Main Idea in Paragraphs

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Numbered reading texts

Text 1: A butterfly begins life as a tiny egg. The egg hatches into a caterpillar that eats leaves and grows. Then the caterpillar makes a chrysalis around itself. Inside, it changes into a butterfly.

Text 2: Washing your hands helps stop germs from spreading. Use soap and warm water. Rub your hands together for twenty seconds. Rinse well and dry with a clean towel.

Text 3: A bike helmet protects your head if you fall. It has a hard shell on the outside and soft foam inside. The straps hold it snugly under your chin. Riders should wear a helmet on every ride.

Text 4: Long ago, people wrote letters by hand and sent them by horse. Later, trains and trucks carried the mail faster. Then people could talk on the telephone. Today, many people send messages in just a few seconds.

1. Use Text 1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
   Animals are born in different ways.
   Butterflies live for ten years.
   A butterfly changes as it grows.

2. Use Text 2. Which detail from the paragraph supports the main idea?
   Wash your hands only before dinner.
   Cold water works best for washing hands.
   Rub your hands together for twenty seconds.

3. Use Text 3. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
   A helmet keeps a rider's head safe.
   Riding a bike is fun for everyone.
   Helmets are only for grown-ups.

4. Use Text 4. Which detail from the paragraph supports the main idea?
   People like to talk to each other.
   Trains and trucks carried the mail faster.
   Horses still carry most of the mail today.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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