

Two or More Main Ideas and Summary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

A long article often has more than one main idea. To find them, ask: "What big point does each section make?" Then write a summary that names every main idea and uses only the most important details.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Farms on the Roof: A New Kind of City Garden

Most people picture a farm as a wide field in the countryside, with rows of corn or grazing cows. In recent years, however, a different kind of farm has appeared above the streets of busy cities. On the flat roofs of warehouses, grocery stores, and apartment buildings, small teams of growers are raising lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, and strawberries. These rooftop farms can be as small as a backyard or as large as a soccer field. Together, they are changing what city food can look like.

Rooftop farms have several practical advantages. Because the food is grown a short truck ride — or even a short elevator ride — from the people who eat it, less fuel is needed to deliver it. The plants are also picked the same day they are sold, so they reach customers fresher than vegetables shipped from across the country. In addition, the soil and plants act like a sponge, soaking up rainwater that would otherwise rush off the roof and overload city sewer systems during storms.

There are challenges, too. A roof must be carefully checked by an engineer because soil and water are very heavy. Growers also have to choose plants that can survive strong wind and direct sun. Despite these hurdles, the number of rooftop farms in North America has more than doubled in the last ten years. City leaders see them as a way to use empty roof space, give people fresh food close to home, and even cool down hot neighborhoods, since plants release water into the air as they grow. A simple rooftop, once just a place for vents and pipes, is becoming a small but powerful part of the city's food supply.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read the article. Then choose the best answer for each question.

- Which sentence BEST states ONE main idea of the article?
 - Lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, and strawberries can be grown on city roofs.
 - Rooftop farming is a growing way to bring fresh food close to people in cities.
 - An engineer must check a roof before plants can be added to it.
 - Rooftops used to be places only for vents and pipes.



2. Which is a SECOND main idea of the article?
 - A. Rooftop farms can survive only in cities that have warm summers.
 - B. Backyard gardening produces more food than farms in the countryside.
 - C. Lettuce grows best in shaded spots away from direct sunlight.
 - D. Rooftop farms bring real benefits to a city, but they also face real challenges.
3. Which detail from paragraph 2 BEST supports the idea that rooftop farming uses LESS fuel than usual farming?
 - A. "The food is grown a short truck ride — or even a short elevator ride — from the people who eat it."
 - B. "The plants are also picked the same day they are sold."
 - C. "The soil and plants act like a sponge, soaking up rainwater."
 - D. "Rooftop farms have several practical advantages."
4. Which detail BEST supports the idea that rooftop farming has CHALLENGES?
 - A. The food does not have to travel far.
 - B. Rooftop farms used to be unusual.
 - C. A roof must be carefully checked by an engineer because soil and water are very heavy.
 - D. City leaders want more rooftop farms.
5. Which sentence is a KEY DETAIL rather than a main idea?
 - A. Rooftop farming has both clear benefits and real difficulties.
 - B. City leaders are paying attention to rooftop farms.
 - C. The number of rooftop farms in North America has more than doubled in the last ten years.
 - D. A simple rooftop is becoming part of the city's food supply.
6. Which would be the BEST one-sentence summary of the WHOLE article?
 - A. Rooftop farming is a growing practice that brings fresh food close to people, helps the city in several ways, and has real challenges that growers must solve.
 - B. Rooftop farms grow lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, and strawberries.
 - C. Rooftop farms in North America have more than doubled in the last ten years.
 - D. Engineers and city leaders are needed to make rooftop farms possible.
7. Which detail does NOT belong in a SHORT summary of the article?
 - A. Rooftop farms grow food close to where people eat it.
 - B. Rooftop farms can also help a city by soaking up rainwater.
 - C. Engineers must make sure roofs can hold the weight of soil and water.
 - D. A roof was once a place mainly for vents and pipes.



8. Why does the author mention that plants "release water into the air as they grow"?
- A. To show that rooftop farms need very little water
 - B. To explain why rooftops can be hot in the summer
 - C. To show that rooftop farms can warm cities up in winter
 - D. To support the idea that rooftop farms can cool nearby neighborhoods
9. In your own words, write a TWO-sentence summary of the article. Each sentence should cover ONE main idea.

10. Which detail BEST supports the main idea that rooftop farms are GROWING in number?
- A. The number of rooftop farms in North America has more than doubled in the last ten years.
 - B. Soil is heavy and a roof must be checked by an engineer.
 - C. Plants release water into the air as they grow.
 - D. Lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, and strawberries can be grown on roofs.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

1. B	B captures the article's whole point — what rooftop farms ARE and WHY they are growing. A names crops, a supporting detail. C names a single challenge from paragraph 3 (detail-mistaken-for-main-idea). D is a small comparison from the last paragraph.
2. D	Paragraph 2 (benefits) and paragraph 3 (challenges) together support D as a second main idea. A makes a claim never stated (overstatement). B is unsupported and likely false. C contradicts the text (plants must handle direct sun).
3. A	A directly explains the SHORT distance from farm to customer — the fuel-saving point. B is about freshness, not fuel. C is about water, not fuel. D is just the topic sentence and gives no specific support.
4. C	C names a real difficulty (weight check). A is a benefit, not a challenge. B is just history (used-to-be-rare-vs-currently-difficult confusion). D is about leaders' opinions, not about challenges.
5. C	A specific number ("more than doubled") is a supporting detail. A is a main idea (the benefit-and-challenge claim). B and D each summarize a broad point. Only C is a single fact.
6. A	A names BOTH main ideas (growth-and-benefits AND challenges) without stuffing in small details. B lists crops only. C is a single number. D names two job titles, missing the bigger picture.
7. D	D is a colorful contrast in the last paragraph — true but not central. A, B, and C each name a key benefit or challenge — exactly what a short summary should keep.
8. D	The detail directly supports the cooling claim in the same paragraph. A flips the meaning (releasing water ≠ needing little). C reverses cool to warm. B describes a problem, not the author's point.
9.	Answer: Sample answers: (1) Rooftop farms are a new kind of city food supply, growing food on warehouse, store, and apartment roofs. They bring real benefits like fresh, local food and stormwater control, but they also face real challenges like roof weight and harsh weather. (2) A growing number of cities now grow vegetables on flat rooftops to give people fresh food close to home. These farms help neighborhoods in several ways, but they only work after engineers, growers, and city leaders solve big challenges. NOT acceptable: summaries that name only one main idea, list every detail, or copy whole sentences word-for-word. Strong answers cover BOTH main ideas (rooftop farming is growing/useful AND it has challenges) in the student's own words. Reject one-idea or copy-paste summaries.
10. A	A is a direct fact about growth in number. B is a challenge. C is about cooling. D is about which crops can grow, not how many farms exist.



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