

## Teaching Notes

The goal of RI.3.2 is for students to be able to determine the main idea of the text. Students should also be able to recount key details found in the text and explain how they support the main idea. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

### Activiti

1. Graphic organizers are a great way for students to find and organize the main idea and its supporting details. The following website has various formats for main idea graphic organizers. Flowers, stars, circles, fish bones, and ovals are all used to show the same basic concept of main idea. Read an informational text and allow students to fill out a graphic organizer that looks fun to them. (<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers/mainsupportingideas/>)

### Writing Prompts

1. Nonfiction pyramids are a great way for students to write about an informative article. Students will be able to identify main ideas, supporting details, vocabulary, and author's purpose. Students can then turn their nonfiction pyramid into a short essay or paragraph discussing the main idea and supporting details they found in the passage. (<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/nonfiction-pyramid.pdf>)
2. Use an online webbing tool so that students can come up with their own graphic organizers to discuss the main idea and key elements in a nonfiction text. ([http://rwtinteractives.ncte.org/view\\_interactive.aspx?id=127](http://rwtinteractives.ncte.org/view_interactive.aspx?id=127))

### Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.3.2:

**The Main Idea as a Table:** In this online lesson plan, the main idea is a table top, while the supporting ideas are the legs of a table. Students learn to support the table by finding the key elements (or legs):

- [http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ODE/IMS/Lessons/Content/CER\\_LP\\_S04\\_BC\\_L03\\_I01\\_01.pdf](http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ODE/IMS/Lessons/Content/CER_LP_S04_BC_L03_I01_01.pdf)

**Brain Pop:** Teachers with a BrainPop account can find a wonderful group of Main Idea activities and information here:

- <http://educators.brainpop.com/bp-jr-topic/main-idea/>

**Revisiting Main Idea Throughout the Year:** This online lesson plan discusses the importance of revisiting the main idea concept several times throughout the year. She explains that some students who struggle with this concept early in the school year will find it easier as the year goes on and their reading level develops:

- <http://betterlesson.com/lesson/517936/finding-the-main-idea-again>

**Informational Retelling:** In this online lesson plan, the teacher discusses another strategy for retelling, which is "main idea, detail, detail, detail." A hand motion accompanies this strategy:

- <http://betterlesson.com/lesson/588921/informational-retelling-main-idea-detail-detail-detail>