

Name _____

Main Idea

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic.
- Sometimes the main idea is stated in a sentence, but when it isn't, you have to figure it out and state it in your own words.

Directions Read the following passages from the story *The Statue of Liberty: From Paris to New York City*. Circle the correct main idea in each.

1. What was New York City like in 1886? At night the city was ablaze with light. New York City was the first city in the world lighted by electricity!
 - a. New York City was a busy city.
 - b. New York in 1886 was full of light.**
 - c. New York City was the first city to have electricity.
2. The Statue of Liberty was being unveiled. Thousands of New Yorkers watched the unforgettable sight from the shores of Manhattan.
 - a. Thousands of New Yorkers came to the shores.
 - b. The Statue of Liberty was unveiled.**
 - c. People like to see new statues.
3. The Paris of today still has much of the charm of the old city. But not everything in Paris is old. There are new parks and gardens. You can ride down wide, tree-lined avenues where you will see new railroad stations, government buildings, and theaters.
 - a. Paris has many parks and gardens.
 - b. Paris today is a mixture of old and new.**
 - c. You can have a lot of fun in Paris.

Directions Look at the main ideas written below. Can you think of a supporting detail for each idea? For example, if the main idea is “Bob loves to sing,” a supporting detail might be “and he is always giving musical concerts.” Try it yourself!

Possible responses given.

4. My dog Skip loves the park. He loves to play frisbee on the lawn.

He loves to roll on the grass. He naps under a tree.

5. Keeping your teeth clean is important. You can get cavities if you don't

brush. Your teeth won't be healthy. Your teeth won't look good.