

# Faces of the Moon

## Topic or Main Idea?

TIME

PRIMARY SKILL

OBJECTIVE

STUDENT EVIDENCE

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

30 minutes full · 15 minutes short Distinguish a topic from a main idea Name the topic, then turn it into a statement that says something important about the subject and can be supported by details.

A topic, a one-sentence main idea, and three details that support the main idea.

What is the difference between naming the subject and saying what the text is mainly telling us about it?

### Before teaching

Read or play the complete book before the timed lesson. Keep the book available so claims and evidence can be checked against the text.

|                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Materials:</b> | the book, Student Evidence page, pencil. |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|

### Lesson sequence

| TIME   | TEACHING MOVE                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 min  | Name the difference A topic names the subject. A main idea says something important about that subject.            |
| 6 min  | Try both Give the class a topic label for the book, then ask what important statement the pages support.           |
| 10 min | Test the statement Check the proposed main idea against several pages. Keep only details that actually support it. |
| 6 min  | Sort support Separate supporting details from details that are true but do not support the main idea.              |
| 4 min  | Say it cleanly Write one sentence for the main idea and name one detail that makes it stronger.                    |

## ELA SKILL LESSON · TEACHER SUPPORT

# Faces of the Moon

## Topic or Main Idea?

Access routes

|                  |                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SOLO</b>      | Use the book independently to complete the evidence page. Require page-based support for the central claim.                                                |
| <b>SUPPORTED</b> | Pause at the key evidence moments. Rephrase the task orally, then have students point to or record the evidence before explaining it.                      |
| <b>LISTENING</b> | Use narration and illustrations. Let students respond orally or by selecting from teacher-read options, then ask them to justify the choice from the book. |

**EXTEND**

Ask students to test the skill on a second moment or explain why a tempting alternative answer is weaker.

**Teacher guidance**

Keep the lesson on distinguish a topic from a main idea. The source unit places this move inside What it is mainly about; this standalone version should still require evidence from the named book rather than general knowledge or memory.

**Assessment**

- A topic is only the subject; a main idea is a statement about the subject.
- The main idea must be supportable from the pages rather than guessed from the title.
- Supporting details should stand behind the claim, not merely relate to the topic.

Short route · 15 minutes 3 min - name/model the skill. 8 min - gather the minimum evidence required on the student page. 4 min - explain the answer and verify it against the book.

**Watch for**

Students who write only a label such as a subject noun rather than a complete, supportable statement.

**Source note**

Extracted from the TumbleTA unit What it is mainly about, using its stated day focus, product, checkpoints, and/or strong-answer criteria. No regional standard is attached to this base skill lesson.

**STUDENT EVIDENCE · GRADE 3**

## Faces of the Moon

**Topic or Main Idea?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Write the topic.

Then write a main idea that says something important about that topic.

**PART****YOUR EVIDENCE****TOPIC****MAIN IDEA****DETAIL 1****DETAIL 2****DETAIL 3****EXIT CHECK**

A topic is not yet a main idea because \_\_\_\_\_.

**TEACHER KEY · GRADE 3**

## Faces of the Moon

**Topic or Main Idea?****Strong response**

A topic, a one-sentence main idea, and three details that support the main idea.

**Expected evidence**

- A topic is only the subject; a main idea is a statement about the subject.
- The main idea must be supportable from the pages rather than guessed from the title.
- Supporting details should stand behind the claim, not merely relate to the topic.

**Watch for**

Students who write only a label such as a subject noun rather than a complete, supportable statement.

**Independent success**

The student completes the required evidence product and can explain how the evidence supports the skill claim without relying only on recall or a teacher-supplied answer.

**Unit source**

What it is mainly about · Faces of the Moon by Bob Crelin