



Main idea

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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The **main idea** of a paragraph is what the whole paragraph is *mostly about*.  
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As you read Uncle Ben's letter, think about the **main idea** of each paragraph.

Marco got a letter from his Uncle Ben, the airplane pilot. Uncle Ben has traveled all over the world.

Dear Marco,

This is my third time visiting Paris, and I think it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Paris, as I'm sure you know, is the capital of France. Today I walked along the Avenue des Champs-Elysees, which is the most famous street in Paris. I think it may be the most famous street in the world. It is lined with beautiful trees, fountains, and flowers. There are shops, theaters, and restaurants, and many sidewalk cafes.

I had a wonderful lunch at one of the sidewalk cafes. The pastry I had for dessert was especially delicious. Paris is known for its fine French cooking. I noticed on the café menu that they serve one of the most popular French dishes, which is escargot. Snails, in other words! I don't think I'll be trying that while I am here, though.

When you think of Paris, you probably think of the Eiffel Tower. Anyone visiting Paris has to see the Eiffel Tower. You can see the top of the Eiffel Tower from anywhere in the city. It is almost 1000 feet tall. When was built, it was the tallest building in the world. You can walk up the stairs to the top, or you can take an elevator. From the top you can look out across all of Paris. It is an amazing sight!

Tomorrow I am going to the Louvre Museum. It is one of the largest museums in the world. Once it was the French King's palace. Now, it is home to some of the most famous artworks in the world. I am looking forward to seeing the "Mona Lisa" painting. Have you seen pictures of it? It was painted over 500 years ago! There have been many poems and songs written about it. The woman in the painting has a little half-smile. To me, that makes it seem like she has a secret that she isn't going to tell.

Yours truly,
Uncle Ben

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - A. Paris is the capital city of France.
 - B. This is the third time Uncle Ben has visited Paris.
 - C. The Avenue des Champs-Elysees is the most famous street in Paris.
 - D. There are many sidewalk cafes on the Avenue des Champs-Elysees.

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - A. Uncle Ben had lunch at one of the sidewalk cafes.
 - B. Uncle Ben had a pastry for dessert.
 - C. The sidewalk café had escargot on the menu.
 - D. Escargot is snails.

3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - A. You can see the top of the Eiffel Tower from anywhere in the city.
 - B. The Eiffel Tower is almost 1000 feet tall.
 - C. When you think of Paris, you probably think of the Eiffel Tower.
 - D. You can take an elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

4. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
 - A. Uncle Ben is planning to visit the Louvre Museum.
 - B. The Mona Lisa is one of the paintings in the Louvre.
 - C. The Louvre is one of the largest museums in the world.
 - D. Many poems and songs have been written about the Mona Lisa.

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5. What is the main idea of Uncle Ben's letter?
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## Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as Uncle Ben's visit to Paris.