

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.

Materials:	the book, Student Evidence page, pencil.
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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

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Topic or Main Idea?

Access routes

SOLO	Use the book independently to complete the evidence page. Require page-based support for the central claim.
SUPPORTED	Pause at the key evidence moments. Rephrase the task orally, then have students point to or record the evidence before explaining it.
LISTENING	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