

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

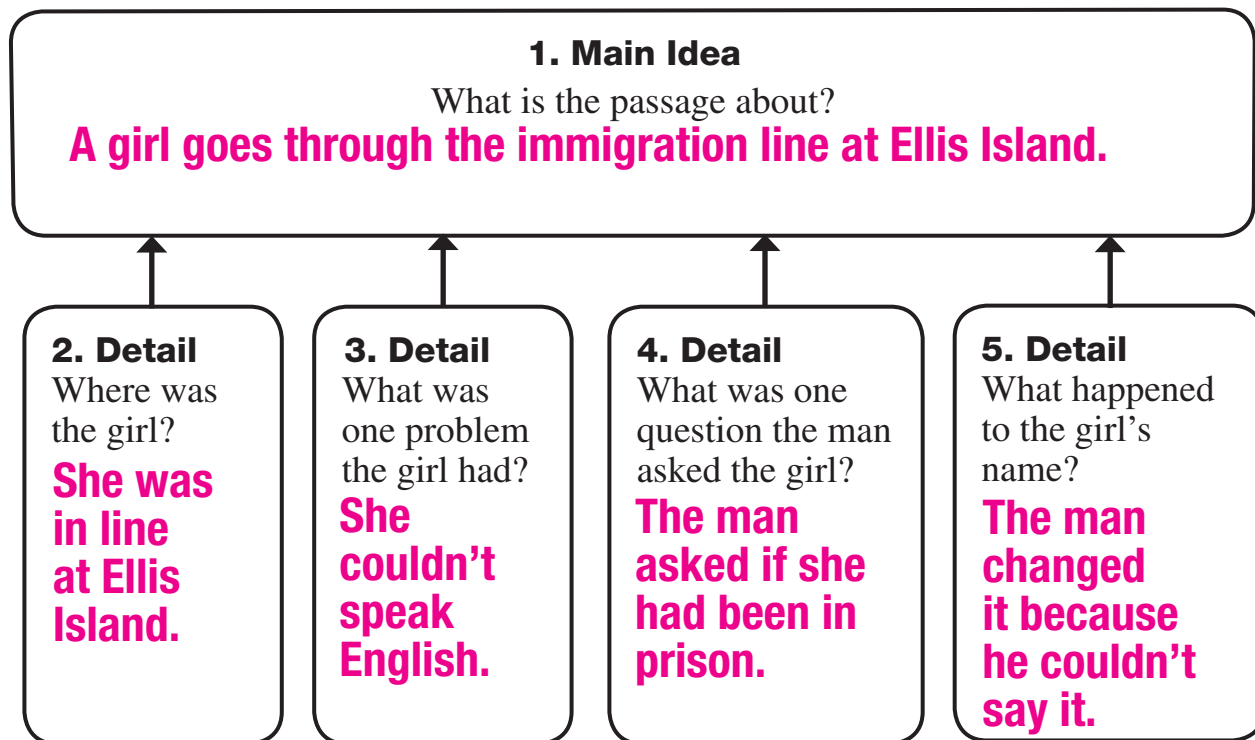
- The **main idea** is the most important idea in a selection or a paragraph.
- The small pieces of information that tell about the main idea are the supporting **details**.
- Look for keywords in the text, such as *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, and *when*, to get **details** about the **main idea**.

Directions Read the following passage and complete the chart below.

I stood in line at Ellis Island for a long time. People were speaking different languages all around me. Finally, it was my turn. I told the man my name. Then he asked a question. I didn't know what to answer because I didn't understand English. Another man told me in my own

language that he wanted to know if I ever was in prison. I was only 13 years old! He asked me if I was sick, and I said "No." He tried to say my name, but couldn't. He wrote a new name next to mine. The other man told me my new name. "Welcome to America, young lady," he said.

Directions Write the main idea of the passage in box 1. Then write the details that support that idea in boxes 2–5.



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Home Activity Your child learned about finding the main idea and details in a piece of writing. Read a newspaper or magazine article with your child. Have him or her tell you what the article was about and give three details that support the main idea.