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Back to school, meet the teacher, open house ... whatever you call it, these ideas will make it spectacular!Continue Reading Introduction: Main idea is an essential component of reading comprehension, and mastering this skill helps students better understand and retain information they read. Using anchor charts can be an effective teaching tool to aid in the understanding of main ideas and supporting details. In this article, we'll explore 15 anchor charts designed to teach students the concept of main idea effectively. 1. Main Idea Umbrella: This anchor chart represents main ideas as an umbrella sheltering key details as raindrops, emphasizing that details support the main idea. 2. Main Idea Table: Presenting main ideas as tabletops with legs for supporting details, this chart stresses the need for strong details to uphold the central point. 3. Main Idea Tree: A tree with branches for each detail helps students visualize how individual pieces of information come together to form a cohesive main idea. 4. Main Idea House: Showcasing a house built on strong foundations of supporting details, this metaphor encourages students to find reliable evidence for their statements. 5. Main Idea Ice Cream Cone: Using a delicious ice cream analogy, this chart demonstrates how chunks of detail fill in the cone (main idea) to create a pleasing concept. 6. Pizza Slice Main Idea: Divided into sections like pizza slices, this chart shows that each detail adds flavor and depth to the main idea, which forms the crust base. 7. Question-based Main Idea Chart: Using guiding questions such as "What is the topic?", "What is significant about it?", and "Why should we care?", students can easily identify the main idea. 8. Hamburger Model Main Idea: Modeling text structure like a hamburger - with introduction and conclusion buns and a meaty middle - helps students grasp the importance of well-structured ideas. 9. Paragraph-style Main Idea Chart: A paragraph format anchor chart encourages students to write concise summaries by narrowing down topics, subtopics, and key details. 10. Main Idea Detective: Implementing a detective theme, this chart inspires students to search for clues to uncover and support main ideas. 11. Main Idea Time Machine: Organizing information chronologically underlines the cause-and-effect relationships that strengthen the main idea. 12. Movie Poster Main Idea: Similar to a movie poster's catchy tagline, this chart prompts students to create compelling summaries of texts to capture the essence of their main idea. 13. Main Idea Ladder: Climbing up the rungs of detail collection, this ladder metaphor highlights the importance of building strong foundations before identifying the main idea. 14. Flower Pot Main Idea: Using a flowering plant as an analogy, this chart shows how nurturing individual details helps a strong main idea grow and flourish. 15. Main Idea Equation: By clarifying that the main idea equals topic plus detail, this anchor chart simplifies an abstract concept into a simple calculation for students. Conclusion: Anchor charts offer creative ways to illustrate crucial reading concepts like main ideas to students in visual and memorable forms. By employing a variety of metaphors and styles, these 15 anchor charts offer engaging strategies for teaching how to identify, understand, and remember main ideas in a text. Back to school, meet the teacher, open house ... whatever you call it, these ideas will make it spectacular!Continue Reading Back to school, meet the teacher, open house ... whatever you call it, these ideas will make it spectacular!Continue Reading There was a time when I dreaded teaching the topic of main idea and supporting details. Trying to teach students how to read a passage and pick out the main idea and key details was both challenging and boring. One year, the time came, and I knew that I needed to "spice things up"... or maybe I should say "cool it down") for my own sanity. I've always had a sweet tooth, so I decided to create materials that reflected the following ice cream cone analogy. As I reflected upon the entire unit when it came to a conclusion, I realized that for the first time in my teaching career, I actually enjoyed teaching main idea! Furthermore, my students seemed to enjoy it, too! Best of all, though, was that my students seemed to truly grasp the concept. I witnessed success like never before, probably because we all had fun. Needless to say, I have continued to teach main idea using the ice cream cone analogy, and I really don't ever see myself not using this analogy. On Day 2 of my main idea unit, I create the following anchor chart that will remain in my classroom throughout the unit. (In case you are dying to know, Day 1 is reserved for my introduction PowerPoint.) When I introduce this anchor chart, I read the paragraph with my students, and I ask them what the paragraph was mainly about. A student often replies "bees", and then I remind everyone that "bees" is the topic of the paragraph, but to state the main idea, we have to dig a little deeper. I assist by asking "What about bees? Is this passage mainly about how to protect yourself from a bee that's flying around your head?" This seems to really click with some of the students. After they finish giggling, I tell them to turn to a partner and discuss what the passage is mainly about concerning bees. Immediately, I hear most students discussing the main idea... the passage is mainly about the jobs of each type of bee. I write that statement beside the cone. (I once heard a student incorrectly tell his partner that the first sentence was the main idea. It gave me the opportunity to remind students that the main idea can be the first sentence of a passage, but that it doesn't have to be. In this case, the first sentence was more of a "hook" used to try to get the reader interested in the paragraph.) Once we determine the main idea, it is pretty simple for the students to pick out the three most important details. As you can see, we underline the detail sentences in the paragraph. We also talk about how some of the statements were interesting facts, but they didn't necessarily support the main idea sentence. We also talk about how main idea questions are commonly found on standardized tests. I have found that many students do not understand that "What would be the best title of the passage?" questions are actually main idea questions. Once they understand this concept, they are better equipped to answer test questions. They know to determine the main idea rather than just make a subjective decision about which title is best. If you wish to use this anchor chart lesson in your classroom and you want students to be able to follow along on a mini anchor chart, click HERE to download my student version. Finally, I have created a freebie passage for you to use with your students. After filling out the class main idea anchor chart, students can tackle a passage independently with this worksheet! (I use this passage as an exit ticket!) If you would like to take a look at the main idea resources available in my store, click HERE. This listing also has links to the individual resources that are shown. This bundle is designed for 4th-6th grade students. This bundle is designed for 2nd-3rd grade students. Pin this to remember later: Anchor Chart, ELA, Freebie, main idea Second grade can be a really exciting time for students. They are starting to become better readers, they are advancing their math skills and they are doing interesting things during science class, like experiments and observations. Second-grade students still benefit from visuals during instruction. A great place to utilize and integrate visuals to support your young learners is on an anchor chart wall. An anchor chart wall is a great space to house all of your anchor charts in one place, just make sure to switch out them out often as you create new ones so they don't become wallpaper. The bucket filling concept can be illustrated with this cute chart! This powerful idea can be made accessible by the teacher breaking down what this idea looks, sounds, and feels like. Having behavioral expectations posted, that can be referred to often, are helpful for the beginning of the year. Learn More: Crafting Connections Adding this anchor chart to your next science lesson is a fantastic idea. Introducing the concept of cause and effect using pictures and example words allows the students to make connections about where they witness this concept in real life. Ask them to add other examples they notice! Learn More: Miss Decarbo Drawing these lines on the large anchor chart paper can help your students visualize the meaning of the words parallel, intersecting and perpendicular. This chart can be added to your introduction lesson or review period. Learn More: Smartsy And Artsy Your second grade students are still developing as readers. A picture like this will remind them what a good reader asks, does, and looks like. You can refer to this chart before your silent reading or reading buddy time. Learn More: Ms. Third Grade Blogspot This awesome anchor chart is fantastic because the diagram and labels make the information clear to students. This is especially the case when the labels and diagrams are paired with bright colors and lively visuals. Learn More: Blend Space It is especially important to have your students' goals listed for them to see. This is not only beneficial to remind them what they are trying to learn and why they need to stay on task, but it is also helpful for you if an administrator comes into your classroom. Learn More: What I Have Learned Teaching Fostering a growth mindset is very important for learners of any age. This is a fun anchor chart that reminds students just how to accomplish this. The power of anchor charts like this one will teach your students how to persevere, be resilient and strive to learn from their mistakes. Learn More: Where The Magic Happens Teaching As you are fostering literate students, developing their skills in identifying the main idea or focus of a piece of text is imperative. This type of anchor chart teaches a skill that would benefit students of all ages, even up to and beyond a fifth-grade teacher could use this! Learn More: Elementary Nest As students learn about how to work with different forms of writing and become authors themselves, they will definitely come across writing their own personal narrative at some point. Having this anchor chart up will support young primary teachers to be clear about the various components involved. Learn More: Literacy Ideas This eye-catching anchor chart will make teaching and learning about grammar fun! This can quickly become one of your students' favorite anchor chart if you co-create it by including their ideas and even get them to draw their own pictures! They will not forget this lesson anytime soon. Learn More: The Lemonade Stand Teacher Posting up various examples of patterns for students will be a helpful reminder every single time. Pairing this chart with the other resource types, like manipulatives in math, will allow your students to make connections in their learning that they may not make otherwise. Learn More: Mrs. Richardson's Class Learning about how to identify the central topic of a story, piece of non-fiction information or an alternative piece of writing is a lifelong skill that needs to be fostered early in students' academic careers. A colorful and well-made anchor chart can support them in doing this. Learn More: The Applications Teacher Making connections is a vital literary skill that enables students to see patterns in their worlds. This could be as they are thinking about text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world relationships. Understanding similarities and differences between different pieces of information they know is a skill that needs to be explicitly taught. Learn More: Upper Elementary Snapshots This type of anchor chart would be perfect to create together as a resource for your students if they are working on a book report and have to discuss and present information about the main character. Your students will be more comfortable describing the protagonist and antagonist of their stories! Learn More: Teaching With Simplicity If your students are constantly asking you what time it is during the school day, this type of time chronology chart will give them a visual representation of how the hours pass during the day. The daily teaching ideas that can come from this chart are endless. Learn More: The Simply Organized Teacher Creating this anchor chart with your class will support your next math unit that involves shapes. Designing this anchor chart can be especially fun for your kids if you let them draw where they see these shapes in your world. A cube can be an ice cube in a glass! Learn More: The Classroom Key Telling time is such a powerful skill for grade 2 students. A task that seemed so daunting becomes exciting when they can read a clock and determine when lunchtime, science class, or home time is for themselves. Empower your students by putting up this invaluable resource. Learn More: Pinterest The world of language will open up for your students as they have access to this Prefixes and Suffixes anchor chart. Referring to it from time to time will ensure the information is retained and students understand the real-world applications of their uses. Learn More: Teach Starter Teaching social skills is a vital component of any classroom atmosphere, especially at the start of the year. This anchor chart reminds students of the etiquette associated with greeting someone and saying Good Morning to their peers and adults they come into contact with. Learn More: Mrs. Will's Kindergarten This is a fun pictorial representation of the parts of plots in stories. This simplified version of the traditional narrative structure will give your students the opportunity to make a connection between this idea and a real-world activity that they are most likely familiar with. Learn More: The Classroom Creative Anchor charts that students can refer to independently allow for them to research math problem-solving strategies without teacher support are invaluable resources for any teacher who has a busy classroom. Fostering student independence will build their confidence and build them for success. Learn More: Pine Crest Cove This anchor chart will make grammatical distinctions clear. This is especially the case if you use a few different colors to show students which pronouns belong in each category. The more interesting and eye-catching you can make these charts, the more your students will want to read them. Learn More: Crafting Connections Whether you refer to this type of agreement as a class contract or promise, you students need to look at this chart all year long. Explaining the importance of an agreement like this at the beginning of the year will allow you to foster a "class family" sense of atmosphere. Learn More: Teacher Trap It is never too early to start a discussion about grouping items and numbers. You can make this lesson engaging by asking the students which objects or items they can think of that can be grouped. Your students will enjoy having their ideas represented. Learn More: Teacher Trap Some grade 2 students are still learning how to identify letters and associate them with their sounds. Having this type of anchor chart posted will help your students make this connection more easily. You can discuss one letter per week and then review it when you've reached the end. Learn More: Emily Education There are many options for excellent anchor charts that you can include in your classroom. From literacy to math and science to social skills, anchor charts will help your students have all of the information right in front of them. Anchor charts transport students back to the original lesson when you originally taught the content. Representing concepts using pictures, numbers, and words integrating bright and bold colors is a fantastic way to diversify your instruction methods. The best part is that anchor charts are not age-specific and can be tailored to the needs and ages of your students. Use our 'Dice Roll' Content Vocabulary Activity as an opportunity to help your students grow their vocabulary skills in the classroom. Are you looking for a fun and engaging way to teach your students strategies for finding the main idea and details in a text? Look no further. In this post, we present an awesome main idea and details anchor chart, as well as reading comprehension passages that will make your lesson a hit! As a teacher, you know that teaching students strategies to find the main idea is a crucial for reading comprehension. It requires them to not only identify the topic but also understand the author's message about the topic. Some students may find it easy, while others may struggle. But don't worry, we have some great tips to help you out! Get ready for an adventure into the wonderful world of reading! HOW DO I TEACH MAIN IDEA STRATEGIES TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS? Teaching students to find the main idea and details requires them to identify the topic, and then what the author's message is about the topic. Sometimes the main idea is right there for students in the topic sentence, and other times it needs to be inferred, or pieced together, from multiple sentences. Asking the following questions is a great way to start: Give a one sentence summary of what the text is about. What is this text mostly about? What is the author's message about the topic? What is another title that could be given to this text/section? A MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS ANCHOR CHART Graphic organizers are perfect for supporting visual learners and breaking down challenging skills into more manageable pieces for students. You can give them to students as a personal anchor chart for their notebook or post them for on your classroom walls. Start by introducing main idea and supporting details using an anchor chart with a fun visual, like a heart, legs supporting a table, branches on a tree, or an umbrella with raindrops. These visuals drive home the point that the main idea needs to be supported by key details. As your students start to grasp this main idea strategy, gradually move on to reading passages and then longer books with multiple paragraphs and sections. Keep in mind that longer texts usually have multiple main ideas, so it's crucial to teach students how to identify them in smaller passages first. LESSON IDEAS Finding the main idea and supporting details has never been easier! Using our main idea graphic organizer to color code nonfiction passages gives students multiple opportunities to practice recognizing text organization. When students can see the organization of a written paragraph, they can more easily identify the main idea. Each reading passage also comes with comprehension passages, and answer keys are included. I've created several resources that allow my students to practice finding the main idea and details. Click on the pictures below to check them out! WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR MAIN IDEA KEY DETAIL ANCHOR CHART: You might also like "5 Quick Tips - Getting Students to Follow Directions." Happy Teaching! ~ Melissa It's no coincidence that some institutions talk about their students 'reading' for a degree. Think about it: in so many ways, reading is the key to formal education. It's no use reading without comprehending, though. The key to knowing what is going on in a text is to find the main idea.From this resource, you will learn what to look for in a good anchor chart. I have also curated some resources you can use in the classroom.Table of ContentsKey elements of a good main idea anchor chartWhatever approach is adopted for the chart, the students must be able to follow the logic from main idea to reasoning.A good main idea anchor chart will grab the students' attention!This can be in the form of an innovative approach, or it can simply be the use of font, color and the way it is set out.The students must be directed to the concept of the 'main idea'For older grades, there can simply be a subheading that says 'Main Idea'. They will understand what to look out for, though you may need to remind them of how to go about finding the main idea.For younger grades, look out for an anchor chart that asks key questions about the text, such as:The students must be guided to express their reasons for choosing the main idea in their own words. This can be achieved by asking focused questions, such as:Why did you say that?Can you find the supporting/secondary ideas?What reasons can you give for choosing that main idea?Why is the main idea not...?The students must be presented with a structure to present their ideas. A good anchor chart may either provide a blank template for students to fill in, or it will provide a clear structure from which they can create their own anchor charts.An anchor chart for the main idea may be informative or interactive. The advantage of an informative chart is that it clearly states what the students must look for.The advantage of an interactive chart is that it allows the students to get involved in the process of finding and writing about the main idea.Any good anchor chart about the main idea will allow you to adapt it. This can mean making changes to the chart, or using it in a different way.It can also mean using the chart differently depending on the abilities or grades of the students.Main Idea Anchor Chart Resources from TeachSimpleMain Idea Anchor Chart By First In LineThis resource consists of a set of 4 charts. The complete first one serves as a model for the other, blank ones to be filled in by the students. Day 13: Main Idea By First In LineWhat is really great about this resource is the interactive activities. It consists of a set of comprehension and reading activities.Main Idea Graphic Organizers By DrDrewThis resource can be adapted for any grade, which makes it useful. It consists of a set of 5 graphic organizers. They are used for outlining the main idea and details of any text.Main Idea And Details Activities: Molly Pitcher Bio By Rap Opera For KidsI love the way this resource uses song lyrics as reading passages to present a different way of looking for the main idea. It is based on the idea that kids enjoy songs. They find the main idea and supporting ideas in the song lyrics.Reading Comprehension: Main Idea Chapter Slice By Classroom Complete PressThis resource teaches reading skills. The emphasis on finding the main idea, because it's an essential part of the reading process.Main Idea Graphic Organizer By Have Fun TeachingI love the way this resource takes the literal idea of a table and turns it into a blank graphic where the students can fill in points about the main idea.Main Idea Anchor Charts ExamplesGood Readers Can Identify 'MAIN IDEA' By Mrs. McGarityThis resource clearly sets out the 5 main points to look for when the students are trying to identify the main idea. I love the way it has been produced, as if a student wrote it!.Main Idea: Before, During And After Reading From Classroom Freebies Too!This can be used as a great way to teach a reading comprehension strategy. It gives steps for 3 stages of the reading process.Teaching Main Idea of Nonfiction Text From Teaching With Jennifer FindleyThis resource is specifically aimed at teaching students a difficult reading skill: to identify the main idea in a non-fiction text. Three different strategies are presented.Bite Into A Tasty Book By Amy LemonsWhat kid doesn't go for food? So, why not present useful teaching strategies as a hamburger? This is an innovative idea that grabs one's attention.I Can Explain How Key Details Support The MAIN IDEA From WeeblyThis resource is an organized page for the students to fill in. It leaves space for the main idea, how it can be expanded and the reasons for choosing it as the main idea.How To Find Main Idea From Appletastic LearningThis resource works on a different idea, because it's about reading an image and finding the main idea from the captions and heading. It is a great process to teach students about pre-reading and using hints from the text to find the main idea.Main Idea Workstation From Stuckey In SecondThis resource consists of passages and a guide to find the main idea. What I find useful is that the students are directed to find the details that support the main idea. This guides them to be able to separate the main idea from the content.Main Idea And Details By Upper Elementary SnapshotsStudents can use this ice cream cone anchor chart to determine the main idea along with three important supporting details. Fill out a graphic organizer with the student. Simply give each each of them sticky notes to write on.Main Idea And Details (What Are They?) From Mrs. Warner's LearningThis resource is a graphic representation of how to go about finding the main idea. Students are guided through the steps to understand what the passage is about and then to work to identifying the main idea. Identifying The Main Idea Of The Story By Literacy IdeasThis is a comprehensive resource for helping students identify and decode the main idea of a text. It also gives a good definition of the term.Guided Reading From Literacy IdeasThis resource consists of literally hundreds of texts that can be used for all reading activities. You can choose and adapt them for different ability levels. Identifying The Main Idea From Elementary NestThis resource consists of a set of blank pages that are ready to be filled in with points about main ideas. It is a great way to give structure and guidance, but allowing the students to pick out the relevant points from the text. Identifying The Main Idea And Supporting Detail From Elementary Nest This engaging anchor chart is a great way for students to focus on the main idea and how to extract or formulate subtopics.Final thoughts about main idea anchor chartsMain idea anchor charts are an invaluable resource in the reading process. They are also the first step in expressing comprehension of a text. Keep your anchor charts focused on the main idea and your students will become familiar and more confident about finding the main idea in a text and to be able to explain their choices.Different ways of presenting the main idea in anchor chartsThe concept of main idea can be presented in different ways in the form of anchor charts.The main idea of most texts can be found in the title or heading. This is what we look at in the first stage of the reading process: Pre-reading.You can make an anchor chart to do this by:Use a short text on the chart itself.Make sure the text has a clear heading.Use arrows, colors or different fonts to take the students through the process.For example:The heading tells us... This means the story is about this subject.When we read, we must look out for what the story tells us about...You can also leave the points open-ended and space for the students to fill in the blanks. This will make the anchor chart interactive.This approach works particularly well for older grades, but you can adapt it for younger grades.You can either find or create your own template. Let's work with the idea of creating your own template. It's about a very clear structure that shows that the main idea is most important. This should be presented as a bigger block, or at the top of the template.Provide space for the students to fill in the reasons for choosing the main idea. This helps them find secondary points, which lead to the main point.Demonstrate how to work through a process to get to the main point>Create a building on your anchor chart.(For this approach, I suggest combining an informative and an interactive chart.)At the top of the chart, begin by identifying the keywords in the passage.The next level is the sub-points that can be worked out from the keywords.Finally, the foundation of the article is the main idea.This is a chart to fill in that is based on a passage about with jellyfish. The students are guided to find the main idea and to write down details in boxes.by Jane Ball@Jane Ballot has been in education for 37 years, teaching at all levels of school and at university, with extensive experience in developing educational resources.