

Supporting the Reading

Comprehension Skill

★ Main Idea and Details

Teach

Remind students that the main idea of a paragraph, section, or selection is the most important idea. The details provide more information about the main idea. Identifying main ideas and details while reading can help students remember important information.

Guided Practice

- ◆ Have students reread pages 28–29. Ask them:

*What is the main idea of the section? **Animals change colors during different seasons.***

- ◆ Write the main idea on the board, and draw a box around it. Explain that headings give clues about the main idea of the section. Each heading is a question, and the answer is the main idea. Ask students:

- *What is the heading of this section? **Why Do Some Animals Change Color?***
- *What is the answer to this question, or what is the main idea? **Animals change colors to match the seasons.***
- *What details support the main idea? **Possible Answer** The snowshoe rabbit turns white in the winter to match the snow. It turns brown in the spring to match the forest.*

- ◆ Write these details on the board beneath the main idea as students list them.

UNIT 4 Lesson 1

Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Focus • The **main idea** tells what a paragraph is mostly about. A **main idea** sentence gives the main idea of the paragraph. A main idea sentence often comes first in the paragraph to help readers know what the paragraph is about.

• The other sentences in the paragraph give **details** or information about the main idea.

Practice Look through *Animal Camouflage* for main idea sentences. Write one main-idea sentence below. Then give some details about the main idea. **Possible answers** below.

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Main idea sentence: Some animals use tricks to hide themselves.

Details about the main idea: Animals use colors and patterns to camouflage.
Camouflage makes things very hard to find.

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UNIT 4 Lesson 1

Apply Read the paragraph. It is missing a main-idea sentence. Choose the best main idea sentence from the box and write it on the lines.

Sometimes animals are too small to defend themselves from harm. Camouflage is a useful tool to help keep them safe. The leaf insect and leafy sea dragon both look like the plants in their surroundings. Both animals even move like the leaves they mimic. Using a disguise keeps these animals alive.

Watching animals out in the wild is exciting.

It is fun to learn about animals.

Animals can use camouflage as protection from predators.

Animals can use camouflage as protection from predators.

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Skills Practice 2, pp. 7–8