**Objective**

The student will identify significant and minor details in text.

**Materials**
- Expository text
  *Choose a one-page passage within students' instructional-independent reading level range.*
- Highlighter
- Determining Important Details tent card (Activity Master C.016.AM1)
  *Copy on card stock, cut out, and fold in half.*
- Pencils

**Activity**

Students determine important details in text.
1. Provide each student with a copy of the text and a highlighter. Place tent card so that each student can read one side. Provide a third copy of the text for students to complete together.
2. Students read or review the entire text independently.
3. Use the highlighter to mark all details (e.g., keywords, phrases, sentences) without marking the entire text.
4. Determine which of those are essential to understanding the text and which details could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete. Refer to the Determining Important Details tent card, if necessary.
5. Use a pencil to circle those details that are considered essential or important.
6. Discuss what was circled. Decide together which of these details are essential or important.
7. Use third copy of text to mark agreed-upon details with the highlighter and pencil.
8. Teacher evaluation

**Extensions and Adaptations**
- Rank order details with the most important listed as number one (Activity Master C.016.SS1).
- Attach blank transparency to text page and use Vis-à-Vis® marker to note important details.
- Use graphic organizer to indicate significant and minor details (Activity Master C.016.SS2).

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**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 eat insects. They are the aardvark, 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.
Comprehension

Distinguishing Details

DETERMINING IMPORTANT DETAILS

• Think about which details are essential to understanding the text and which could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete.

• Note text features for clues about important information (e.g., headings, subheadings, captions, charts, illustrations).

• Skim through the text. Look for text features or print variations that give you clues to important details (e.g., bold print).

• Look for important details in first and last paragraphs of text or any summaries.

• Locate any signal words or phrases that indicate importance of the text.

SOME SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES

* a major event
* important to note
* most of all

* above all
* key feature
* principal item

* central issue
* most importantly
* should be noted

* especially valuable
* most noteworthy
* remember that
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<th>Important Detail</th>
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<td>Why is this detail important?</td>
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<td>What helped you to determine that it was important?</td>
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**Note:**
- **Important Detail:** List the details that you think are important.
- **Why is this detail important?** Explain why each detail is important.
- **What helped you to determine that it was important?** Describe the evidence or reasoning that led you to believe each detail is important.
### Distinguishing Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Details</th>
<th>Minor Details</th>
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