



Main Idea Organizer: Wetlands

Mission: The Sunnyside Nature Center is making a poster about wetlands and needs the two biggest ideas from this article, each supported by key details. Read, mark the key details, and build the organizer.

Big question: How do key details support two or more main ideas in an informational text?

★ Warm-up: Topic vs. main idea

Label T for topic or MI for main idea.

Wetlands ✓ **Topic.**

Wetlands protect towns from flooding. ✓ **Main idea.**

Key vocabulary

Main idea	The most important point the author makes about a topic.
Key detail	A fact or example that supports a main idea.
Wetland	Land covered by water for all or part of the year.
Migration	A long seasonal trip that animals make.

1 Box 1

Mark key details

In the simulator: Tap at least 4 sentences that are key details.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Build the organizer

In the simulator: Sort every detail card under the right main idea (or the trash).

Why does "Some people think wetlands smell bad" go in the trash?

☐ It doesn't support either main idea ☐ It is false ☐ It is the main idea

✓ **It doesn't support either main idea**

3 Box 3

Two main ideas

Which TWO sentences state the article's main ideas?

Choose all that apply.

☐ Wetlands help control floods and keep water clean. ☐ Wetlands are homes for many animals.

☐ Indiana once had millions of acres of wetlands. ☐ Dragonflies live in wetlands.

✓ **Wetlands help control floods and keep water clean.; Wetlands are homes for many animals.**

4 Box 4

Explain a main idea (CER)

Choose one main idea and prove it with a key detail from the text.

Main idea

Look for: States a main idea; at least 8 words

Key detail

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

Explain

Look for: Explains the connection; at least 10 words

5 Box 5

Summarize

Write a 2-sentence summary of the article that includes BOTH main ideas.

Look for: Main idea 1; Main idea 2; at least 18 words

6 Box 6

Legend: author's purpose 🏆 Legend only

Why does the author include the last paragraph?

☐ To connect both main ideas and persuade readers to protect wetlands ☐ To describe frogs ☐ To tell a story

✓ **To connect both main ideas and persuade readers to protect wetlands**

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do key details support two or more main ideas in an informational text?

Look for: A text can have more than one main idea. Each main idea is supported by key details: facts, examples, and descriptions that prove it. Details that are interesting but don't support a main idea can be left out of a summary.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗺 Explorer	1NP-E
🔍 Investigator	106-I
🏆 Legend	7NP-L

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "The main idea is always the first sentence." It can be anywhere or not stated at all.
- "The most interesting detail is the main idea." The main idea is the point the details support.
- "Texts only have one structure." Authors often mix structures; look for the main one.