

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic of a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Supporting details** are the small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the following passage. Answer the questions about the passage that follow.

John Muir was one of our country's most important naturalists. Millions of people have read his books, and many have been influenced by his ideas. It is thanks to John Muir and others like him that many Americans today care about nature and the environment. People who work toward conservation today are acting in the spirit of this highly respected immigrant from Scotland.

John Muir is so admired that many parks, trails, and organizations are named after him. The John Muir Trust

is a Scottish organization that works to protect the environment. The Muir Woods National Monument is a forest of protected redwood trees in California. The John Muir Trail runs for 211 miles through some of the most beautiful mountains in California. The John Muir Wilderness is a large area in California full of mountains, lakes, and streams. The Sierra Club that Muir established has also grown over the years, and today it does important conservation work all over the world.

1–2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph? Give one supporting detail.

3–4. What is the main idea of the second paragraph? Give one supporting detail.

5–7. What is the main idea of the entire passage? Give two supporting details.

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Choose the word from the box that best matches each definition.
Write the word on the line.

Check the Words You Know

___botany

___conservation

___glaciers

___naturalist

___preserve

___species

1. _____ to keep from harm or change
2. _____ a set of related living things that all have certain characteristics
3. _____ great masses of ice moving very slowly down a mountain, along a valley, or over a land area
4. _____ the science of plants; the study of plants and plant life
5. _____ a person who studies living things
6. _____ protection of natural resources

Directions Choose the word from the box that best fits each group. Write the word on the line.

7. protection, preservation, _____
8. biology, chemistry, _____
9. protect, defend, _____
10. cyclist, zoologist, _____
11. animals, plants, _____
12. mountains, ice, _____