



Objective

The student will identify details and main idea in text.



Materials

- ▶ Expository text

Choose a one-page passage within students' instructional-independent reading level range.

Note: It should be emphasized that highlighting is strategic and specific. Only important words should be highlighted.

- ▶ Highlighter
- ▶ Pencil



Activity

Students identify the main idea and details by highlighting words and phrases that pertain to a specific topic.

1. Place highlighter at the center. Provide the student with a copy of the text.
2. Student reads the entire text.
3. Rereads and decides which words and phrases are important for understanding the text.
4. Uses highlighter to mark important words and phrases.
5. Continues until all important words are highlighted.
6. Writes a main idea sentence for each paragraph based on the highlighted words on the back of the page.
7. Teacher evaluation

Mammals are a class of animals that share many characteristics. Most have babies that are born alive. Mammals also make milk for their babies and care for their young more than other animals. There are other things that mammals have in common with each other. They have hair on their bodies. They are warm-blooded which means their body temperature stays about the same no matter what the weather is like.

Although mammals have a lot in common there are some ways in which they differ. One thing that is different is that mammals eat many types of foods. Some eat only plants, some eat only meat, and some eat both meat and plants. There are three types of mammals that even eat insects. They are the armadillo, anteater, and pangolin.

There are three main groups of mammals. One group lays eggs and includes the duck-billed platypus. Another group has pouches in which they carry their babies. The third group doesn't have pouches because their babies are more developed when they are born. Some examples of mammals are beavers, cows, dogs, tigers and even whales. Human beings are mammals.



Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Write a summary for the text based on the main idea sentences.
- ▶ Use different colored highlighters to mark words or phrases (e.g., blue for main idea words or phrases, green for important details, yellow for examples).