

Main and Supporting Details Practice

Name:

Date:

Read the paragraph below.

Highlight the main details in green and the supporting details in yellow.

So Inuit live off the land - and that means we hunt animals for food. In our language, the wild animals we hunt are not called *game*. They are not to be played with. They are called *nirjutit*, which means "food." We do not hunt caribou for prize antlers, we do not play with fish on a line, we do not mount animals' heads to show them off, and we do not hunt polar bears for sport. We are not allowed to waste meat of any kind. Take what you need and leave the animals alone -- that's the rule.

by Michael Kusugak

Dr. von Frish figured out how bees send their messages. They dance! He called it the "waggle" dance. The pattern of a bee's dance is a figure eight. She repeats it over and over again as her sister bees watch. The most important part of the dance is the straight run through the middle of the figure eight. That shows the direction from the hive to the food. If the bee is dancing outside the hive on a flat surface, she lines up with the sun, then turns to point towards the food. If the bee is inside, on the wall of the dark hive, her head points up, as if the sun were overhead. Then she turns right or left to show where the food is.

adapted from "Dancing Bees" by Margery Facklam

The next day is the pole raising. Tait family members and other Nisga'a arrive early. All of them bring button blankets and other ceremonial items such as frontlets, rattles and talking sticks. Although Norman's mind is full of details about the difficult pole raising, he still takes time to give his niece a reassuring hug.

From "Carving a Totem Pole" by Vickie Jensen

The Real McCoy
Main and Supporting Details Test Practice

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In 1872, Elijah McCoy, an engineer from Canada, invented a way to keep the moving parts of train cars constantly oiled. As a result, trains did not have to stop every few miles for oiling. Frequent stops like these would annoy passengers and add costs to the railway by making trips longer. Soon, no machine was considered any good unless it had one of McCoy's oil cups. To be sure they got a good locomotive, engineers began saying they wanted "the real McCoy." In time, this phrase came to mean "the real thing." We still use this phrase today although most people do not know its origins.

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