

How to find the MAIN IDEA of an Informational Text

Step One: Look at the text features BEFORE you read

- What does the title say?
- Are there any pictures? What do they add to the text?
- Are there any sub-headings? How is the text organized?
 - Compare/Contrast
 - Problem/Solution (cause and effect)
 - Chronological order
- Are there any bold words? Why did the author chose to make these bold?
- Are there any window quotes? What do they tell you about the text?

Step Two: Circle key words AFTER you read

- Are there any words that are repeated?
- Are there any words that match the title?
- Are there any words that seem especially important or powerful to you?

Step Three: Ask yourself these questions:

- What is the TOPIC of this article?
- What is the text focusing on in regards to this TOPIC?