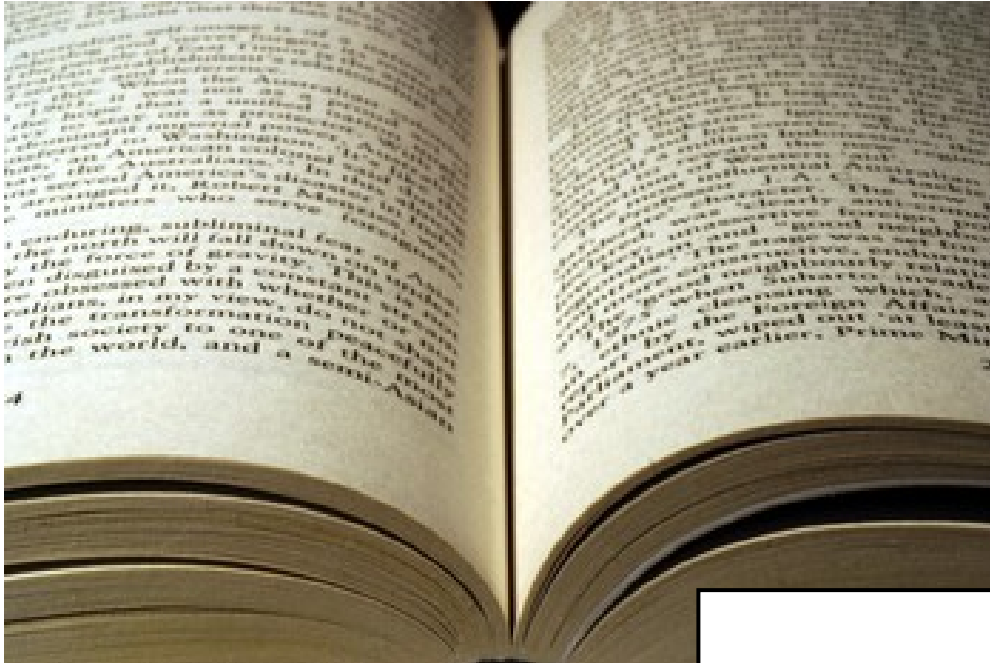


Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan



Let's look at a picture that will help us understand the meaning of the term "main idea". You can think of main idea as a hamburger bun. Everything that goes inside the hamburger—meat, lettuce, tomato, ketchup, pickles—fit inside the bun, just like all the details fit inside a paragraph's main idea.

We summarize information all the time. Suppose your mom asks you to go to the supermarket for her to buy a few things for dinner. As she is giving you the list, she may also tell you what she is making for dinner how she will cook the dinner and then she might tell you where in the supermarket you can find each of the items she needs. You will not need all of this information in order to make the purchases. So as you write down your list, you will summarize by writing only the names of the items you need to buy and the aisle on which each is located.

summarize:

to make or write a short statement that gives only the main information and not the details

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is “summarize”. Summarize means “to make or write a short statement that gives only the main information and not the details”. People often summarize in order to remember the most crucial information about a subject. Knowing how to summarize is very important in doing research.

Let’s look at some pictures that will help us understand the meaning of “summarize”. On the left, you can see an open book with lots of information. On the right, a student has taken some brief notes to summarize this information. The summary he wrote has the most important information written in a few sentences, but omits many of the details in the original document.

Example:

We summarize information all the time. Suppose your mom asks you to go to the supermarket for her to buy a few things for dinner. As she is giving you the list, she may also tell you what she is making for dinner; how she will cook the dinner and then she might tell you where in the supermarket you can find each of the items she needs. You will not need all of this information in order to make the purchases. So as you write down your list, you will summarize by writing only the names of the items you need to buy and the aisle on which each is located.

Reflection:

I am going to read some sentences. If the person in the sentence should select only the most important information and not the details, I want to put your thumbs up and say SUMMARIZE. If the person is doing something and it won’t be necessary for them to summarize it, put your thumbs down and remain silent.

- Tosha is working on some calculations for her math homework. (thumbs down)
- John is writing a book report for his English teacher. (thumbs up)
- Nancy is telling her mother what she did at school today. (thumbs up)
- Angel is explaining to his parents how he managed to dirty every pan and pot in the house trying to make cookies. (thumbs up)

Make it personal:

Think about your Mars Rover project. As you summarize the articles you read in your research, why would it be important to write down only the most important information and not all the interesting details you find? Turn and share your thoughts with your neighbor. Then, I will ask some of you to share your thinking.