

# Learning together

## Identifying the Main Ideas

ACTIVITY #9

SEQUENCE: STRATEGIES WHILE READING —  
UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT 2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE - PRIMARY

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### Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to learn to stop as you're reading and ask yourself what is most important to remember in each paragraph.



### Relevance of the activity

Your child must be able to understand each sentence they read in order to understand the essence of a paragraph or text. On the other hand, remembering each sentence of a text that you have to read is practically an impossible mission. This is why your child must learn to stop when reading to determine what is most important to remember in different parts of the text. This will help your child to check their understanding and get a better overall idea of the text.



### Supplies

You can use the text in the appendix:

■ *A Voyage Through Forests*

You can also use:

- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level



## LET'S GO!

### Explain the activity:



Today, we will learn how to stop during reading to ask ourselves what is most important to remember in each paragraph: the main idea.

### Explain why:



Remembering every sentence in a text that you have to read is practically an impossible mission. This is why you must learn to stop when reading to determine the main idea to remember in different parts of the text. This will help you get a better overall idea of the text in your head.

### Explain when:



After reading a paragraph, you can stop and ask yourself: What did I understand? What is important? If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I tell them?

**Try it together:**



Let's take the text "A Voyage Through Forests".

**As we have seen in previous activities, the text is divided into five parts, called paragraphs.**

- We can also see that these parts are clearly marked by *spaces* and *illustrations*.
- Each of these paragraphs talks about a specific type of forest, which is what the *subheadings* tell us.



**This is directly related to the overarching idea, the main idea of each paragraph.**

**Let's check: Let's read the paragraph on rainforests (see text in appendix).**

- I stop, then I ask myself, What did I understand? What is important?
- As we saw in the previous activity, the words in **bold** and the **image** give us clues.

We can therefore say that the overarching idea of this paragraph or the main idea is to describe the characteristics of rainforests: their vegetation, the regions where they grow, the animals that live in them and the dangers they face.

Is it the same for the second and third paragraph? Let's see.

**You see, for each paragraph, the author presents the same type of characteristics.**

So the main idea for the **second paragraph** would be as follows:

- describe the characteristics of boreal forests: their vegetation, the areas where they grow, the animals that live in them and the dangers they face.

And for the **third paragraph**:

- describe the characteristics of rainforests: their vegetation, the regions where they grow, the animals that live there and the dangers they face.

At first, it can be a difficult exercise, but don't forget to use the visual clues of the text to help you.

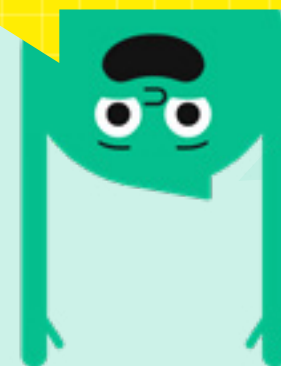
Then you have to stop and question yourself to check your understanding and know what is most important to remember.



## Quick tips!

To help yourself, always ask:

- What did I understand? What is important to remember?
- If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I tell them?



## A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!  
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.  
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

### Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that they block the sun's rays. Here, there is a lot of shiny foliage. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, where it is always hot and humid? They are home to exotic animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, tropical forests and the animals that live in them are not immune to deforestation.



### Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called taiga, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada and Russia**. In these forests, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live there, such as black bears.



**Temperate forests**

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. Here we find **conifers, but also hardwoods** such as maple and birch. This type of forest is found in **Europe and North America**. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer. Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, both big and small! They're the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, we can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,  
**Jean Bouleau**