

Grade 4 Playlist: Summarize

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2*:

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Welcome

A news ticker is text that crawls or scrolls across the bottom of a television screen and reports news headlines. The ticker contains the main idea and important details about a news story. It doesn't give readers *all* the details. Like a news ticker, a summary includes the main idea and most important details. Being able to summarize a paragraph or a passage helps a reader understand and recall the text.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- identify the main idea and key details of an informational text.
- summarize the main idea and key details in their own words.

Review

Key Terms

- A **summary** is a short statement of the most important ideas in a text.
- The **main idea** is what the text is mostly about.
- A **key detail** gives additional important information about the main idea.

Exploring the Standard

A summary includes the most important information in a paragraph or passage. It includes the main idea, or the point that an author is trying to make, and key details. A summary is much shorter than the original text. It briefly states the author's ideas from the original text but uses the writer's own words.

Watch!

Watch these videos about how to summarize:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwLrYQuFabA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGWO1ldEhtQ>



A Closer Look: Determining Which Details to Include in a Summary

When writing a summary of a text, writers must determine which details are important and which are not. First, check to see which details answer the following questions that reporters use when they write a news story: *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?* Then, decide whether these details present an important fact or answer an important question.

Example

This selection about Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama and his discovery is from *Discoverers and Explorers* by Edward R. Shaw.

¹Both the Spaniards and the Portuguese were cut off from trade with the East, because the Turks had taken possession of Constantinople. In consequence of this, the navigators of both countries were making earnest efforts to find a water route to India.

²Spain, as you know, had faith in Columbus, and helped him in his plan of trying to reach India by sailing westward. But the Portuguese had a different idea. They spent their time and money in trying to sail round the African coast, in the belief that India could be reached by means of a southeast passage.

³This southeast passage could be found only by crossing the "burning zone," as the part of the earth near the equator was called; and all sailors feared to make the attempt.

⁴It was thought almost impossible to cross this burning zone, and the few navigators who had ventured as far as the equator had turned back in fear of steaming whirlpools and of fiery belts of heat.

⁵In 1486, six years before Columbus discovered America, the King of Portugal sent Bartholomew Diaz, a bold and daring navigator, to find the end of the African coast.

⁶Bartholomew Diaz sailed through the fiery zone without meeting any of the dreadful misfortunes which the sailors so feared. When he had sailed beyond the tropic of Capricorn, a severe storm arose. The wind blew his three vessels directly south for thirteen days, during which time he lost sight of land. When the sun shone again, Diaz headed his vessels eastward, but as no land appeared, he again changed the direction, this time heading them toward the north. After sailing northward a short time, land was reached about two hundred miles east of the Cape of Good Hope.

⁷Diaz now pushed on four hundred miles farther along the coast of Africa, and saw the wide expanse of the Indian Ocean before him. Here the sailors refused to go any farther, and Diaz, although he wanted very much to go ahead and try to reach India, was obliged to return.

⁸On the way home, the vessels passed close to the cape which projects from the south coast of Africa, and Diaz named it Stormy Cape, in memory of the frightful storm which hid it from view on the way down. When they reached Lisbon, however, King John said that it should be called the Cape of Good Hope, because they now had hope that the southern route to India was found.

