

Inside Reading Level 3
Unit 5 Skill Review: Identifying Main Ideas vs. Supporting Details

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Unit 5 Review Skill asks you to think about the author's main purpose as you reread Reading 2 and identify the main ideas and supporting details of each paragraph.

Let's take a look at how to identify the main idea vs. the supporting details. Read the excerpt below from "Freeze Frames—Stopping Time." Each sentence is numbered. Use the numbers as you answer the questions below.

1 By 1878, Muybridge had successfully photographed a horse in fast motion using a series of fifty cameras. **2** The cameras were arranged along a track parallel to the horse's, and each of the camera shutters was triggered by electronic timers developed specifically for the project. **3** The resulting series of photos proved that the hooves do all leave the ground at the same time—although not with the legs fully extended forward and back, as artists of the day had imagined, but rather at the moment when all the hooves are tucked under the horse, as it switches from "pulling" from the front legs to "pushing" from the back legs.

1. One sentence gives details about how the cameras were set up to capture the horse's movement. Which sentence provides those details? ____
2. One sentence tells what Muybridge discovered. Which sentence is that? ____
3. Which sentence contains the details about how a horse moves? ____
4. Now think about the most important information in this paragraph. What is the author's main purpose in writing this paragraph? Use your own words to state the main idea:

1 Muybridge continued to use this technique to photograph human beings and animals in order to "freeze" and study their motion. **2** He made sequential motion studies of athletes in a wide variety of sports and additional studies of everyday people performing mundane movements like walking down stairs. **3** Muybridge's work helped inaugurate the modern science of biomechanics, the research and analysis of the mechanics of living organisms.

5. After reading the paragraph above, notice there is a clear order to it. Do the details come before or after the main idea? _____ Underline the main idea sentence.
6. Use your own words to state the author's main purpose. _____

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Answer Key

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5. After reading the paragraph above, notice there is a clear order to it. Do the supporting details come before or after the main idea? before Underline the main idea sentence.
6. Use your own words to state the author's main purpose. Possible Answers: Muybridge's work lead to the field of biomechanics.

