

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

**Purpose:** Students will identify the main idea of 5 paragraphs by following an assigned index card color.

**Suggested Grade Level:** 2-5

**Language Arts SOL:** Reading 2.8, 2.9, 3.5, 3.6, 4.5, 4.6, 5.5, 5.6

**Equipment/Materials Needed:**

1. Card stock (1 sheet of 6 different colors)
2. Pencil, clipboard and worksheet

**Advance Preparation:**

1. Print out the attached paragraphs 5 times, each on a different color .
2. Cut each set out.
3. You should have 6 sets of the same paragraphs.
4. Write the number of the paragraph on the back side of the card.
5. Randomly scatter the 30 cards around the playing area with the paragraph facing down.
6. Give each student a copy of the worksheet and clipboard.

**Directions:**

1. Assign students each a color card (no more than 6 per color)
2. On the “go” signal, have students flip their card, read the paragraph and the answer choices.
3. Have them write out the answer for that paragraph on their worksheet for that number card.
4. Explain to students that if the paragraph number is #3, then they are to write their answer in the #3 space on their paper. If the paragraph is #2 they are to write their answer in the #2 space on their paper. This way when you check the answers at the end of the activity, everyone will have read the same paragraph for #1, #2, #3, etc.
5. When they finish writing the paragraph, instruct students to do the activity listed at the bottom of the sheet and flip the card back over.
6. Instruct students to move to another card of their assigned color and repeat the same process until they have gone to each card of their color.
7. When students have finished all five questions have them put their clipboards down in a safe area and walk the perimeter of the playing area until everyone is finished.
8. When everyone is done, bring the students to a common meeting area, or go back to the classroom and go over the answers.

**Teaching Suggestions:**

1. Remind students to flip the card back over when they are done.
2. Tell students to write out the answer and not just write A, B, C or D.
3. Remind them about looking at what number paragraph it is so they know what number space to write in on their worksheet.

**Modifications/Variations:**

1. Use your own paragraphs and do not put choices A, B, C or D. Have them write their own main idea for the paragraph.
2. Pair students up so that students that may need help have a helper.

*This lesson was developed by the School Health Initiative Program (SHIP) for the Williamsburg James City County Public Schools (WJCCPS), Williamsburg, VA. SHIP is funded by the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation (WCHF). Parts or all of this lesson can be used and reproduced without permission provided that SHIP, WJCCPS and WCHF are credited.*



*Williamsburg Community  
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# WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WORKSHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions:

You will be assigned a color. Go to any card of that color that is unoccupied Read the passage and choose the best answer. Write down the best choice on **this worksheet**. Make sure that the number on the card matches where you write your answer! You might not start at cone number 1!! After you write your answer, complete the exercise listed at the bottom of the paper and move to another cone that is your assigned color.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1.** Field hockey players learn many skills when playing field hockey. Field hockey players learn how to dribble and pass the ball. They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score. Most importantly, field hockey players learn how to work together with their teammates.

A. They also learn how to control the ball so they eventually score.

B. Field hockey players learn how to dribble.

C. Field hockey players learn many skills when playing field hockey

**DO 10 JUMPING JACKS**

**3.** The rainforest is home to many creatures. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rainforest. Blue Morpho butterflies and anteaters also live in the rain forest.

A. Sloths and tapirs are other creatures that live in the rain forest.

B. The rain forest is home to many creatures.

C. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rainforest.

**DO 5 PUSH UPS**

**5.** Maria is watching too much television. A toddler shouldn't be spending hours staring blankly at a screen. Worse yet, some of her wild behavior has been inspired by those awful cartoons she watches. We need to spend more time reading books with her and pull the plug on the TV!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

a. Watching a lot of television isn't good for Maria.

b. Books are good.

c. All cartoons are bad.

d. Some cartoons are bad for Maria

**. DO 20 SECONDS OF JOGGING IN PLACE**

**2.** There are many fun things to do at the beach. Swimming is one thing that can be done at the beach. Snorkeling is another thing that can be enjoyed. Playing beach volleyball can be a lot of fun. It is also fun to look for shells. Some people simply like to sunbathe.

A. There are many fun things to do at the beach.

B. It is also fun to look for shells.

C. Some people simply like to sunbathe.

**DO 20 SCISSOR KICKS.**

**4.** Juan loves to play games. His favorite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thought. Juan also likes to play less demanding board games that are based mostly on luck. He prefers Monopoly because it requires luck and skill. If he's alone, Juan likes to play action video games as long as they aren't too violent.

a. Juan dislikes violence.

b. Juan likes to think.

c. Juan enjoys Monopoly.

d. Juan enjoys playing games.

**DO 20 CROSS CRAWLS**

