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Date _____

Determine Central Idea and Details

The **central idea, or main idea**, in a piece of history writing is the most important idea about the topic. It maybe stated explicitly in a sentence, or it may be implied. The main idea is often suggested by smaller key ideas, each developed in a paragraph or a longer section of the work.

Main ideas are supported by details, facts and other pieces of information that build upon or clarify the main ideas.

Read the following informational text and answer the questions.

The Hidden World of Bees

Bees are some of the most important insects on our planet, yet many people know very little about them beyond their ability to make honey and deliver painful stings. In reality, these remarkable creatures play a crucial role in our ecosystem and food supply.

There are over 20,000 species of bees worldwide, and only a small percentage of them produce honey. Most bees live solitary lives rather than in hives, making their homes in small tunnels in the ground or in hollow plant stems. Unlike honeybees, these solitary bees rarely sting humans.

What makes bees truly essential is their role as pollinators. When bees visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen, tiny pollen grains stick to their fuzzy bodies. As

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they move from flower to flower, they transfer this pollen, allowing plants to reproduce. About one-third of the world's food crops depend on bees for pollination, including apples, almonds, blueberries, and cucumbers. Unfortunately, bee populations are declining globally due to habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and disease. Scientists and conservationists are working to protect these valuable insects by creating bee-friendly gardens, reducing pesticide use, and studying ways to combat the threats bees face.

Even small actions, like planting native flowers or avoiding pesticides in home gardens, can help support these tiny but mighty contributors to our world.

1. What is the central idea of this passage?

2. Identify three supporting details that develop the central idea.

3. How does the final paragraph relate to the central idea of the text?

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Determine Central Idea and Details-Answer Key

1. What is the central idea of this passage?

Bees are essential to our ecosystem and food supply, yet they face serious threats to their survival.

2. Identify three supporting details that develop the central idea.

There are over 20,000 species of bees worldwide; bees are crucial pollinators that enable plants to reproduce; about one-third of the world's food crops depend on bees for pollination.

3. How does the final paragraph relate to the central idea of the text?

The final paragraph extends the central idea by suggesting practical actions that readers can take to help protect bees, connecting the informational content to real-world solutions and personal responsibility.