

Name _____

Date _____

Use 5W1H to Summarize Central Idea

In a news report—whether online, in print, or on television—journalists commonly use the **5 Ws and H questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.**

Readers can use the **5W1H questions** to identify the **central idea**, the most important idea about a topic, and the **supporting details**, which are examples, facts, statistics, or anecdotes that explain or prove the central idea.

1. Read the news story. Fill out the chart below to record the story's 5W1H details.

Young Inventor Brings Clean Water to Rural Villages

Last summer, 13-year-old Maya Johnson from Denver, Colorado, completed a project that is helping provide clean water to several rural villages in Guatemala. Maya, who has always been interested in science and community service, designed a simple and low-cost water filtration system. Her invention removes harmful bacteria and sediment from river water, making it safe for drinking.

Maya first tested the system in her backyard using water samples from local streams. After refining her design, she traveled to Guatemala in June with a small team of volunteers from her school. They installed the filters in five villages, each of which had previously relied on contaminated water sources.

The villagers welcomed Maya and her team warmly. She

Name _____

Date _____

Use 5W1H to Summarize Central Idea

taught the local residents how to maintain the system and explained why clean water is essential for good health. According to the local health officials, the system has already reduced water-related illnesses in the communities by nearly 40 percent.

Maya hopes her invention will be adopted in more areas around the world. She is now working on a portable version that could be easily shipped to other countries in need. Her project has gained attention from several nonprofit organizations that focus on global health and education.

5 Ws and H Questions	
Who is the story about?	
What happened?	
When did it happen?	
Where did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	
How did it happen?	

2. Infer the central idea.

Name _____

Date _____

Use 5W1H to Summarize Central Idea – Answer Key

taught the local residents how to maintain the system and explained why clean water is essential for good health. According to the local health officials, the system has already reduced water-related illnesses in the communities by nearly 40 percent.

Maya hopes her invention will be adopted in more areas around the world. She is now working on a portable version that could be easily shipped to other countries in need. Her project has gained attention from several nonprofit organizations that focus on global health and education.

5 Ws and H Questions	
Who is the story about?	Maya Johnson, a 13-year-old inventor
What happened?	She designed low-cost water filtration systems
When did it happen?	Last summer (June)
Where did it happen?	Rural villages in Guatemala
Why did it happen?	To provide clean water and reduce illnesses
How did it happen?	Designed system, tested locally, traveled install and teach

2. Infer the central idea.

Maya Johnson created a water filtration system to give clean water to rural villages.