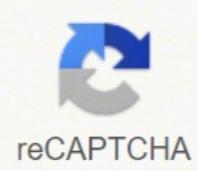


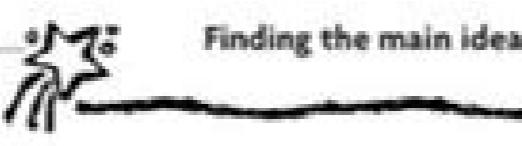


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Name _____



Greatest Deal in History

How would you like to buy land at four cents an acre? That is what the United States paid France for the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Many consider this purchase one of the greatest real estate deals in history.

When Thomas Jefferson became president of the United States in 1801, Spain owned the Louisiana Territory and the Floridas. The two countries had treaties that allowed American farmers and merchants to use the shipping ports in these areas. The port of New Orleans was especially important to the American settlers who shipped their products down the rivers that flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. When Jefferson learned that Spain had turned over control of the Louisiana Territory to France, he took action to protect the United States' access to New Orleans. There was also the danger that the French dictator Napoleon Bonaparte, might try to build an empire in America that would threaten the United States. In 1801, Jefferson sent diplomats to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans.

At first Napoleon refused to sell any land to the United States because he did have dreams of expanding his empire. However, the diplomats did not give up, and soon events turned in their favor. French troops in the West Indies had been unable to stop a slave revolt, which forced them to return in defeat to France instead of going on to the Louisiana Territory. Napoleon was also planning a war against Great Britain. Unable to defend the Louisiana Territory and rather than risk losing it to Great Britain or the United States, Napoleon offered to sell the entire territory to the U.S. He could then use the money from the sale to finance his European conquests. On April 30, 1803, a "Treaty of Purchase between the United States and the French Republic" was signed by French and U.S. diplomats. The United States acquired nearly 600 million acres of land for \$15 million dollars which calculated to about four cents an acre. While most countries had acquired land through war, the United States achieved its greatest expansion through peaceful negotiations.

Jefferson was rightfully proud of what has become known as the Louisiana Purchase. Acquiring the Louisiana Territory almost doubled the area of the United States. It greatly increased the economic resources in our country and unified much of what is now the United States. This bargain buy created all or parts of thirteen states including Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana. With such expanded land and resources, the United States was poised to become a world power.

6 Scholastic Success With Reading Comprehension

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Grade 5

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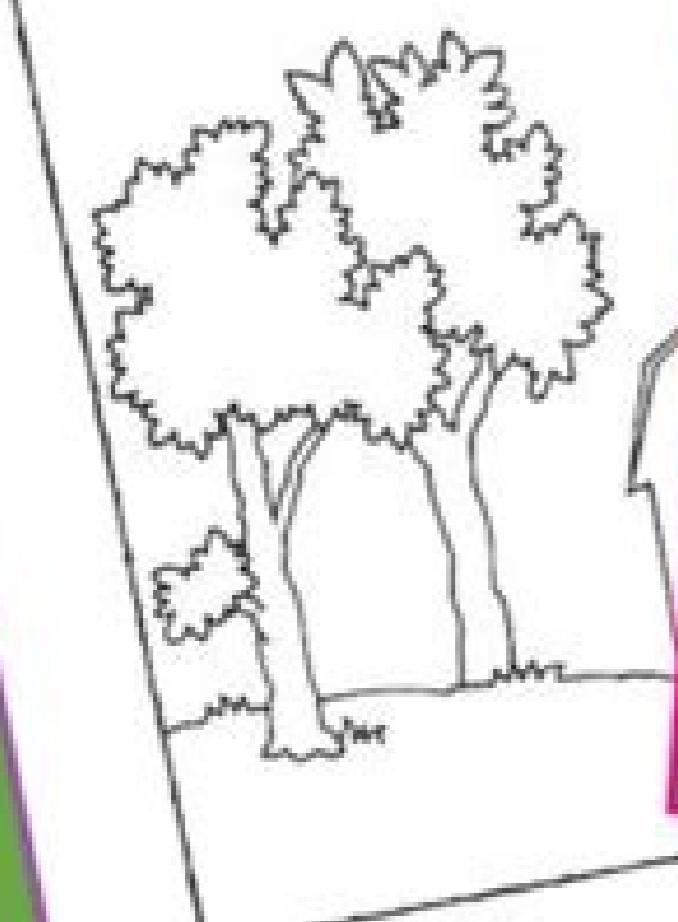
Topics Include:

- ✓ Identifying Main Ideas
- ✓ Drawing Conclusions
- ✓ Following Directions
- ✓ Sequencing
- ✓ Predicting Outcomes
- ✓ Identifying Cause & Effect

And Lots More!

Name _____

A Stormy Day
Big, black clouds appeared in the sky. Lightning struck the tallest tree. The scared cow cried, "Moo!" It rained and there was a mud puddle by the barn door. Hay blew out of the barn window.
Read the story above. Then go back and read each sentence. Add to the picture everything that the sentence says.





No Baking Required



Sequencing is putting the events of a story in the order in which they happen.

Max was disappointed. He came home from school excited to eat his dad's famous chocolate chip oatmeal cookies. Max had been begging his dad to make them for two weeks. Finally, his dad had a day off, and he told Max he would make the cookies. Wouldn't you know that today, of all days, the oven would not heat up!

Max was craving chocolate. He just had to have some chocolate cookies. Angry, Max slumped down on the couch and folded his hands across his chest. Max's dad tossed a cookbook to Max. He told Max to quit sulking and start looking through the cookbook. Max's dad told him to look and see if there was anything they could make without using the oven. Max smirked at the idea but thumbed through the cookbook anyway.

What do you know! Max found a chocolate oatmeal cookie recipe that did not need baking! The recipe was called "No-Bake Cookies." Max and his dad decided the recipe was worth a try.

Max and his dad read the recipe together. Then his dad told Max to get out a saucepan. Max's dad got out the necessary ingredients, a big spoon, measuring cups and spoons, and some waxed paper.

Max's dad told him to put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, 4 tablespoons cocoa, and 2 cups of sugar in a pan. Max and he took turns stirring the mixture on the stove until the mixture boiled on medium-high heat for one minute.

Once the hot mixture was pulled off the stove, Max's dad helped him add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup peanut butter, 1 teaspoon of vanilla, and 2 cups of oatmeal. Max stirred. Then Max dropped spoonfuls of the creamy mixture onto waxed paper. Max and his dad could not wait to try these interesting cookies once they had cooled!

The moment arrived. Max and his dad each bit into a "No-Bake Cookie." Delicious! Max was actually kind of glad the oven was broken! Now his dad and he had a new treat to make.



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Dear Steven,

Saturday, June 7

Camp is amazing this year! Our guides help us do the coolest stuff. Like yesterday, we hiked for six miles until we found this awesome spring. Then we used a rope hanging on a tree to jump in the water. I went so high that I made a huge splash! Thursday, our guides took us rowing. We rowed to this little island where we made a bonfire. We roasted the fish we had caught. My fish was the biggest, of course!

Last night, we collected a big bunch of frogs in a bag. Then we put the bag under a bed in another cabin while they were all at the campfire. When they got back, the frogs were all over their cabin. We laughed so hard! I know they're going to get us back. I've seen them planning. I can't wait to see what they try. Hey! How's the leg? Sure wish you were here!

Your friend,
Tyler

Main idea _____

Dear Tyler,

Tuesday, June 10

That's great you're having so much fun! I wish I were there. All I do is sit around bummering out, thinking about all the fun you are having. I can't believe I broke my leg two days before camp started. My mom keeps renting me movies and video games, but I think I've seen everything and played everything. I just know I won't be happy again until this cast is off.

Your new friends sound great! Sure wish I was there helping you guys play tricks on the other campers. Remember last year when we smeared honey all over another cabin and all those bees came? That was so funny—except the part where we had to scrub all the cabin clean wearing hot, protective gear. I'm still surprised they let you come back this summer!

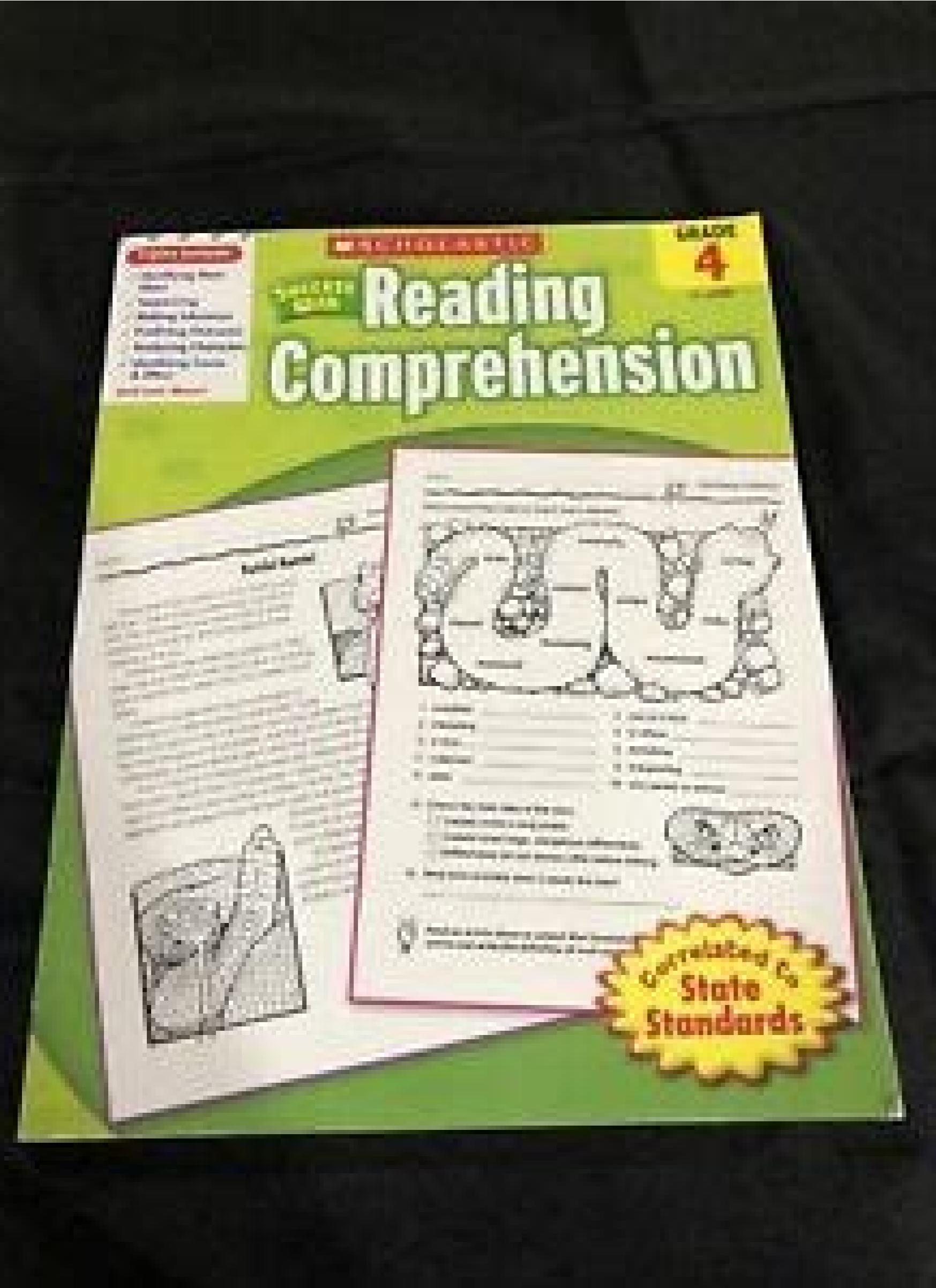
Hey! What's up with all the bugs? Your mom called my mom all worried about a bunch of bugs or something. Have fun and write soon!

Your friend,
Steven

Main idea _____



Read a newspaper article about a foreign place. On another sheet of paper, write the main idea for each paragraph.



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