

# Finding the Topic and Main Idea of a Nonfiction Text

## Student Directions:

Use the word bank to help you figure out the topic and main idea of the nonfiction text below. Complete Part 1 together as a class. Try out Part 2 on your own or with a partner!



### WORD BANK

topic: a word or phrase that tells what the book or text is about

main idea: a sentence that explains the most important thought about the topic

## Part 1: Your Five Senses

Your five senses help you understand the world around you! Every day, whether you're running outside or eating a yummy meal, your five senses are always sending messages to your brain.

Go outside! What do you see? From the tiny ants crawling on the ground to the blue bird at the very top of the tree, your eyes help you see everything around you.

Have you ever walked into a bakery and felt hungry right away? Feeling hungry is your sense of smell in action! When air carries smells into your nose, your brain recognizes it. Sometimes the smell makes you feel hungry.

Sounds are everywhere you go! Some sounds are very loud, like the siren of a fire truck. Other sounds are quiet, like water dripping from the sink.

Have you ever felt something that was slimy, sticky, or wet? Your skin sends information about the way things feel to your brain. Then, your brain tells you what to do!

People eat food every day! You use your tongue to taste the food you eat. The tiny bumps on your tongue are called taste buds. They tell your brain if the food tastes good or bad.

Without your five senses, the world would seem very different! Every day, your brain helps make sense of what you see, smell, hear, touch, and taste!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The topic of the text is

The main idea of the text is

Explain the main idea in your own words.

## **Part 2: Mountains**

There are different types of mountains. Mountains take millions of years to form. Some mountains are made when the Earth's crust is pushed up in big folds or forced up or down in blocks.

A block mountain forms when two of Earth's tectonic plates move and a big piece of land breaks off. The line where this break takes place is called a fault. The slab of land that is forced up becomes the block mountain.

The most common type of mountain is called a fold mountain. Fold mountains form when the tectonic plates push forward slowly over many years, making many folds.

Dome mountains form when liquid inside the Earth makes the ground swell or rise. Instead of the Earth breaking, a dome forms.

Mountains are incredible landforms on the Earth's surface. There are many different types of mountains. There is so much to learn about mountains!

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Explain the main idea in your own words.