

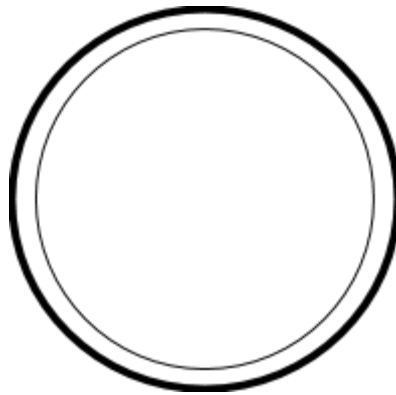
TEACHER KEY

What is a central idea?

The central or main idea of a text is the most important point that an author makes about a topic. In other words, it answers the question *What's it all about?*

The central or main idea can be found by looking for supporting details.

Main idea:



Details:

Detail 1

Detail 2

Detail 3

How do I find the central idea?

Before I Read:

- Look at the title
- Text features (headings, captions, etc...)
- What will this be about?

During the read:

- Look to see if the main idea is explicitly stated
- What do the sentences in the text explain or describe?
- What details do the sentences have in common?
 - Look for repeated words, ideas and information.

After the read:

- How do each of these details relate to and support the central idea?
- What is the most important idea or thought about the topic?
- How does the author think and/feel about the topic?