

**MAIN-IDEA
STATEMENT:**

Infer the Main Idea

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How Animals “Talk”

Humans communicate with one another all the time. We talk, phone, write, and email. But animals can’t do any of these things. How do they communicate?

We’ve all heard dogs growl and bark and cats meow and purr. Making sounds is the most common form of animal “talk.” Dogs make sounds when they’re scared, happy, or angry. They make sounds to warn you. Gorillas and beavers make throaty sounds. Some animals, such as grasshoppers, make sounds by rubbing their legs together.

Other animals communicate through marking. Black bears mark their territory by biting and clawing trees. Other kinds of marking include deer scratching their horns on a tree trunk or foxes spraying urine on a bush.

Some animals watch for clues from other members of their species. Honeybees dance to show others in their hive where a new food source is located. Electric eels and lightning bugs flash lights to send signals to mates. Dogs bow to let other dogs know they want to play.

Scent is a way that animals communicate, too. Certain female animals send out smells that attract males. And none of us wants to be around when a skunk feels threatened!

Some animals “get physical” to communicate. For example, wolves wrestle to figure out their rank in the pack.

IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

Same word	Descriptive phrases
Synonyms	Figurative language
Pronouns	Related details

TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT: **Animals talk by making sounds, marks, moves, and scents.**

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How Animals “Talk”

Humans **communicate** with one another all the time. We **talk, phone, write, and email**. But **animals** can’t do any of these things. How do **they communicate**?

We’ve all heard **dogs growl and bark** and **cats meow and purr**. **Making sounds** is the most common form of **animal “talk.”** **Dogs make sounds** when they’re **scared, happy, or angry**. They **make sounds** to **warn you**. **Gorillas and beavers make throaty sounds**. **Some animals, such as grasshoppers, make sounds by rubbing their legs together.**

Other **animals communicate** through **marking**. **Black bears mark their territory by biting and clawing trees**. **Other kinds of marking include deer scratching their horns on a tree trunk or foxes spraying urine on a bush.**

Some animals watch for clues from other members of **their species**. **Honeybees dance** to show others in their hive where **a new food source** is located. **Electric eels and lightning bugs flash lights to send signals to mates**. **Dogs bow** to let other **dogs** know they **want to play**.

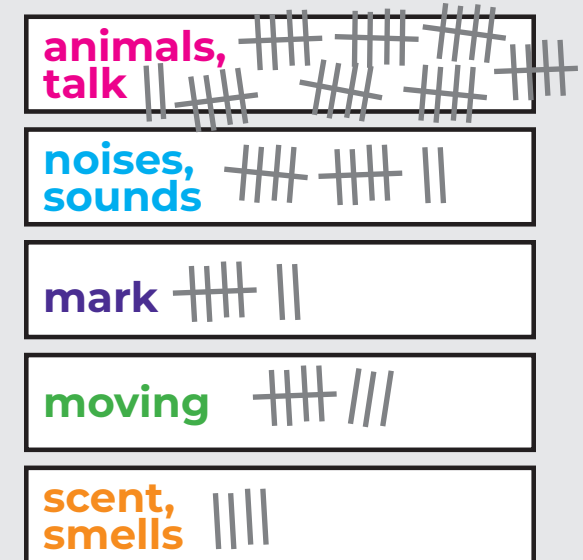
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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED



TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

Animals do things to talk like make noises, mark things, move around, and make smells.

Animals do things to talk like make noises, marks things, move around, and make smells. scents to talk.

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**MAIN-IDEA
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Hot Dog

In the early 1900s, the streamlined sausages with the almost transparent casing were becoming popular in the United States. They went by a variety of names: frankfurters, franks, wieners, red hots, and dachshund sausages.

One day in 1906, cartoonist Tad Dorgan was in the stands at a New York Giants baseball game. Inspired by the vendors' call of "Get your hot dachshund sausages!" Dorgan went back to his office and sketched a cartoon of a dachshund dog in a bun and smeared with mustard. Not sure how to spell "dachshund," Dorgan left the word out when he captioned his cartoon: "A real hot dog!"



The cartoon, appearing nationwide, added a new, all-American word to our vocabulary.

IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Same word | Descriptive phrases |
| Synonyms | Figurative language |
| Pronouns | Related details |

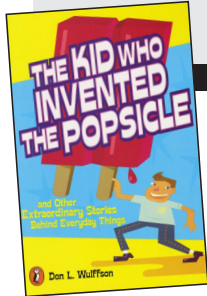
TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT:

The hot dog was named after the dachshund by cartoonist Tad Dorgan.



Infer the Main Idea

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IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

hot dog (the food)	
cartoonist	
baseball	
dachshund (the pet)	

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

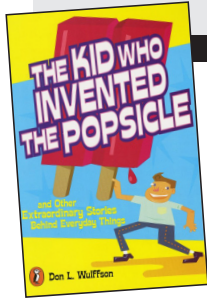
Cartoonist Tad Dorgan invented the word hot dog because of the dachshund.

The hot dog got its name by cartoonist Tad Dorgan who drew a picture of a dachshund.

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

**MAIN-IDEA
STATEMENT:**

Infer the Main Idea



Miniature Golf

John Carter of Chattanooga, Tennessee, loved golf, but he wasn't very good at it. He also loved spending time with his family, but it seemed there often wasn't anything fun that a family could do together.

One day in the late 1920s, he suddenly had an idea. How about a little golf course designed just for families to have fun? Excited, Carter set about building what he called the "Tom Thumb Golf Course." Players could only use putters. And there were all sorts of silly obstacles and fun ways of trying to get the ball into the cup.



Carter's "Tom Thumb" course was a real hit. Soon, imitators across the country were opening up their own versions of what came to be called "miniature golf."

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IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

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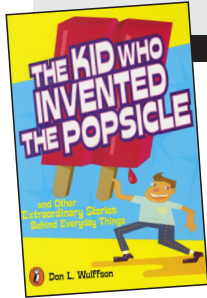
TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT:

John Carter invented **miniature golf** for **family fun**.

Infer the Main Idea



Mini Golf

John Carter of Chattanooga, Tennessee, loved **golf**, but **he** wasn't very good at **it**. **He** also loved spending time with **his family**, but it seemed there often wasn't anything **fun** that a family could do together.

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Carter's "Tom Thumb" course was a **real hit**. Soon, imitators across the country were opening up their own versions of what came to be called "**miniature golf**."

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IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

Same word	Descriptive phrases
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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

John Carter	###
golf mini golf	### ###
family	###
fun	###

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

John Carter invented **mini-golf** so that **families** could have **fun** together.

John Carter invented **mini-golf** so that **family** could have **fun** together.

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**MAIN-IDEA
STATEMENT:**

Infer the Main Idea

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ShamWow

Hi, it's Vince with ShamWow! You'll be saying, "Wow," every time you use this towel. It's like a shammy. It's like a towel. It's like a sponge. A regular towel doesn't work wet. This works wet or dry. This is for the house, the car, the boat, the RV.



ShamWow! holds 12 times its weight in liquid. Look at this. It just does the work.

Why would you want to work twice as hard? It doesn't drip. It doesn't make a mess. Wring it out. You wash it in the washing machine. Made in Germany—you know the Germans always make good stuff.

Here's some cola—wine, coffee, cola, pet stain. Not only is that damage going to be on top. There's your mildew. That is going to smell. Look at this. Put it on the spill. Turn it over. Without even putting any pressure—50% of the cola...right there. You following me, camera guy? The other 50%, the color, starts to come up. No other towel's going to do that. It acts like a vacuum and look at this—virtually dry on the bottom.

"I can't live without it. I just love it!"

"Oh my gosh, I don't even buy paper towels anymore."

"If you're going to wash your cars or any kind of vehicle, you'd be out of your mind not to own one of these."

"All I can say is Sham...Wow!"

IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT:

The ShamWow is versatile enough to replace several other cleaning tools.

Infer the Main Idea

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ShamWow

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"All I can say is Sham...Wow!"

IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

Same word	Descriptive phrases
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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

ShamWow			
does a lot (versatile)			
cleaning, tools			

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

The ShamWow does a lot of different cleaning.

The ShamWow is versatile for different types of cleaning.

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

**MAIN-IDEA
STATEMENT:**

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Olympics: Skeleton

Picture riding the lid of a turkey roaster pan down a roller coaster rail after an ice storm.

Picture it at almost 80 miles an hour, with wicked turns, at G-forces so powerful that you cannot raise your helmet from the ice, which glitters just an inch away.

Now picture making that ride face first.

“I was screaming inside my helmet,” said Chris Soule, as he described the first time he tried the ominous-sounding sport of skeleton. It returns to these Olympic Winter Games after a 54-year ban.

Soule, the 2002 World Cup gold medalist from Trumbull, Conn., says it is not as dangerous as it looks, sliding down a twisting, turning course belly down on a tiny sled, his helmeted head leading the way.

That may be, but whenever he tells the Olympic athletes in other sports what he is there for, they say much the same thing: “Oh. You guys are crazy.”

Perhaps it is appropriate that international competitions for this event, perhaps the most perilous of all here, now begin with a moment of silence.

There is no affectation here, no baggy pants and thrash music like the snowboarders have, no ice skater’s sequins and storied history, no cinematic skiing glory, acted out by a rugged Robert Redford, as in the downhill.

This is just fast and mean and a little bit insane, and if you mess up, if you are clumsy and brush the wall, there is pain and often blood. Soule used to wrap parts of his body in duct tape—the ice on the walls tended to eat his sweater off his arm.

Now, after petitioning Olympic officials to reinstate the sport—which gets its name because frames of earlier sleds resembled a skeleton—he and the rest of

IDENTIFY REPEATING IDEAS

Same word	Descriptive phrases
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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

PUT THE FINAL VERSION AT THE TOP OF THE TEXT.

the world's most daring sliders will get a running start, hurl themselves and their sleds down a chute of hard ice and show the world what it means to ride the bones. The men's and women's competitions are scheduled for Wednesday.

"I haven't told my mother yet," said Lincoln DeWitt, one of Soule's Olympic teammates, when asked what his family thought of his competition here, which has been banned not once but twice from the Games.

It is a sport ruled, and abused, by gravity.

"I asked, 'How do you steer it?' " said Jim Shea Jr., another teammate, who is a medal favorite and a third-generation Olympian, as he thought back to his first ride on the skeleton in 1995. "Somebody said, 'Shut up and go down.' I asked again. And he said, 'Shut up and go down.' "

There is a lot more to it than that, as Shea, who is from Hartford, would learn. The G-forces pin the rider on the tiny sled like a bug on a cork, and even a glance to the left or right, up or down, can minutely shift a rider's neck and shoulder muscles and alter direction and even speed.

It actually forces the rider's head down, down to the ice. Some riders steer with a toe, or with a gentle pressure of their knees.

"It's pretty precise," said the 29-year-old Soule, which is like saying that snake charmers and lion tamers need to be a little bit careful. "A lot more precise than just whipping down a hill."

This is no hill. The track, in Utah Olympic Park, is about 4,380 feet long, drops 340 feet and has 15 turns, on which the best sliders will reach speeds

of 80 m.p.h.

It is the same track used for bobsled and luge, but in a bobsled, the slider gets to ride inside something about the size of a canoe, and in the luge, at least the rider gets to go down the course feet first.

The skeleton sled is just big enough for the rider's torso—the rider's head, which is encased in a helmet with a wraparound face guard, sticks out more than a foot from the edge of the sled.

It is steel and fiberglass, about 3 feet long and 16 inches wide and can weigh anywhere from 70 to 115 pounds, depending, in part, on the size of the rider. It slides on two steel runners, which narrow—or sharpen—from front to back.

A Latvian rider was killed during a run in October, when, going 36 m.p.h., he crashed headfirst into an errant sled. That is why the sliders begin competitions with a moment of silence.

"I could handle the speed," said Soule, thinking back to his first skeleton ride, 10 years ago in Lake Placid, N.Y. It was the fact that his face was so close to the ice—sometimes the riders' helmets bounce or scrape the ice or bounce against the walls—that had him screaming.

It might not be so bad if not for the name of the sport. That it was named for the sled is in itself a relief to many first-time riders, who thought it had something to do with the condition of the riders once they reached the bottom of the hill.

"I broke my nose twice learning, and my rib once," said Luis Carrasco, who will represent Mexico in the skeleton. "I didn't stay low on the curves."

MAIN-IDEA
STATEMENT:

**High speeds and precision make
the sport of Skeleton dangerous.**

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TALLY THE IDEAS REPEATED

Dangerous, injury			
Speed			
Precision			
Skeleton, sport, equip			

TRY OUT VERSIONS OF A MAIN-IDEA STATEMENT

Skeleton is a high-speed sport that is dangerous if the rider is not precise.

Skeleton is a precise Olympic sport that is fast and dangerous.

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