

Name: _____

Identifying the Main Idea

The main idea is the most important point that the writer is trying to make.

Directions: Read each passage and write the main idea below it. Then give the passage a suitable title.

Title: _____

The invention of skateboards dates back to the late 1940s and early 1950s in the United States of America. They were invented by surfers who wanted a version of surfing that could be done on land. In the beginning, skateboards were made of old boxes with roller skate wheels attached to them, but this design was quickly improved. Skateboards were made to look more like surfboards and clay wheels were employed, making the boards easier and smoother to ride. By the 1960s, the skateboarding craze was everywhere. The invention of skateboards revolutionized the skateboarding movement and its popularity continues to this day.

Main idea: _____

Title: _____

Dolphins are able to defend themselves from sharks in several ways. Firstly, they are extremely quick and agile swimmers, which allows them to outmaneuver sharks in the water. Secondly, dolphins are known to use their powerful tails to deliver a swift blow to a shark's nose or gills, which can stun or even injure the predator. Thirdly, dolphins are known to swim in large groups or pods, which can overwhelm a lone shark and make it less likely to attack. Fourthly, dolphins are intelligent animals and may be able to sense the presence of sharks before they get too close. Finally, in some cases, dolphins have been observed working together to chase away or even attack sharks.

Main idea: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Koalas sleep so much because their diet of eucalyptus leaves has low nutritional value and high toxicity. They spend most of their time awake digesting their food and conserving energy. Since eucalyptus leaves are hard to break down, koalas need to sleep to conserve the energy needed for digestion. Sleeping also helps them to avoid predators such as eagles and dingoes, which are less active during the day. Finally, sleeping for long periods helps koalas conserve precious water, which is a limiting resource in their native habitat of Australia.

Main idea: _____

Title: _____

Ramen noodles were invented in Japan in the early 20th century by a man named Momofuku Ando. Ando developed the noodles as a solution to the food shortage and hunger that plagued Japan after World War II. The inspiration for the invention of ramen noodles is disputed, with some accounts stating that Ando was inspired by traditional Chinese noodles, while others say it was his observation of how Americans consumed soup. Today, ramen noodles are a popular dish worldwide, with variations incorporating different broths, meats, and vegetables. Ando's invention has left a lasting impact on the culinary world.

Main idea: _____

Title: _____

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart once heard music in a dream. He famously recounted a dream in which he heard a composition in its entirety, with all its orchestration and parts, and upon waking, he transcribed it onto paper. This became his Symphony No. 41 in C major, also known as the "Jupiter Symphony." Mozart's ability to retain and reproduce music in his mind was a remarkable talent, and the story of his dream composition has become a legendary example of his genius.

Main idea: _____
