

Name _____

Main Idea

- The **main idea** is the author's most important point about a topic.
- Sometimes the main idea is not stated directly in a selection, but the details of a selection can give you clues.

Directions Read the following passages. Then write down the main idea and list two details from the passage that support your answer.

Our flag has thirteen stripes to remind us of our first colonies. There is a star for each state. The colors all mean

something. Red is for hardiness, white is for innocence, blue stands for justice. Betsy Ross sewed the first flag.

1. Main idea: _____

2. Supporting detail: _____

3. Supporting detail: _____

Francis Scott Key watched the British attack during the War of 1812. When he looked out after a terrible battle, he saw that our flag was still waving. This

inspired him to write a poem about it, *The Star Spangled Banner*, which was set to music. This song later became our national anthem.

4. Main idea: _____

5. Supporting detail: _____

6. Supporting detail: _____
