Main Topic vs. Main Idea Learning Center

Objective: Learn the difference between the main topic of a text and the main idea of a text.

Materials:

- ❑ Directions Sheet
- ❑ Main Topic vs. Main Idea Cards
- ❑ Main Topic vs. Main Idea Graphic Organizer
- ❑ Answer Key
- ❑ Literary Reading Passage
- ❑ Blank Cards
- ❑ Reflection Questions

Time: 10 minutes

Roles:

- ❑ Reader
- ❑ Materials Person
- ❑ Recorder

Directions: *(The Reader will read through the directions out loud to the group.)*

- ❑ The *Materials Person* should take out the *Main Topic vs. Main Idea Cards* envelope and the *Main Topic vs. Main Idea Graphic Organizer.*
- ❑ The *Materials Person* should remove the cards from the envelope and give them to the *Reader*.
- ❑ The *Reader* will read the first card out loud and determine if the card is a main topic or a main idea, and place it in the corresponding section of the graphic organizer.
- ❑ Rotate clockwise and repeat the process until you have gone through all the cards.
- ❑ The *Materials Peron* should take out the *Answer Key*. The *Reader* will share the correct answers with the group.
- ❑ Next, the *Materials Person* will distribute one reading passage per person in the group.
- ❑ Each member of the group should read the passage silently.
- ❑ Once everyone has finished reading, the *Materials Person* will pass out two blank cards to each group member.
- ❑ Each group member will individually write the main topic of the passage on one card and the main idea of the passage on the other card. Everyone will then place their cards on the corresponding sides of the graphic organizer.
- ❑ The *Reader* will read each of the Main Topic responses, then each of the Main Idea responses.
- ❑ The group will then decide which response for each side is the best.
- ❑ The *Materials Person* will hand the *Reflection Questions* to the *Recorder*, who will record the group's response.

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Main Topic vs. Main Idea Graphic Organizer

Main Topic		Main Idea
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

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Ice Cream	Julia served ice cream at her birthday party on Saturday.	Soccer
Soccer has been enjoyed around the world for years.	Bees	Bees have many important jobs in the ecosystem.
First-Aid Kits	Bandages, gauze, and antibacterial cream are just a few things that can be found in a first-aid kit.	Independence Day
On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, which marks the independence of America from Great Britain.		

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Answer Key

Main Topic		Main Idea
Ice Cream		Julia served ice cream at her birthday party on Saturday.
Soccer		Soccer has been enjoyed around the world for years.
Bees		Bees have many important jobs in the ecosystem.
First-Aid Kits		Bandages, gauze, and antibacterial cream are just a few things that can be found in a first-aid kit.
Independence Day		On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, which marks the independence of America from Great Britain.

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Migrating Monarchs

Monarchs are facing extinction due to environmental threats and loss of habitat. Scientists need help from students to provide habitats and food sources for monarchs as they migrate from the United States to Mexico during the winter months, and return north during the spring. The monarch is the only butterfly that conquers such a massive journey, up to 3,000 miles.

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Group Members:_____

Reflection Questions

1. How did this learning center help you discover the difference between the main topic and main idea of a text?

2. How did knowing the main topic of a text help you in determining the main idea of the text?

3. Based on the learning center, describe the difference between the main topic and the main idea of a text.

4. Are there still any questions you have about main topic or main idea?

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