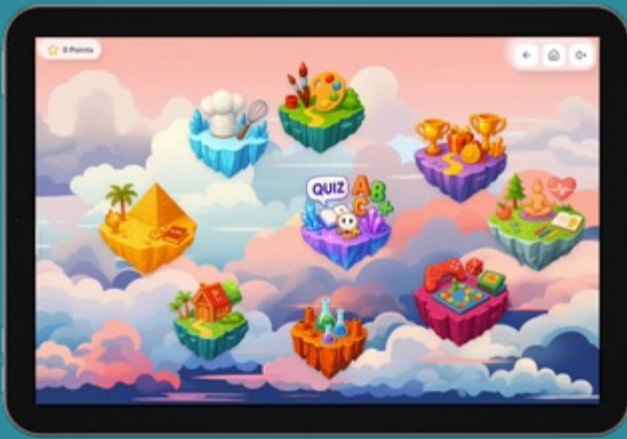


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Year 3 English Unit: Summarising

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Summarising Toolkit



★ A strong summary tells the important parts in your own words. ★

1.

Read and think:
What is this mostly about?



2.

Find key details:
Which details matter most?



3.

Leave out extras:
Skip tiny details and repeated ideas.



4.

Use your own words:
Say it clearly and briefly.



5.

Check: Does it make sense to someone who has not read the text?



Read it. Pick the important parts.
Tell it clearly.



Summary Mission Board





Keep,

Cut & Combine



Sort details, then build a short summary.



KEEP



COMBINE



the main problem

a repeated idea

who the text

**the most
important fact**

the exact
time of day

the final outcome

a tiny colour detail

**a funny
extra detail**

what changed

the main message



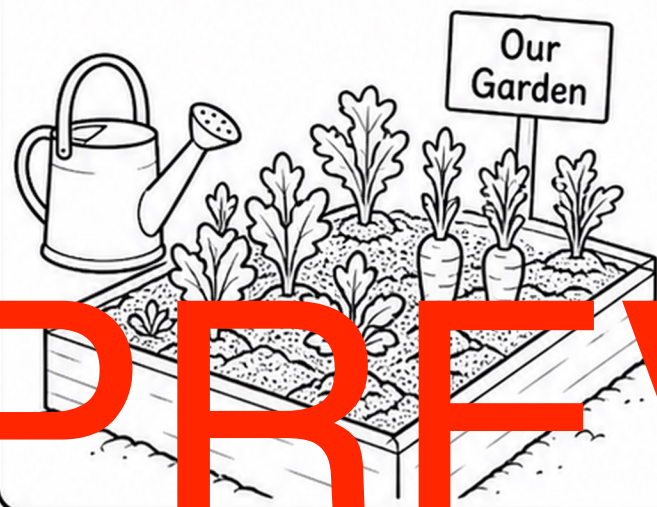
Main Idea and Key Details

Name: _____



Read the text. Write the main idea. Then choose three key details.

The Class Garden



Our class planted a small vegetable garden beside the library. First, we pulled out weeds and mixed compost into the soil. Then we planted lettuce, beans and carrots in neat rows. Each week, students took turns watering the seedlings. By the end of term, the garden gave us crunchy vegetables for a share lunch.

Main idea: _____

Key detail 1: _____

Key detail 2: _____

Key detail 3: _____

One-sentence summary: _____



Main Idea and Key Details

Name: **ANSWERS**



Read the text. Write the main idea. Then choose three key details.

The Class Garden



Our class planted a small vegetable garden beside the library. First, we pulled out weeds and mixed compost into the soil. Then we planted lettuce, beans and carrots in neat rows. Each week, students took turns watering the seedlings. By the end of term, the garden gave us crunchy vegetables for a shared lunch.

Main idea: **The class grew vegetables in a garden.**

Key detail 1: **They pulled weeds and mixed compost into the soil.**

Key detail 2: **They planted lettuce, beans and carrots.**

Key detail 3: **Students took turns watering the seedlings.**

One-sentence summary: **The class planted, cared for and harvested a vegetable garden for a shared lunch.**





Name: _____

Keep or Cut?



Read each detail. Tick KEEP if it belongs in a summary.
Tick CUT if it is extra information.

Detail	KEEP	CUT
The storm knocked down three trees.	☐	☐
Luca wore socks with green stripes.	☐	☐
The rescue team arrived before dark.	☐	☐
The dog barked twice at the gate.	☐	☐
The class learned how volcanoes erupt.	☐	☐
The book had 126 pages.	☐	☐
A seed needs water and sunlight to grow.	☐	☐
The pencil rolled under the table.	☐	☐
The family moved to a safer place.	☐	☐
The story happened on a windy day.	☐	☐

Write one tip for choosing key details:





Name: **ANSWERS**

Keep or Cut?



Read each detail. Tick KEEP if it belongs in a summary.
Tick CUT if it is extra information.

Detail	KEEP	CUT
The storm knocked down three trees.	☒	☐
Luca wore socks with green stripes.	☐	☒
The rescue team arrived before dark.	☒	☐
The dog barked twice at the gate.	☐	☒
The class learned how volcanoes erupt.	☒	☐
The book had 126 pages.	☐	☒
A seed needs water and sunlight to grow.	☒	☐
The pencil rolled under the table.	☐	☒
The family moved to a safer place.	☒	☐
The story happened on a windy day.	☐	☒

Write one tip for choosing key details:

Choose details that explain the main idea.





Name: _____

5Ws + H Summary Planner

Read the short text. Fill in the chart, then write a one-sentence summary.

The Lost Lunchbox

During lunch, Ava could not find her blue lunchbox. She looked under the bench and beside the library door. Her friend Noah remembered seeing it near the oval. They found it on the grass, safe and dry, just before the bell rang.



Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?

One-sentence summary: _____





Name: ANSWERS

5Ws + H Summary Planner

Read the short text. Fill in the chart, then write a one-sentence summary.

The Lost Lunchbox

During lunch, Ava could not find her blue lunchbox. She looked under the bench and beside the library door. Her friend Noah remembered seeing it near the oval. They found it on the grass, safe and dry, just before the bell rang.



Who?

Ava and Noah

What?

They found Ava's lunchbox

Where?

near the oval on the grass

When?

during lunch

Why?

Ava could not find it.

How?

Noah remembered where it was.

One-sentence summary: _____

During lunch, Ava and Noah found her lost lunchbox near the oval before the bell rang.





Name: _____

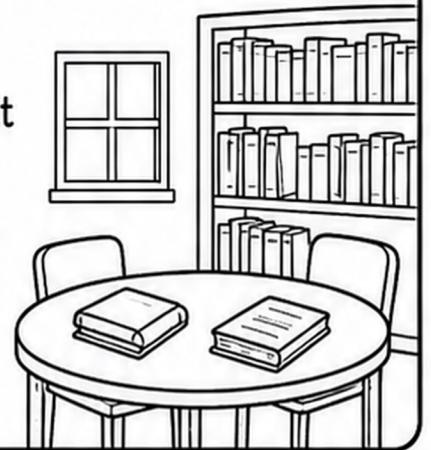
Fiction Summary Map



Read the story. Record the important parts, then write a short summary.

The Quiet Bell

The school bell did not ring after lunch, so the students kept reading in the library. Ms Tan noticed the time and hurried everyone back to class. Later, the office found that a power switch had been bumped. The next day, the class made a reminder sign to keep the switch safe.



Beginning: PREVIEW Middle: PREVIEW End: PREVIEW

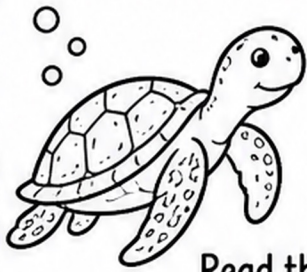
Main problem:

Important action:

Final outcome:

Short summary:

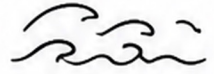




Name: _____

Non-Fiction Summary Notes

Read the text. Find the topic, key facts and a short summary.



Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are reptiles that live in warm oceans. They breathe air, but they can hold their breath while they swim. Female sea turtles return to sandy beaches to lay eggs. Many young turtles hurry towards the sea after they hatch. Keeping beaches clean helps sea turtles survive.

Topic

Key fact 1

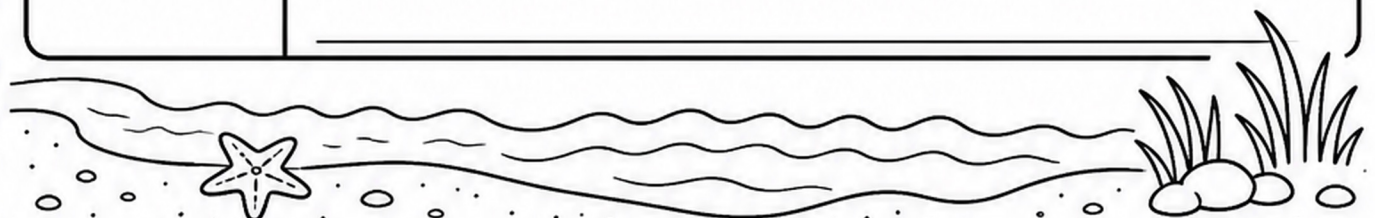
Key fact 2

Key fact 3

Leave out

Summary

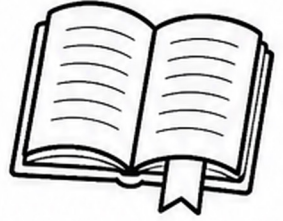
PREVIEW





Name: _____

One-Sentence Recap Challenge



Read each text. Write one sentence that tells the most important idea.

- 1.** Students cleaned the oval after a storm. They picked up paper, swept leaves and sorted bottles into the recycling bin.

Recap: _____

- 2.** A possum slept in a hollow tree during the day. At night it looked for leaves, flowers and fruit.

Recap: _____

- 3.** The town pool closed after a pipe broke. Workers fixed the pipe, tested the water and reopened the pool on Saturday.

Recap: _____

- 4.** Bees collect nectar from flowers and carry it back to the hive. Inside the hive, the nectar becomes sweet food.

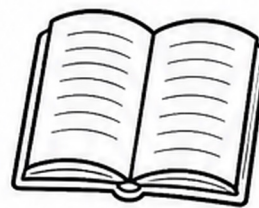
Recap: _____

PREVIEW



Name: ANSWERS

One-Sentence Recap Challenge



Read each text. Write one sentence that tells the most important idea.

- 1.** Students cleaned the oval after a storm. They picked up paper, swept leaves and sorted bottles into the recycling bin.

Recap: Students cleaned the oval and recycled rubbish after a storm.

- 2.** A possum slept in a hollow tree during the day. At night, it searched for leaves, flowers and fruit.

Recap: A possum sleeps in a hollow tree by day and searches for food at night.

- 3.** The town pool closed after a pipe broke. Workers fixed the pipe, tested the water and reopened the pool on Saturday.

Recap: Workers repaired the town pool after a broken pipe forced it to close.

- 4.** Bees collect nectar from flowers and carry it back to the hive. Inside the hive, the nectar becomes sweet food.

Recap: Bees collect nectar and turn it into sweet food in the hive.



Name: _____

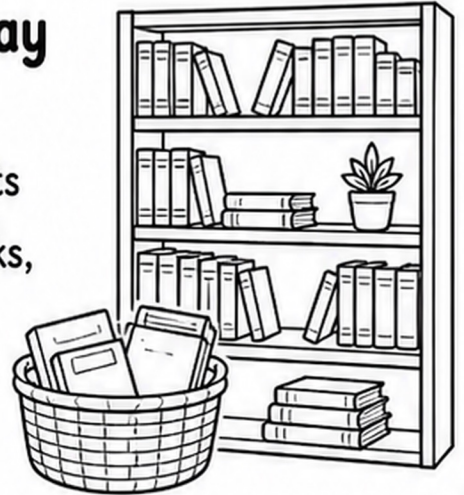
Summarising Checkpoint



Read the text. Show how you choose the important ideas, then write a short summary.

The Community Library Day

On Friday, the community library held a reading day for families. Volunteers set up book baskets, story mats and a craft table. Children listened to two picture books, made bookmarks and borrowed books to take home. The librarian said the day helped more children find books they wanted to read.



1. What is the text mostly about?

PREVIEW

2. List three key details.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



3. What extra detail could you leave out?

4. Write a short summary in your own words.

5. Check your summary: Is it clear and brief?

☐ Yes, it is clear and brief.

☐ I will make it clearer and shorter.



Comprehension Strategy Summarising Year 3 Rubric

Use this rubric to assess how well students summarise a text in their own words.

Criteria	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Main idea	Needs help	Finds part	Finds main idea	Finds clearly	Explains insight
Key details	Few details	Some relevant	Three relevant	Chooses well	Prioritises best
Own words	Mostly copies	Some own words	Many own words	Clear own words	Precise phrasing
Length	Too long	Includes extras	Mostly brief	Brief and focused	Concise and strong
Clarity	Hard to follow	Partly clear	Clear meaning	Very clear	Polished response

PREVIEW

Comprehension Strategy
Summarising Year 3





Learning Goal

Learn how to find the most important ideas in a text and say them

in your own words.

PREVIEW





What Is Summarising?

A summary is a shorter version of a text.

It keeps the main idea and key details.

It leaves out minor details and repeated ideas.

PREVIEW





Main Idea

The main idea is what the whole text is mostly about.

ask. What does he want or what does she want to understand?
PREVIEW





Key Details

Key details support the main idea.

They explain, prove or show what matters most.

Choose details that help the reader understand the text.

PREVIEW





Leave Out Extras

A strong summary does not include every detail.

Leave out small descriptions, repeated ideas and details that do

no change the meaning

PREVIEW





The 5Ws + H

Use these questions to find important parts:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

PREVIEW





Summarising Fiction

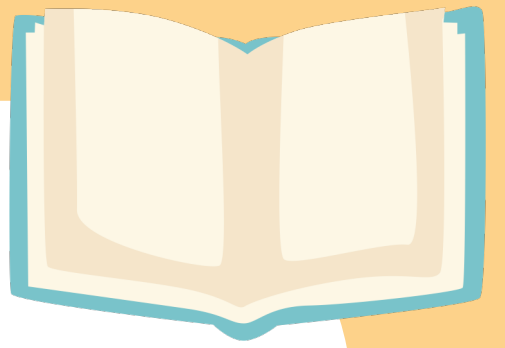
For a story, think about the beginning, middle and end.

Include the main character, problem, important action and

PREVIEW outcome.



Summarising Non-Fiction



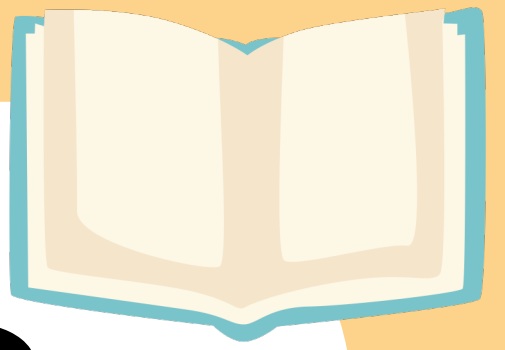
For an information text, find the topic first.

Then choose facts that explain the topic clearly.

PREVIEW



One-Sentence Summaries



Try telling the most important idea in one sentence.

Use your own words and keep it brief.
PREVIEW





Visual Summaries

Pictures, arrows and simple symbols can help you plan a

summary before writing.

PREVIEW





Class Practice

Text: Our class planted a garden, cared for seedlings and shared vegetables at lunch.

Main idea: The class grew a vegetable garden together.

PREVIEW





Partner Talk

Tell a partner:

PREVIEW

What is the main idea?

Which details should stay?

Which details can be left out?





Success Criteria

I can find the main idea.

PREVIEW

I can choose key details.

I can leave out extras.

I can write a short summary in my own words.





PREVIEW

Well Done!



PREVIEW

Comprehension Strategy
Summarising Year 3
Quiz





Question 1

What does it mean to summarise a text?

A. Copy every word

B. Tell the important parts in your own words

C. Count every sentence

D. Draw the cover

PREVIEW





Answer 1

B. Tell the important parts in your own words

PREVIEW





Question 2

True or False:

The main idea is what the text is mostly about.

PREVIEW



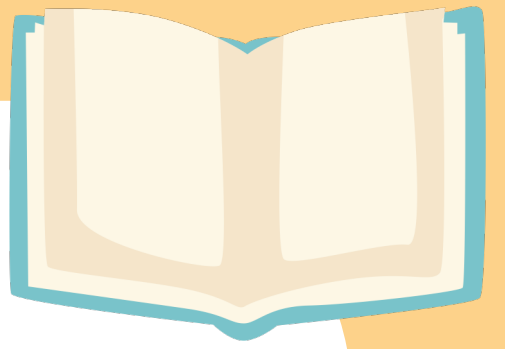


Answer 2

True. The main idea tells the big message of the text.

PREVIEW





Question 3

Short answer:

Name one thing a good summary should include.

PREVIEW





Answer 3

Possible answer: the main idea, key details or important events.

PREVIEW





Question 4

Which detail belongs in a summary about a storm rescue?

A. The rescue team arrived before dark.

B. The dog barked twice.

C. Luca wore green socks.

D. The pencil rolled away.

PREVIEW





Answer 4

A. The rescue team arrived before dark.

PREVIEW





Question 5

True or False:

A summary should include every tiny detail.

PREVIEW





Answer 5

False. A summary leaves out tiny or repeated details.

PREVIEW





Question 6

Which set belongs to the 5Ws + H?

A. Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

B. Warm, Wet, Windy, Will

C. write, War, Wonder, Wave

D. What, Which, Would, Will

PREVIEW





Answer 6

A. Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

PREVIEW





Question 7

Short answer:

Summarise this text: Bees collect nectar from flowers. In the hive, nectar becomes honey.

PREVIEW





Answer 7

Possible answer: Bees collect nectar and turn it into honey.

PREVIEW





Question 8

True or False:

A summary should use your own words.

PREVIEW





Answer 8

True. Own words show you understand the text.

PREVIEW





Question 9

Which detail could be left out of a summary?

A. The main problem

B. The final outcome

C. A repeated idea

D. The most important fact

PREVIEW





Answer q

C. A repeated idea

PREVIEW





Question 10

Short answer:

What is one way to check your summary?

PREVIEW





Answer 10

Possible answer: check that it is clear, brief and includes the main idea.

PREVIEW





PREVIEW

Well Done!

