

Reading Comprehension

Grade 3

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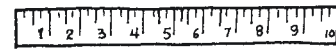
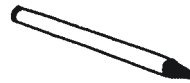
Starting Out



A **topic sentence** tells the **main idea** of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph. Write the letter of the topic sentence that make the most sense.

1. _____ Notebooks, pencils, and pens are the first things you need to start out the school year. A backpack will help you keep all of your supplies in one place. Be sure to have a ruler, erasers, and a small notepad, too.



2. _____ It is the first time you will be meeting your new teacher. You will also meet your classmates. Your teacher may give everyone name tags to wear. She will tell you all about what you will learn in school this year.



3. _____ People who are well rested learn better. Most children need about eight or nine hours of sleep each night. If you do not get enough rest, you may feel sleepy in school. That way, you will not be able to learn your lessons.

- Children learn how to read and write in school.
- Stores sell many different kinds of supplies.
- You need to be well prepared for school.

- The first day at school will be filled with new experiences.
- Teachers work hard to teach us to read and write.
- You will get new books on the first day of school.

- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
- It is important to get a good night's sleep.
- Many people dream when they sleep.

The Largest Animals on Earth

Details in a paragraph **tell about the main idea.**

Read the paragraph. Find the topic sentence and write it in the large oval below. Find four details that tell about the main idea. Write them in the smaller ovals.

Whales are among the largest mammals on Earth. The blue whale is the largest creature that has ever lived. Blue whales can grow up to 100 feet long and weigh up to 140 tons. That's a lot of whale! The second largest whale is the finback whale. This whale has a gray body with a white belly. The finback whale may grow up to 80 feet long and weigh up to 50 tons. That's about the weight of 10 cars all put together! The right whale is the third largest whale. This whale has horny spikes that bulge out of the top of its

head. The right whale can grow up to 57 feet long and weigh up to 44 tons. The fourth largest whale is the sperm whale. This is the only one of the large whales that has teeth. The sperm whale can grow up to 59 feet long and weigh almost 40 tons. All of these whales are much larger than the largest land animal, which is the elephant.

