Today, astronauts must also be able to speak Russian. Anyone who meets those requirements might be lucky enough to be chosen for the handful of spots in NASA's astronaut program.

What is the text mainly about?

- a. Only scientists can become astronauts.
- b. NASA is in need of astronaut candidates.
- c. Astronauts must be able to speak Russian.
- d. It takes skill and training to become an astronaut.



3. Main Idea & Details

March Madness is a college basketball tournament that takes place each spring. It starts with 68 teams. After each game, the loser is eliminated. The winner goes on to play another winner. When there are only 16 teams left, they are called the Sweet Sixteen. Then, there are the Elite Eight. After that round, it's down to the Final Four. Basketball fans love to fill out their own brackets before the tournament begins to predict who will win.

What is the main idea?

- a. Each spring, there's a basketball tournament called March Madness.
- b. Only the best teams make it to the Final Four.
- c. Fans can print a blank bracket form online to use.
- d. Basketball is a fun sport.



4. Main Idea & Details

Over time, the American flag has changed. The first flag had thirteen stripes and thirteen stars. These represented the first states. When Vermont and Kentucky became states, two more stripes and two more stars were added. But additional states would mean the flag was too crowded with stripes. It was decided that a star would be added for each new state, but the stripes would remain at thirteen.

What is the main idea?

- a. The United States was once thirteen colonies.
- b. The number of stars and stripes on the American flag has changed in the past.
- c. The flag has one stripe for each original state.
- d. The American flag should never touch the ground.



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