

The background is a detailed illustration of a desk with school supplies. On the left, there is a green notebook, a silver pen, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser. In the center, a large sheet of lined paper is spread out. On the right, a blue spiral notebook is open, showing a page with a drawing of a butterfly, a heart, and the word "hello" written in cursive. At the bottom, a white and orange marker lies horizontally. The desk surface is light-colored wood with some yellowish debris in the upper middle.



This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

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



Non-fiction is writing that is based on facts or actual events.

What are some examples of non-fiction texts?

biographies

histories

newspaper articles

speeches

magazine articles

pamphlets

A non-fiction text usually has a central idea. The central idea is what the text is about or what the author is trying to tell the audience.



There are different ways to determine the central idea. Below are a few methods you can use.

- Method 1: Ask yourself what the text is about. Consider the title, subtitles and images to help you determine the theme or message of the text.
- Method 2: Identify the details the author uses in each paragraph and draw connections between them to determine the central idea.
- Method 3: Write an objective summary of the text. Using your own words can help you better understand the central idea.





Read the excerpt, then use the questions and activities to help you identify the central idea of the text. Press on the highlighted words to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start



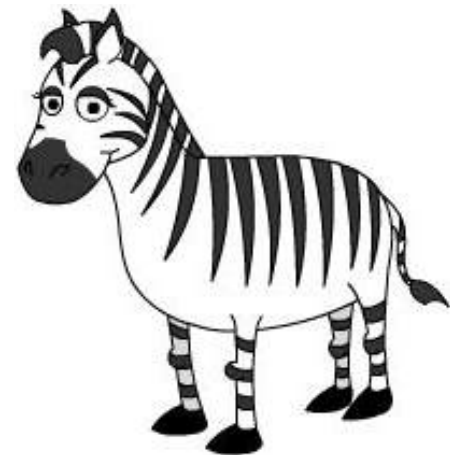
What is the central idea?


The details and main points in a text should **support**, or prove, the central idea.

To check your central idea, ask yourself how each point supports it. For example:

How does the main point that extinction has a negative impact on the world's ecosystems support the central idea that humans should try to prevent animals from going extinct?

This main point provides evidence for why we should prevent animals from going extinct.





Read the excerpt, then press play to learn how you can track multiple central ideas in a text.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Sometimes, the central idea of a text can change or develop over the course of the text.

By using a graphic organizer to track the main topic of each paragraph, we can see how the central idea of a text is developed.

Developing a central idea over the course of a text can draw the audience's attention to different aspects of the topic, reveal multiple perspectives or use logic to help persuade the audience.



Read the excerpt, then use the graphic organizer to help you track the development of the central idea in President Obama's National Address to America's Schoolchildren.

Press **start** to begin.

start

