Main Idea and Supporting Details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the answer to each question.

READ THIS FIRST

Why Leaves Change Color

In summer, leaves are green because they hold a green material called chlorophyll. Leaves use it to turn sunlight into food for the tree. All summer, the tree keeps making more chlorophyll.

In fall, days get shorter and cooler. The tree stops making chlorophyll, and the green slowly fades. Yellow and orange colors that were hiding underneath finally show.

Then the tree seals off each leaf stem. The leaf dries up and drops to the ground. Next spring, the tree grows fresh green leaves to replace them.

1. What is the main idea of the whole text?
   Trees grow tall. Leaves change color. Trees need water. Leaves make food.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Leaves make food. Trees grow tall. Leaves drop off. Leaves turn yellow.

3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Days get shorter. Stems get sealed. Leaves use sunlight. Yellow was hiding.

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Leaves make food. Leaves drop off. Leaves grow back. Fall colors show.

5. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Seeds fall down. Yellow was hiding. Leaves use sunlight. Stems get sealed.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
   Leaves drop off. Fall colors show. Leaves make food. Nights get longer.

7. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 3?
   Yellow was hiding. Birds fly south. Leaves use sunlight. Stems get sealed.

8. Which detail does not belong in this text?
   Stems get sealed. Yellow was hiding. Frogs live in ponds. Leaves use sunlight.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Read the text. Circle the answer to each question.

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1. What is the main idea of the whole text?

   Trees grow tall. **Leaves change color.** Trees need water. Leaves make food.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

   Leaves make food. Trees grow tall. Leaves drop off. Leaves turn yellow.

3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1?

   Days get shorter. Stems get sealed. **Leaves use sunlight.** Yellow was hiding.

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

   Leaves make food. Leaves drop off. Leaves grow back. **Fall colors show.**

5. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 2?

   Seeds fall down. **Yellow was hiding.** Leaves use sunlight. Stems get sealed.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

   Leaves drop off. Fall colors show. Leaves make food. Nights get longer.

7. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 3?

   Yellow was hiding. Birds fly south. Leaves use sunlight. **Stems get sealed.**

8. Which detail does not belong in this text?

   Stems get sealed. Yellow was hiding. **Frogs live in ponds.**
   Leaves use sunlight.