

Name _____

Outlining and Summarizing

Summarizing is finding the most important ideas about a topic or text. You can summarize what you read or what you learn in class. One way to summarize is by making an **outline**. An outline shows a main idea and details, as in the one shown below.

An Endangered Animal—The African Elephant	
I. Size A. Weight 1. 7,000 to 15,000 pounds 2. Males larger B. Height and Length 1. 10 to 13 ft high 2. 20 to 24 ft long	II. Diet—Vegetation A. Grasses B. Leaves C. Fruit III. Habitat—Africa A. Forest B. Grassland

Directions Write the words from the box in the outline. Use the outline above as a guide.

Habitat Deer 45 to 80 pounds Rabbits Wetlands

The Red Wolf	
I. Size A. 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 ft long B. Weight 1. 45 to 80 pounds _____ 2. Males larger II. Habitat _____ A. Forests B. Mountains C. Wetlands _____	III. Diet A. Mainly small animals 1. Rodents 2. Rabbits _____ B. Others 1. Insects 2. Berries 3. Deer _____

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Home Activity Your child learned how to make an outline to summarize ideas. Give your child information about a familiar topic. Include at least three main ideas and several details about the main ideas. Help him or her organize these ideas in an outline.