

Name _____

Main Idea

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about a paragraph, passage, or story.
- **Details** are pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Birds that cannot fly are called flightless birds. They differ from flying birds in many ways. The bones of flightless birds are heavier than those of flying birds. Flightless birds' feathers are

also different from those of flying birds. Like humans, all birds have a breastbone. However, a flightless bird's breastbone is different from that of a flying bird since it has no flight muscles attached.

Possible responses given.

1. In one or two words, what is this paragraph about?

flightless birds

2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

Flightless birds differ from flying birds in many ways.

3. What is one important detail that tells more about the main idea?

The bones of flightless birds are heavier than those of flying birds.

4. What is another important detail about the main idea?

The feathers of flightless birds are different from those of flying birds.

5. What is a third detail about the main idea?

A flightless bird's breastbone is different from that of a flying bird.