

Main Idea and Key Details

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

The MAIN IDEA is what a passage is mostly about. KEY DETAILS are facts that support the main idea. The main idea is bigger than just one detail — it is the umbrella that covers them all.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Why We See Lightning

During a storm, you might see bright flashes of light in the sky. These flashes are called lightning. Lightning happens when tiny bits of water and ice inside a cloud bump together. This bumping makes electric charges build up. When the charges get strong enough, they jump as a flash of lightning.

Lightning can flash from one cloud to another, or from a cloud all the way down to the ground. A bolt of lightning is much hotter than the surface of the sun, even though it lasts less than a second. Thunder is the sound the hot air makes when lightning heats it up so fast that the air bursts apart.

Lightning is beautiful, but it can also be dangerous. When you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to be a danger. Going inside a building or a car helps keep people safe. Tall trees and open fields are not safe places during a storm.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Choose the best answer for each question. Show your work for short answers.

1. What is the MAIN IDEA of this passage?
 - A. Thunder is louder than lightning.
 - B. Lightning is electricity that can be beautiful but dangerous.
 - C. Storms always happen in the summer.
 - D. Lightning is colder than the sun.
2. Which detail BEST supports the main idea that lightning is dangerous?
 - A. Lightning happens during storms.
 - B. Lightning can flash from cloud to cloud.
 - C. A lightning bolt is hotter than the surface of the sun.
 - D. Tiny bits of ice are inside clouds.



3. Which sentence is a KEY DETAIL, not the main idea?
 - A. Lightning is electricity that can be both beautiful and dangerous.
 - B. Lightning is one of the powers of a storm.
 - C. Thunder is the sound the hot air makes when lightning heats it up.
 - D. Storms can be exciting and scary at the same time.
4. Why is paragraph 1 mostly important to the passage?
 - A. It tells what lightning IS and how it forms.
 - B. It explains how to stay safe in a storm.
 - C. It shows how loud thunder can be.
 - D. It tells how long lightning lasts.
5. Which of these BEST states the main idea of paragraph 3?
 - A. Lightning happens during storms.
 - B. Going inside helps people stay safe from lightning.
 - C. Lightning is beautiful to watch from outside.
 - D. Tall trees grow near open fields.
6. Write TWO details from the passage that support the main idea that lightning is electricity.

7. Which sentence would be a GOOD short summary of the passage?
 - A. Lightning is hot.
 - B. Lightning forms when charges build up in clouds — it is powerful and can be dangerous.
 - C. Thunder follows lightning during a storm.
 - D. People should not stand near tall trees in a storm.
8. Why is the fact that lightning is hotter than the sun important to the passage?
 - A. It tells how lightning is made.
 - B. It shows why lightning can be dangerous.
 - C. It explains how clouds form.
 - D. It compares storms in different seasons.
9. Where is the SAFEST place to be during a thunderstorm, according to the passage?
 - A. under a tall tree
 - B. inside a building or a car
 - C. in an open field
 - D. near a window outside



10. In your own words, write the main idea of the passage in ONE sentence.



Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p>
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Explanations	
1. B	B covers the whole passage — what lightning is, what it does, and how to stay safe. A is one detail. C is not in the text. D is the opposite of what the text says.
2. C	Very high heat supports the danger idea. A and B describe lightning but don't show danger. D is about how lightning starts, not danger.
3. C	C is one specific fact about thunder. The others sound like main-idea statements.
4. A	Paragraph 1 is the “what is lightning?” paragraph. B is paragraph 3, C is in paragraph 2, D is one small detail.
5. B	Paragraph 3 is mainly about safety. A and C are not the focus, and D twists a detail into something else.
6.	Answer: Examples: “Electric charges build up.” “Charges jump as a flash of lightning.” “Lightning can flash from one cloud to another.” Two facts about charges or electrical jumps.
7. B	A summary captures the WHOLE passage. A and C and D each only cover one part.
8. B	Very high heat supports the “dangerous” point. The other choices are not what the heat detail is about.
9. B	Paragraph 3 names buildings and cars as safe; trees and open fields as unsafe.
10.	Answer: Example: Lightning is a powerful flash of electricity that can be beautiful but also dangerous, so people should go inside during a storm. Any sentence that captures the “what lightning is + danger + safety” combination.

