

Name _____

Date _____

Finding the Main Idea

Directions: After reading the paragraph, write a sentence stating the main idea.

In 1969, when Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins first landed on the moon, our country's knowledge about the moon increased exponentially. As Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon, he said, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!" It was definitely a huge step in gaining knowledge of our planet's only satellite. From information obtained by the astronauts on the Apollo missions from 1969 to 1972, we learned that the moon has no living things. There is no air or water; therefore, there are not plants or animals. Since there is no air, there is no wind. There is also no rain or precipitation of any form. The footprints that our astronauts made in the moon dust will remain there forever because there is nothing on the moon to disturb them. In fact, when our astronauts planted the U.S. flag on the moon, they had to use a piece of metal to hold the flag out since there was no wind to blow it. Additionally, since there is very little gravity, the astronauts were able to jump very high. A day on the moon is about 28 Earth days long, consisting of 14 Earth days of hot sunlight and 14 Earth days of freezing dark. The moon is definitely not a place humans could live, but maybe it will be a place we can one day visit.

This main idea of this paragraph is: _____

The Barbie doll was invented by Ruth Handler in 1959 and named after her daughter, Barbara. While visiting Switzerland, Handler discovered a small, hard plastic fashion doll named Lili. She was fascinated with this doll and the wardrobe you could purchase for her. When she returned home, she decided to design an American version to be sold by her husband's toy company. Once the doll was designed, she hired a fashion designer, Charlotte Johnson, to create a wardrobe that could be bought to dress this shapely and beautiful fashion doll. Barbie was introduced at the New York Toy Show in 1959 where the buyers had little interest. However, the dolls that were sold and placed in stores quickly became popular. By 1960, every little girl in the country wanted their own Barbie doll. Once little girls were too old to play baby dolls, they only had two choices: the Barbie doll or paper dolls. Which would you choose? Girls today still choose Barbie as a favorite doll. She has changed over the years to reflect the changes in fashion, makeup, and hairstyles. Over the years, she gained a boyfriend named Ken as well as brothers, sisters, and friends. Barbie is as popular today as ever with young kids and collectors that are kids at heart.

The main idea of this paragraph is: _____

I think everybody should have a pet. Whether it is a dog, a cat, a hamster, or even a frog, pets will improve your life. It has been proven that pet owners tend to be happier and experience less stress and anxiety than those that don't own one. I believe this is because pets offer you unconditional love. Everyone needs to feel as if there is someone of something that will love them no matter what. It is a great feeling to know when you come in from a bad day at work or school that there is a pet you love waiting patiently for you. Better yet is the feeling you get when you walk into your house and are greeted by the wagging tail of a dog, the purring of a cat, or the "ribbit" of a frog, it just feels good to have someone excited to see you. Your mood usually gets better as you pet or play with your pet. Your stress level decreases, and before you know it, you are feeling much better. Pets can a responsibility, but they are well worth the effort.

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This main idea of this paragraph is: Many facts have been learned about the moon through the Apollo space travels.

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The main idea of this paragraph is: The Barbie doll has changed with the times and remains popular today.

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The main idea of this paragraph is: Pets bring joy and love to their owner and make them happier.

