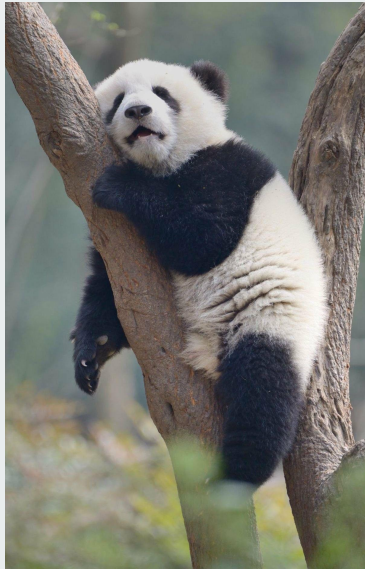


Topic and Main Idea



Overview



1

Topic versus Main Idea
Warm-up Game

2

Vocabulary + Pronunciation

3

Reading of the Day
Find the topics and main ideas

4

Group Work

5

Exit Ticket

Quizlet

<https://quizlet.com/514598565/match>

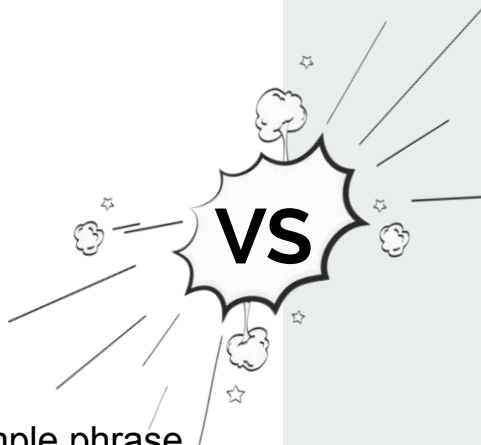


Topic

- A topic is often a word or simple phrase.
- A topic usually tells what the paragraph or reading is about.
- Who or what is the paragraph (or story) about?
- Topics are **never** complete sentences.

Example: Ice-cream, cheese, yogurt.

Topic: Dairy products.



Main idea



Vocabulary Time!

Extinction (noun)

ex-TINC-tion

When a species does not exist anymore.

To estimate (verb)

ES-ti-mate

To guess the value, number or quantity of something.

Reserve (noun)

re-SERVE

A place created to protect something, like wildlife.

Endangered (adjective)

en-DAN-gered

Something that is close to extinction.

To depend (verb)

de-PEND

To rely on something or someone.

Predator (noun)

PRE-da-tor

An animal that eats other animals.

Independent (adjective)

in-de-PEN-dent

Able to rely on yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93hq0YU3Gqk>

Giant Pandas



1. Giant pandas used to live in large areas of China, but they are now close to extinction. In the past, they were spread throughout the forests of southern and eastern China. Each panda needed a large area of forest - and large amounts of bamboo - but there was enough forest and bamboo for tens of thousands of giant pandas. However, in the 20th century, people moved into the forests and cut down the bamboo. By the 1990s, scientists estimated that there were only about 1,000 wild pandas left. Fortunately, the Chinese government decided to try to save them. It created several panda reserves, where the pandas and their forests were protected. Thanks to these reserves, panda populations are slowly growing and there are now from 1,500 to 2,000 in the wild. Pandas are still on the international list of endangered species, but scientists now hope it may be possible to save them.



Tips for Finding Topics

1. What does the title or heading say?
2. What are in the pictures? What words are **bolded**, *italicised*, underlined, or in colour?
3. What do the first and last sentences have in common?
4. Do you keep seeing the same words in that paragraph? Circle or highlight them!
5. Is something from the beginning of the paragraph talked about many times by its pronoun?
6. Does the text make you think about an idea, even though the idea isn't seen in the text?



Memory Trick for Finding Topics!

FiRST

- **F** is for subject in the **First** sentence.
- **R** is for **Repeated** words or phrases.
- **ST** is for sentences that talk about the **Same Thing**.

Giant Pandas



1. Giant pandas used to live in large areas of China, but they are now close to extinction. In the past, they were spread throughout the forests of southern and eastern China. Each panda needed a large area of forest - and large amounts of bamboo - but there was enough forest and bamboo for tens of thousands of giant pandas. However, in the 20th century, people moved into the forests and cut down the bamboo. By the 1990s, scientists estimated that there were only about 1,000 wild pandas left. Fortunately, the Chinese government decided to try to save them. It created several panda reserves, where the pandas and their forests were protected. Thanks to these reserves, panda populations are slowly growing and there are now from 1,500 to 2,000 in the wild. Pandas are still on the international list of endangered species, but scientists now hope it may be possible to save them.

Topic: _____

a) Panda reserves

b) Bamboo forests

c) Giant pandas



Topic

- A topic is often a word or simple phrase.
- A topic usually tells what the paragraph or reading is about.
- Who or what is the paragraph (or story) about?
- Topics are **never** complete sentences.

Example: Cheese, yogurt, ice-cream.

Topic: Dairy products ✓



VS



Main idea

- The main idea is often a sentence in the paragraph (or story).
- Sometimes you can write a general idea that could sum up the paragraph in one sentence,
- The main idea can be a part of a **complete sentence.**

Example: Milk contains lots of nutrients that are essential for growth. These include calcium, protein, and other vitamins.

Main idea: Milk is nutritional. ✓



Tips for Finding the Main Idea

1. What is the writer trying to teach you?
2. The main idea might be given to you in the paragraph!
3. The main idea should not be detailed. It should be very general.
4. Use your topic as a part of your main idea.

Topic

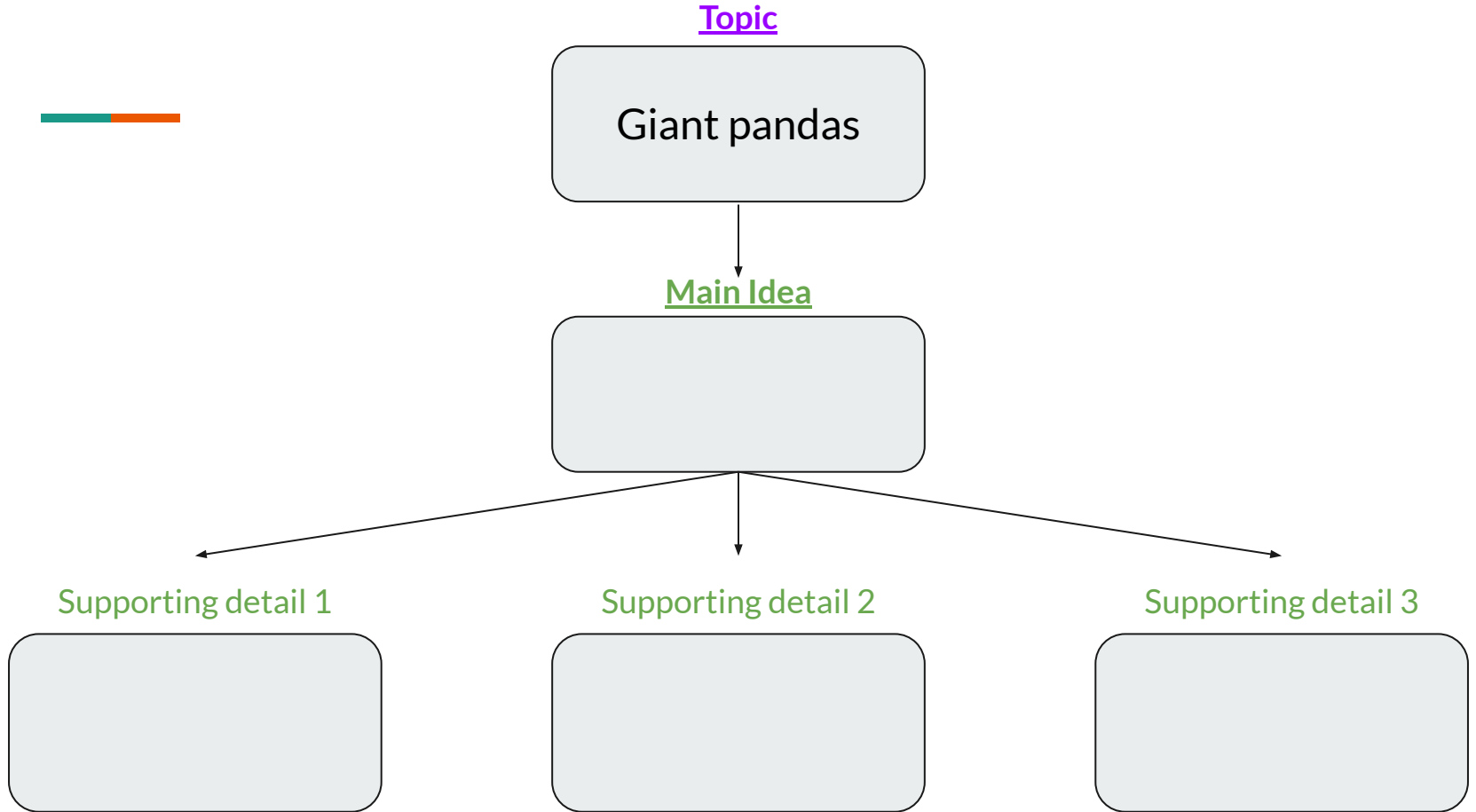
Giant pandas

Main Idea

Supporting detail 1

Supporting detail 2

Supporting detail 3



Giant Pandas



1. Giant pandas used to live in large areas of China, but they are now close to extinction. In the past, they were spread throughout the forests of southern and eastern China. Each panda needed a large area of forest - and large amounts of bamboo - but there was enough forest and bamboo for tens of thousands of giant pandas. However, in the 20th century, people moved into the forests and cut down the bamboo. By the 1990s, scientists estimated that there were only about 1,000 wild pandas left. Fortunately, the Chinese government decided to try to save them. It created several panda reserves, where the pandas and their forests were protected. Thanks to these reserves, panda populations are slowly growing and there are now from 1,500 to 2,000 in the wild. Pandas are still on the international list of endangered species, but scientists now hope it may be possible to save them.

Main Idea: _____

Supporting detail 1

Supporting detail 2

Supporting detail 3

Topic

Giant pandas

Main Idea

Giant pandas are close to extinction.

Supporting detail 1

In the 20th century, people cut down the bamboo forests that pandas needed.

Supporting detail 2

By the 1990s, there were only about 1,000 wild pandas left.

Supporting detail 3

Pandas are still on the list of endangered species.

Giant Pandas



2. For the first year of their lives, giant panda cubs depend completely on their mothers. At birth, the babies are very small - about 140 grams. They are also completely helpless. For several weeks, their eyes are closed. | For at least the first three months, their legs are not strong enough for walking. When they are this small, they can easily be killed by other animals if they are not protected by the mother. | At around six months, the young pandas start eating little bits of bamboo, but milk from their mothers is their main food until they are over nine months old. | This milk is very rich, and the little pandas grow quickly. By the time they are a year old, they weigh at least 25 kilograms.
3. Scientists report that panda mothers care for their babies in some of the same ways that human mothers do. | For one thing, panda mothers keep their babies very clean. They do not give the little pandas baths, of course. Instead, they use their tongues to lick the babies clean. | Any smell might attract predators that could attack and try to kill the baby. Like human mothers who hold their babies in their arms, mother pandas often hold their babies in their front paws. | And just like humans, panda mothers rock their babies back and forth when they cry. Finally, as with humans, young pandas stay with their mothers for their early years. | But their childhood ends much sooner than with human children. After about two years mother pandas usually become pregnant with another baby and chase away the young pandas. Now they must become independent and live on their own.

Giant Pandas



2. For the first year of their lives, giant panda cubs depend completely on their mothers. At birth, the babies are very small - about 140 grams. They are also completely helpless. For several weeks, their eyes are closed. For at least the first three months, their legs are not strong enough for walking. When they are this small, they can easily be killed by other animals if they are not protected by the mother. At around six months, the young pandas start eating little bits of bamboo, but milk from their mothers is their main food until they are over nine months old. This milk is very rich, and the little pandas grow quickly. By the time they are a year old, they weigh at least 25 kilograms.

Topic: _____

Main idea: _____

Supporting detail 1

Supporting detail 2

Supporting detail 3



Giant Pandas

3. Scientists report that panda mothers care for their babies in some of the same ways that human mothers do. For one thing, panda mothers keep their babies very clean. They do not give the little pandas baths, of course. Instead, they use their tongues to lick the babies clean. Any smell might attract predators that could attack and try to kill the baby. Like human mothers who hold their babies in their arms, mother pandas often hold their babies in their front paws. And just like humans, panda mothers rock their babies back and forth when they cry. Finally, as with humans, young pandas stay with their mothers for their early years. But their childhood ends much sooner than with human children. After about two years mother pandas usually become pregnant with another baby and chase away the young pandas. Now they must become independent and live on their own.

Topic: _____

Main idea: _____

Supporting detail 1

Supporting detail 2

Supporting detail 3



Exit Ticket

What have you learned about pandas?