

# Main Idea Task Cards

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## READING TASK CARDS BUNDLE

INCLUDES BOTH PRINT AND DIGITAL OPTIONS

- MAIN IDEA TASK CARDS**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.
- SETTING TASK CARDS**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.
- CHARACTER TRAIT TASK CARDS**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.
- POINT OF VIEW**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.
- AUTHOR'S PURPOSE TASK CARDS**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.
- PROBLEM & SOLUTION TASK CARDS**: Includes both self-checking and quiz options.

PRINT THE TASK CARDS OR USE THE DIGITAL RESOURCE WITH GOOGLE SLIDES® OR GOOGLE FORMS™

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## COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

### Famous Americans

**Who Was Helen Keller?**

**The Fastest Woman on Earth**

**Who Was Benjamin Franklin?**

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## MYSTERY PROBLEM SOLVING GAMES

PICTURES & CLUE CARDS FOR GR. 1-3

Guess the Mystery Ball

Guess the Mystery Hot Air Balloon

Guess the Mystery Girl

Guess the Mystery Drink

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## WORDS WITH MULTIPLE MEANINGS

SET 1

INCLUDES BOTH DIGITAL AND PRINT OPTIONS

Self-checking!

1. Square: A four-sided polygon with all four sides of equal length.

A. The little boy colored the square blue.

B. I bought a 5' 11" girl.

C. The food truck lines lined up around the square square.

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## COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

### Science Concepts

**All About Light**

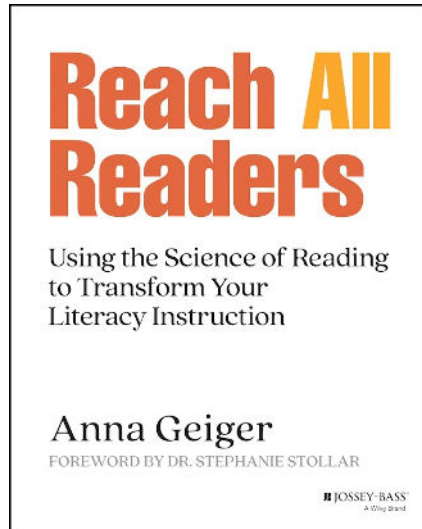
**High and Low Pressure**

**How do Scientists Measure?**

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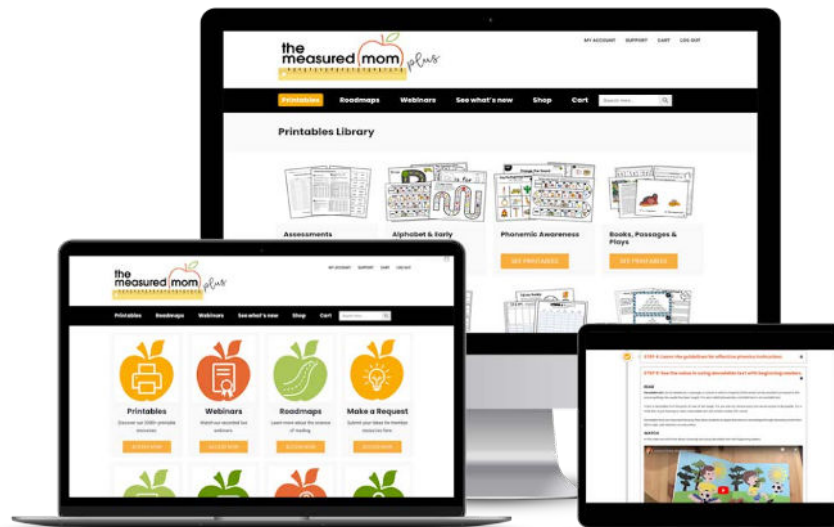
**If the file is printing strangely** (usually with extra black boxes), please download the free Adobe Reader to your computer. Open and print using that program. 99% of the time, this solves it!

You can get it here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>



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**1****MAIN IDEA**

Giraffes are fascinating creatures. Did you know that giraffes can go weeks without water? Here's another fun fact: If you like to sleep, you wouldn't want to be a giraffe. They can't sleep for more than 2 hours at a time! Giraffes have very long tongues -- up to 20 inches long. They use these long tongues to reach leaves, but they also use them to clean out their ears. Finally, giraffes' spot patterns are unique. There are no two alike!



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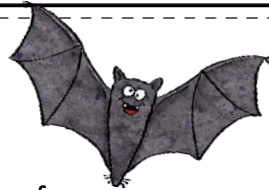
Most people think squirrels are cute, but they can also be pests. Just ask the birds; squirrels like to raid their bird feeders! Squirrels also like to look for holes in your house so they can move right in. Then they tear up insulation in the attic, chew through electrical wires, and make a big mess. Do you still think squirrels are cute?



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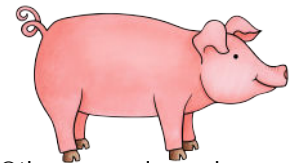
Bats can seem creepy, and most people want them to stay far away. But bats can actually be very helpful. One reason is that they eat a *lot* of insects. That means there are fewer bugs around to irritate you! It also means that farmers can use fewer pesticides. Some bats help pollinate plants when they eat fruit and nectar. We use many of these plants for food and medicine. And believe it or not, bat guano (poop) is a great fertilizer!



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Has anyone ever told you that your room is a pigsty? Pigs have a reputation for being dirty, but this isn't exactly fair. Pigs roll in mud to cool off, not to get dirty. The mud also protects their skin from sunburn. And, unlike most farm animals, pigs are careful to keep their "bathroom" separate from their eating area.



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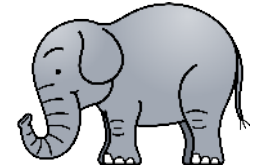
Do mice love cheese? Maybe. But that's not all they eat. In fact, mice will eat just about anything they can find. Mice eat fruits, seeds, and grains. They will even eat insects, worms, and snails. House mice will even eat chocolate and peanut butter!



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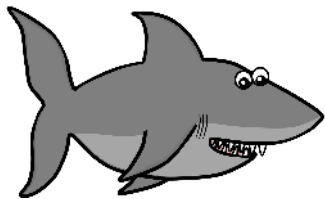
The gentle elephant is a favorite attraction at the zoo. But elephants are in danger in the wild. Even though it's against the law, many people kill elephants so they can sell their ivory tusks. Some elephants are losing their rangelands when farmers grow crops there. Finally, roads and railways can make it difficult for elephants to reach food and water.



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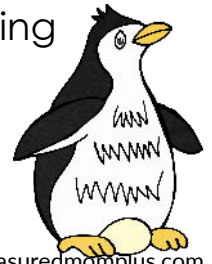
Shark teeth are quite different from human teeth. We start getting teeth at about 6 months to a year, but shark pups are born with teeth. We only have 32 adult teeth, but sharks have thousands. If we lose a tooth, we need to visit the dentist to get a false tooth. But sharks can lose and grow over 20,000 teeth in a lifetime!



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After she lays her egg, the female emperor penguin spends winter in the ocean. Her mate cares for their egg. He puts it on his feet and covers it with a fold of skin so it stays warm. The male emperor penguin has to balance the egg on his feet for more than two months. He doesn't eat anything at all during this time! He huddles with other male penguins while they wait for their mates to return with food.



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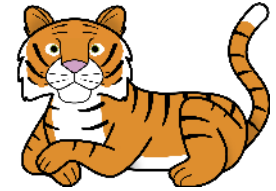
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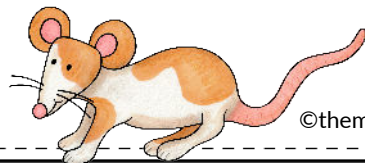
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Rats make many people shudder, but they are actually very good pets. Rats rarely bite. They even clean themselves several times a day. Rats can learn their names and come when they're called. They love to be rubbed and scratched. They will even play games with their owners. They're also very smart and easy to train. Would you like a rat for a pet?



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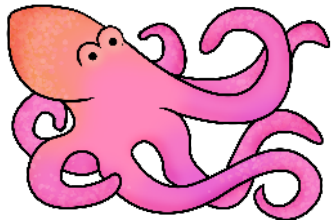
Lions are very social, and they live in large groups called prides. Male and female lions have very different roles within a pride. Female lions are responsible for hunting, which they usually do at night. Male lions are in charge of security. They guard their territory and their cubs. Both male and female lions have important jobs.



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If another animal tries to attack it, the octopus can use jet propulsion to quickly move away. Since it has no bones, the octopus can also hide in small spaces. Another way that the octopus protects itself is by releasing a dark ink substance. This confuses the predator so that the octopus can get away quickly. Finally, the



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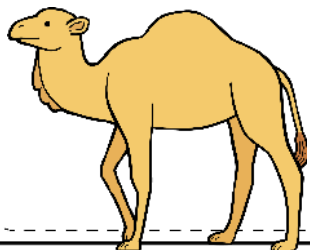
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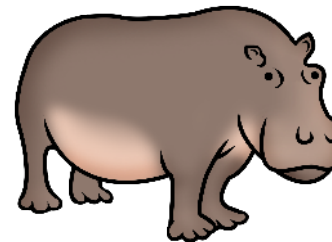


Their coloring helps them blend into their environment. Camels are very well suited to life in the desert.

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**16****MAIN IDEA**

Hippos may look like funny, gentle creatures, but they are actually quite dangerous. These big animals can do a lot of damage with their large teeth and tusks. Hippos are known to capsize small boats and kill the people onboard.



Also, when they wander onto land in search of food, hippos sometimes hurt the people they meet there.

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**17****MAIN IDEA**

Have you ever found an earthworm in your vegetable garden? Let it stay there! Earthworms are important because they help your garden grow. When earthworms live in a garden, they make tunnels. These tunnels allow air and water to get to plant roots. Since earthworms have a special diet of dead leaves, grass clippings, and soil, their waste helps fertilize gardens. In fact, the more earthworms are in your garden, the healthier it may be!



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**18****MAIN IDEA**

Owls are perfectly designed for hunting at night. They have large eyes which help them see in the dark. They have uneven ears which help them pinpoint exactly where to find their prey. Their feathers are large with fluffy edges, making it possible for them to fly almost silently. They have a strong beak and talons which help them grab and kill their prey.



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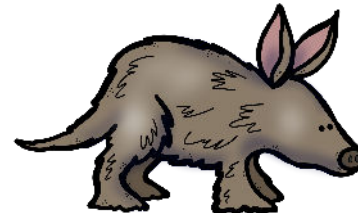
**19****MAIN IDEA**

In a whole day, a three-toed sloth only travels about half the length of a football field. Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur. It's no wonder that sloths don't move much; they sleep for up to 15-20 hours a day! Sloths spend most of their time in the trees. They only come down about once a week to relieve themselves. It's no surprise that the three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal on earth.

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**20****MAIN IDEA**

Anteaters and armadillos look different, but they're a lot alike. Both animals have hollow snouts that help them suck ants into their mouths. They don't have great eyesight, but they both have a strong sense of smell. Finally, both creatures can use their front claws to rip into insect homes.



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# Highlight the Main Idea

Read the text on each task card. Then circle or highlight the main idea below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1</b>	Giraffes are fascinating creatures. Giraffes have special tongues. Giraffes have unique spot patterns.	<b>11</b>	Rats make very good pets. Rats play games with their owners. You should get a pet rat.
<b>2</b>	Squirrels are cute animals. Squirrels can be pests. Squirrels like to raid bird feeders.	<b>12</b>	Male and female lions have different jobs. Female lions are responsible for hunting. Male lions are in charge of security.
<b>3</b>	Most people think bats are creepy. Bats eat a lot of insects. Bats are very helpful animals.	<b>13</b>	The octopus can change color. The octopus can release a dark ink substance. An octopus has many ways to protect itself.
<b>4</b>	Pigs are dirty and smelly. Pigs are cleaner than many people think. Pigs love to roll in mud.	<b>14</b>	Worker bees are the smallest bees in the hive. Worker bees take care of bee larvae. Worker bees stay very busy.
<b>5</b>	A mouse's favorite food is cheese. Mice eat insects, worms, and snails. Mice will eat just about anything.	<b>15</b>	Camels live in the desert. Camels can go for a long time without water. Camels' bodies are well suited to life in the desert.
<b>6</b>	The elephant is a favorite zoo animal. Wild elephants are in danger. People kill elephants for their tusks.	<b>16</b>	Hippos are funny and gentle. Hippos are very dangerous. Hippos are big animals.
<b>7</b>	Sharks can lose and grow 20,000 teeth. Sharks have more teeth than humans. Shark and human teeth are quite different.	<b>17</b>	Earthworms make tunnels in dirt. Earthworms are long and slender. Earthworms help your garden grow.
<b>8</b>	The female emperor penguin lays the egg. The male emperor penguin cares for the egg. The male emperor penguin sits on the egg.	<b>18</b>	Owls are designed for hunting at night. Owls' feathers help them fly quietly. Owls' eyes help them see in the dark.
<b>9</b>	The blue whale is the biggest animal in the world. The blue whale's heart is very heavy. A blue whale can be 100 feet long.	<b>19</b>	Sloths sleep for up to 15-20 hours a day. A three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal. Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur.
<b>10</b>	Tigers are great jumpers. Tigers are very powerful. Tigers can eat 60 pounds of meat in a single night.	<b>20</b>	Anteaters and armadillos both eat ants. Anteaters and armadillos are very different. Anteaters and armadillos are a lot alike.

# What's the Main Idea?

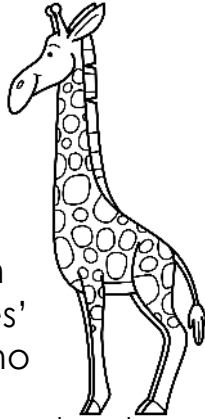
Read the text on each task card.  
Then write the main idea below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	

**1****MAIN IDEA**

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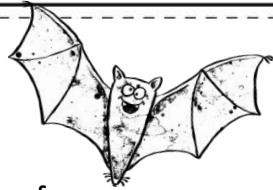
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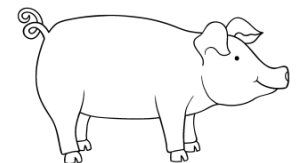
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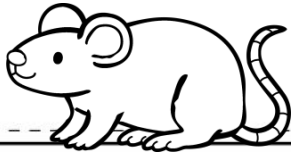
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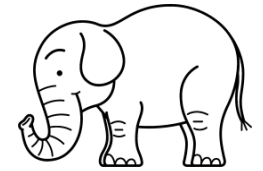
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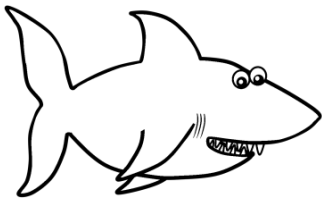
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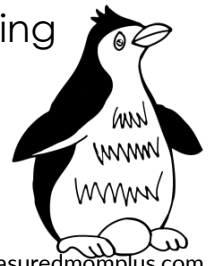
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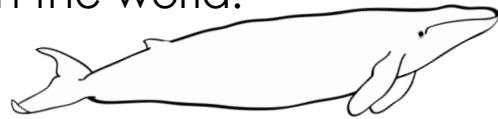


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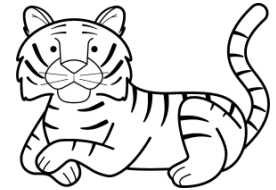
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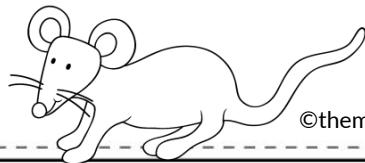
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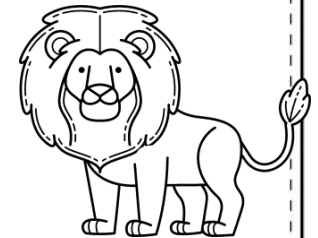
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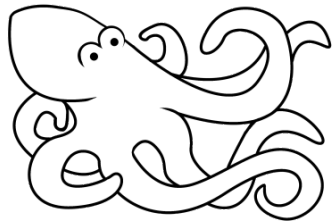
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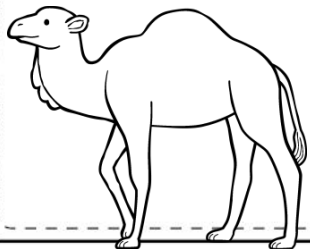
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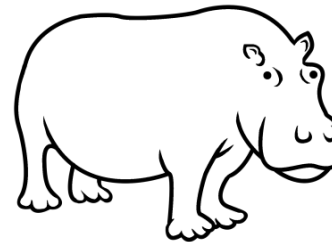


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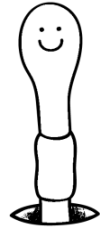


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**17****MAIN IDEA**

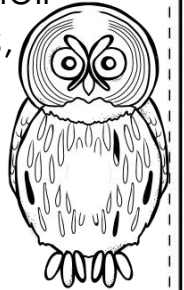
Have you ever found an earthworm in your vegetable garden? Let it stay there! Earthworms are important because they help your garden grow. When earthworms live in a garden, they make tunnels. These tunnels allow air and water to get to plant roots. Since earthworms have a special diet of dead leaves, grass clippings, and soil, their waste helps fertilize gardens. In fact, the more earthworms are in your garden, the healthier it may be!



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**18****MAIN IDEA**

Owls are perfectly designed for hunting at night. They have large eyes which help them see in the dark. They have uneven ears which help them pinpoint exactly where to find their prey. Their feathers are large with fluffy edges, making it possible for them to fly almost silently. They have a strong beak and talons which help them grab and kill their prey.



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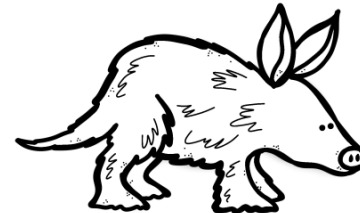
**19****MAIN IDEA**

In a whole day, a three-toed sloth only travels about half the length of a football field. Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur. It's no wonder that sloths don't move much; they sleep for up to 15-20 hours a day! Sloths spend most of their time in the trees. They only come down about once a week to relieve themselves. It's no surprise that the three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal on earth.

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**20****MAIN IDEA**

Anteaters and armadillos look different, but they're a lot alike. Both animals have hollow snouts that help them suck ants into their mouths. They don't have great eyesight, but they both have a strong sense of smell. Finally, both creatures can use their front claws to rip into insect homes.



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# Highlight the Main Idea

Read the text on each task card. Then circle or highlight the main idea below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1</b>	Giraffes are fascinating creatures. Giraffes have special tongues. Giraffes have unique spot patterns.	<b>11</b>	Rats make very good pets. Rats play games with their owners. You should get a pet rat.
<b>2</b>	Squirrels are cute animals. Squirrels can be pests. Squirrels like to raid bird feeders.	<b>12</b>	Male and female lions have different jobs. Female lions are responsible for hunting. Male lions are in charge of security.
<b>3</b>	Most people think bats are creepy. Bats eat a lot of insects. Bats are very helpful animals.	<b>13</b>	The octopus can change color. The octopus can release a dark ink substance. An octopus has many ways to protect itself.
<b>4</b>	Pigs are dirty and smelly. Pigs are cleaner than many people think. Pigs love to roll in mud.	<b>14</b>	Worker bees are the smallest bees in the hive. Worker bees take care of bee larvae. Worker bees stay very busy.
<b>5</b>	A mouse's favorite food is cheese. Mice eat insects, worms, and snails. Mice will eat just about anything.	<b>15</b>	Camels live in the desert. Camels can go for a long time without water. Camels' bodies are well suited to life in the desert.
<b>6</b>	The elephant is a favorite zoo animal. Wild elephants are in danger. People kill elephants for their tusks.	<b>16</b>	Hippos are funny and gentle. Hippos are very dangerous. Hippos are big animals.
<b>7</b>	Sharks can lose and grow 20,000 teeth. Sharks have more teeth than humans. Shark and human teeth are quite different.	<b>17</b>	Earthworms make tunnels in dirt. Earthworms are long and slender. Earthworms help your garden grow.
<b>8</b>	The female emperor penguin lays the egg. The male emperor penguin cares for the egg. The male emperor penguin sits on the egg.	<b>18</b>	Owls' bodies are designed for hunting at night. Owls' feathers help them fly quietly. Owls' eyes help them see in the dark.
<b>9</b>	The blue whale is the biggest animal in the world. The blue whale's heart is very heavy. A blue whale can be 100 feet long.	<b>19</b>	Sloths sleep for up to 15-20 hours a day. A three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal. Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur.
<b>10</b>	Tigers are great jumpers. Tigers are very powerful. Tigers can eat 60 pounds of meat in a single night.	<b>20</b>	Anteaters and armadillos both eat ants. Anteaters and armadillos are very different. Anteaters and armadillos are a lot alike.

# What's the Main Idea?

Read the text on each task card.  
Then write the main idea below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	



# ANSWER KEY

# Highlight the Main Idea

Read the text on each task card. Then circle or highlight the main idea below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1	<p><b>Giraffes are fascinating creatures.</b> Giraffes have special tongues. Giraffes have unique spot patterns.</p>	11	<p><b>Rats make very good pets.</b> Rats play games with their owners. You should get a pet rat.</p>
2	<p>Squirrels are cute animals. <b>Squirrels can be pests.</b> Squirrels like to raid bird feeders.</p>	12	<p><b>Male and female lions have different jobs.</b> Female lions are responsible for hunting. Male lions are in charge of security.</p>
3	<p>Most people think bats are creepy. Bats eat a lot of insects. <b>Bats are very helpful animals.</b></p>	13	<p>The octopus can change color. The octopus can release a dark ink substance. <b>An octopus has many ways to protect itself.</b></p>
4	<p>Pigs are dirty and smelly. <b>Pigs are cleaner than many people think.</b> Pigs love to roll in mud.</p>	14	<p>Worker bees are the smallest bees in the hive. Worker bees take care of bee larvae. <b>Worker bees stay very busy.</b></p>
5	<p>A mouse's favorite food is cheese. Mice eat insects, worms, and snails. <b>Mice will eat just about anything.</b></p>	15	<p>Camels live in the desert. Camels can go for a long time without water. <b>Camels' bodies are well suited to life in the desert.</b></p>
6	<p>The elephant is a favorite zoo animal. <b>Wild elephants are in danger.</b> People kill elephants for their tusks.</p>	16	<p>Hippos are funny and gentle. <b>Hippos are very dangerous.</b> Hippos are big animals.</p>
7	<p>Sharks can lose and grow 20,000 teeth. Sharks have more teeth than humans. <b>Shark and human teeth are quite different.</b></p>	17	<p>Earthworms make tunnels in dirt. Earthworms are long and slender. <b>Earthworms help your garden grow.</b></p>
8	<p>The female emperor penguin lays the egg. <b>The male emperor penguin cares for the egg.</b> The male emperor penguin sits on the egg.</p>	18	<p><b>Owls' bodies are designed for hunting at night.</b> Owls' feathers help them fly quietly. Owls' eyes help them see in the dark.</p>
9	<p><b>The blue whale is the biggest animal in the world.</b> The blue whale's heart is very heavy. A blue whale can be 100 feet long.</p>	19	<p>Sloths sleep for up to 15-20 hours a day. <b>A three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal.</b> Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur.</p>
10	<p>Tigers are great jumpers. <b>Tigers are very powerful.</b> Tigers can eat 60 pounds of meat in a single night.</p>	20	<p>Anteaters and armadillos both eat ants. Anteaters and armadillos are very different. <b>Anteaters and armadillos are a lot alike.</b></p>