

## Main idea and supporting details

### Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

The **main idea** is what the story is mostly about.

The **supporting details** are small pieces of information that help explain the main idea.

#### 1. Read the story once.

Bees are smart creatures that work together to make honey. Most bees in a hive are called worker bees, and they have many important jobs.

First, worker bees fly out to collect nectar from flowers. Nectar is a sweet liquid inside flowers that bees love. Worker bees collect nectar using their long tongues and store it in a special part of their bodies called a honey stomach. When their honey stomachs are full, they return to the hive and pass the nectar to other worker bees. These bees chew the nectar and mix it with special juices from their bodies. This helps break down the sugars. They then let the nectar drip out of their mouths and spread it into the small wax cells of the honeycomb. To make the nectar thicker, worker bees fan their wings over the cells. This helps the water in the nectar dry up, turning it into honey. Once the honey is ready, the bees seal the cells with wax to keep it safe and fresh.



Every bee in the beehive has an important role. While some bees collect nectar, others guard the hive, care for baby bees or make wax for the honeycomb. Together, the bees make golden honey to feed all the bees in their hive. Bees show how teamwork can help even small creatures do big things!

2. Read the story a second time. This time, underline the main idea and circle the supporting details.
3. Then answer the following questions:

What is the story's main idea?

- a. Bees are smart creatures that work together to make honey.
- b. Nectar is a sweet liquid inside flowers that bees love.
- c. Worker bees collect nectar using their long tongues.

How do you know this is the main idea?

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Which of the following details supports the main idea?

- a. This helps break down the sugars.
- b. Worker bees give the nectar to other bees.
- c. Honeycomb is made of wax.

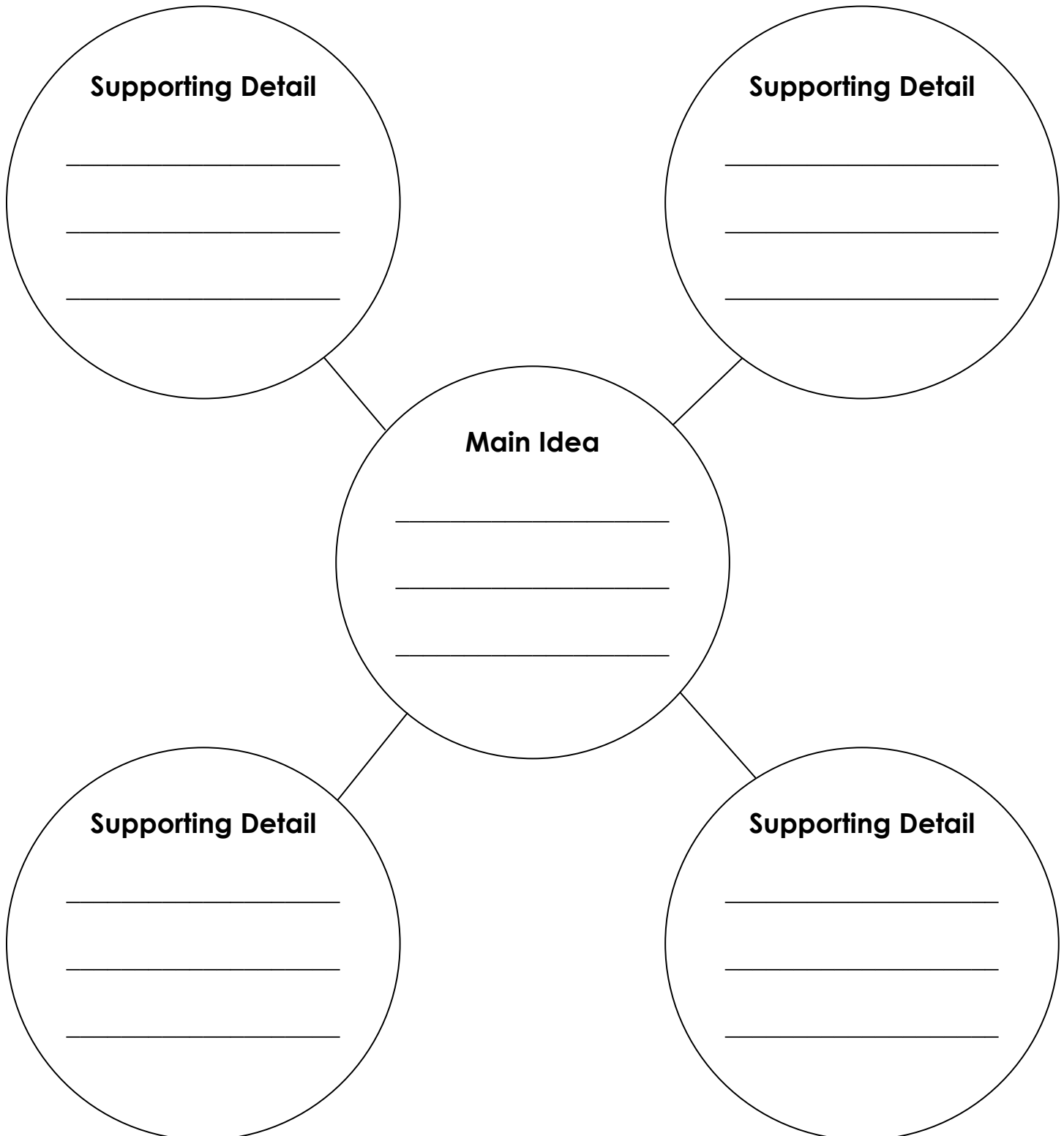
What is another detail that supports the main idea?

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4. Use your answers to help you fill out this Main Idea Organizer.  
(You will need to find two more supporting details from the text!)



The diagram is a Main Idea Organizer. It consists of a central circle labeled "Main Idea" with three horizontal lines for writing. This central circle is connected by lines to four surrounding circles, each labeled "Supporting Detail". Each of these four circles also contains three horizontal lines for writing. The circles are arranged in a diamond pattern around the central circle.

**Supporting Detail**

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**Main Idea**

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**Supporting Detail**

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**Supporting Detail**

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**Supporting Detail**

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## Answers

### 3. Then answer the following questions:

What is the story's main idea?

- a. Bees are smart creatures that work together to make honey.
- b. Nectar is a sweet liquid inside flowers that bees love.
- c. Worker bees collect nectar using their long tongues.

How do you know this is the main idea?

*Accept anything along the lines of: I knew this was the main idea because it is what the story is mostly about.*

Which of the following details supports the main idea?

- a. This helps break down the sugars.
- b. Worker bees give the nectar to other bees.
- c. Honeycomb is made of wax.

What is another detail that supports the main idea?

*Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.*

### 4. Use your answers to help you fill out this Main Idea Organizer. (You will need to find two more supporting details from the text!)

*Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.*