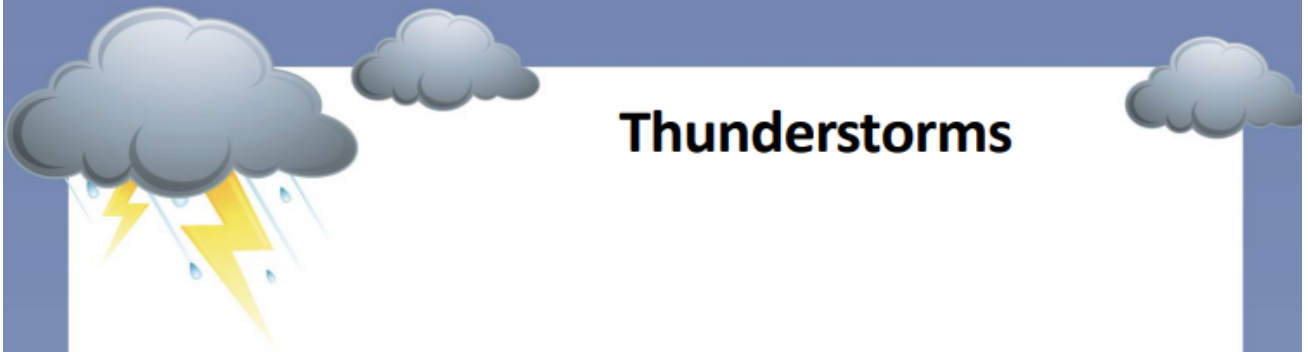


Year 4 Wednesday 20/10

Finding the Main Idea



Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are electrical storms that usually happen in the spring and summer months. During a thunderstorm, there is usually thunder and lightning. There is also heavy rain. Thunderstorms can occur singularly, in clusters, or in lines.

Thunderstorms happen when warm, moist air quickly moves upwards. This causes clouds to form and creates gusty winds, heavy rain and sometimes hail. This can last for a few minutes, or for much longer.

The loud sound that thunder makes is caused by the heat of the lightning that happens before you hear the thunder. Sometimes the sound of thunder can last for several seconds. This is because the thunder echoes around the ground, mountains, hills and buildings.

Some of the worst thunderstorms happen when a single thunderstorm stays in one area for a long time. Damage may include fallen trees and power lines, flooding and destruction of property.

Finding the Main Idea

The main idea of a paragraph or text is the most important point that the author is making about a topic or subject.

1. Read the title of the text. Look at the border pictures around the text. Using these clues, what might the main idea of this text be? What makes you think this?

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2. Carefully read each paragraph of the text. Do you notice any words which are repeated, or seem important. Write them into the table below.

First Paragraph	Second Paragraph
Third Paragraph	Fourth Paragraph

3. Look at the words you wrote down in your table. Use these to identify the main idea of each paragraph.

The first paragraph is about:	
The second paragraph is about:	
The third paragraph is about:	
The fourth paragraph is about:	

4. Which of the following could also be used as a title for this text? Highlight your answer.

- a) Rainy Days
- b) Why Thunderstorms Happen
- c) Why I Love Thunderstorms
- d) All About Hail

5. Which of these could be included as a paragraph in this text? Highlight your answer.

- a) Fun games to play during thunderstorms
- b) Rhymes and songs about thunderstorms
- c) Interesting facts about thunderstorms
- d) Reasons why thunderstorms are scary

6. What other main ideas could you include in this text about thunderstorms?