

Consonant Digraphs

Generalization Words can have two or three consonants together that are pronounced as one sound: **English**, **father**, **trophy**, **chapter**, **watch**.

Word Sort Sort the list words by the digraphs *sh*, *th*, *ph*, *ch*, or *tch*.

sh

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

th

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

ph

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

ch**tch**

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Spelling Words

1. father
2. chapter
3. other
4. alphabet
5. watch
6. English
7. weather
8. catch
9. fashion
10. shrink
11. pitcher
12. flash
13. athlete
14. trophy
15. nephew



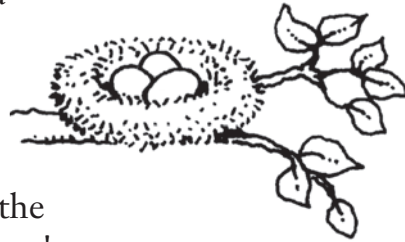
Name _____

Family Times

Summary

Amazing Bird Nests

There are many kinds of birds, and each variety builds a different nest. This selection discusses how, where, and why birds build nests. It tells about the unusual places they build, and the materials they use. It focuses on some unusual nests, including one of the smallest—the hummingbird’s nest, barely an inch across—and one of the largest—the eagle’s nest, which can weigh as much as a car!



Activity

Bird Watching Spring is the time for birds to begin nest building. Cut up pieces of string, yarn, clothing strips, and other colorful items. Place the collection in a loose sack so birds can remove them. Place the sack in a spot where you can watch the birds without disturbing the birds. This should be done in March. Watch the birds as they visit the string sack.

Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

The **topic** is what a piece of writing is all about. The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic. **Details** are small pieces of information or facts. They tell more about the main idea.

Activity

A Nest of Details Draw a tree limb with a bird’s nest. Draw four large eggs in the nest. Then use the drawing as a graphic organizer. Write a topic on the limb, and write the main idea on the nest. Then write a detail that tells more about the main idea on each egg.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *Amazing Bird Nests*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

bill the hard part of a bird's mouth; beak

goo thick, sticky matter

hunters people or animals that hunt

material what a thing is made of

platform a raised level surface for people to stand or sit on

tons units of weight equal to 2,000 pounds

twigs very small branches of a tree or bush

Conventions

Plural Possessive Nouns

If two or more people share or own something, use a plural possessive noun. Add an apostrophe (') to plural nouns that end in *-s*, *-es*, or *-ies* to make them possessive (*boys'*, *ladies'*, *canvases'*). Add an apostrophe and an *-s* to make irregular plural nouns possessive (*the men's coats*).

Activity

Using Plural Possessive Nouns

Write sentences similar to the following on paper. Help your child decide the correct way to make the underlined word possessive. Then have your child read aloud the correct sentences.

1. Put the boys _____ boots by the door.
2. The puppies _____ collars are blue.
3. Are those the childrens _____ coats?

Practice Tested Spelling Words

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **topic** is what a piece of writing is about.
- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic.
- **Details** and facts are small pieces of information. They tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

People can learn by observing animals. Years ago, watching beavers at work probably gave people the idea of building a dam to form a pond. Beavers cut wood with their long teeth and pile it in a river

or stream. The pile of wood becomes the beavers' home. It also slows the moving water to form a pond. Today, when people want to build a pond, they can use what they've learned by observing beavers.

1. What is the topic of the passage? _____

2. What is the main idea? _____

3. On the lines below, write three details that support the main idea.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



Home Activity Your child identified a selection's topic, main idea, and details. With your child, read a chapter from one of his or her school textbooks. Have your child locate the topic, main idea, and several details.

Name _____

Draw Conclusions

- A **conclusion** is a decision or opinion that makes sense based on facts and details.
- When you use information you read along with information you already know to make decisions about a story, you are drawing conclusions.

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

At the beginning of summer, Matt visited the zoo. At the tiger exhibit, he saw two tiger cubs playing in the sunshine. Matt watched the cubs as they pretended to fight. When the cubs tried to roar, little squeaks came out of their mouths instead. They were so cute and cuddly looking and so much fun to watch that Matt decided he wanted one for a pet.

At the end of summer, Matt went back to see the cubs. They were big now. One swiped at a tree with its paws, and the tree broke. When the zookeeper tossed some meat into the cage, the cubs tore it to pieces. Then one cub looked up at Matt. It snarled and gave a fearful roar. Matt quickly changed his mind about wanting a tiger for a pet.

1. Why did Matt want to get a pet tiger?

2. What information did you use to answer question 1?

3. What conclusion did Matt draw after observing the tiger cubs again?

4. What did Matt see that helped him draw this conclusion?

5. Do you think it's a good idea to keep a big cat as a pet?

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Home Activity Your child read a story and drew conclusions. Take a walk through your neighborhood and discuss what you see and what conclusions you can draw. For example, if you see a house with a swing set, you can probably conclude that a child lives there.

Name _____

Plural Possessive Nouns

Directions Write sentences about birds and their nests. Use the plural possessive form of each noun in your sentence.

1. nests

2. woodpeckers

3. chicks

4. weaver birds

5. children

Directions Write a sentence about something you like about birds and bird nests. Then write about something you do not like about them. Use at least one plural possessive noun in each sentence.

6. _____

7. _____

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Home Activity Your child learned how to use plural possessive nouns in writing. After watching a movie or TV program, have your child write a sentence about the show that uses at least one plural possessive noun.

Name _____

Consonant Blends

Directions Read the story. Underline the words that begin with the three-letter blends **spl**, **squ**, **str**, and **thr**. Then write the words on the lines.

Peter threw on his sweatshirt and ran down the street to Eddie's house. Eddie's mom was taking them to a farm to pick pumpkins. The three of them piled into the car and Eddie's mom headed for the thruway. When they reached the farm, the boys hurried to the pumpkin field.

Peter walked through the field and soon found a huge pumpkin. It took all his strength to lift it into his wagon. Eddie came up carrying an even larger pumpkin. Just then Eddie tripped and dropped his pumpkin. It split open on the ground, and splashed Peter with pulp and seeds! One seed struck Peter on the nose.

Meanwhile, Eddie's mother was buying vegetables at the farm stand. She'd found some unusual squash with green and orange stripes. She'd found a funny scarecrow decoration stuffed with straw, too.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Directions Name each picture. Complete the word by writing the three-letter blend it begins with. Then on the lines under it, write two more words that begin with the same blend.



_____ one



_____ irrel



_____ ing

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Home Activity Your child wrote words that begin with the three-letter blends *spl* (as in *splash*), *squ* (as in *square*), *str* (as in *strike*), and *thr* (as in *throw*). Play a riddle game with your child, giving clues such as "I am thinking of an animal with a bushy tail" and having your child name the answer and the blend it begins with.

Name _____

Consonant Digraphs

Spelling Words				
father	chapter	other	alphabet	watch
English	weather	catch	fashion	shrink
pitcher	flash	athlete	trophy	nephew

Missing Consonants Write the missing consonants to make a list word.

1. He is your parent.
2. You put your juice in it.
3. You receive one when you win a contest.
4. A language spoken in the United States.
5. You check this to see if you need a jacket.
6. You do this to a fish.

_____	a	_____	_____	e	_____
_____	i	_____	_____	e	_____
_____	_____	o	_____	y	_____
E	_____	_____	_____	i	_____
_____	e	a	_____	e	_____
_____	a	_____	_____	_____	_____

Word Search Circle the words in the puzzle. Look across, down, and diagonally.

f e a l p h a b e t a s
 l o t n c h a p t e r h
 a l t a s h o l h c h r
 s i a h a t h l e t e i
 h s h r e t a n l a m n
 w a t c h r i n k e r k

watch
alphabet
flash
other
chapter
athlete
shrink

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Home Activity Your child has been learning to spell words with *sh*, *th*, *ph*, *ch*, and *tch*. Ask your child to name and spell the four most difficult list words.

Name _____

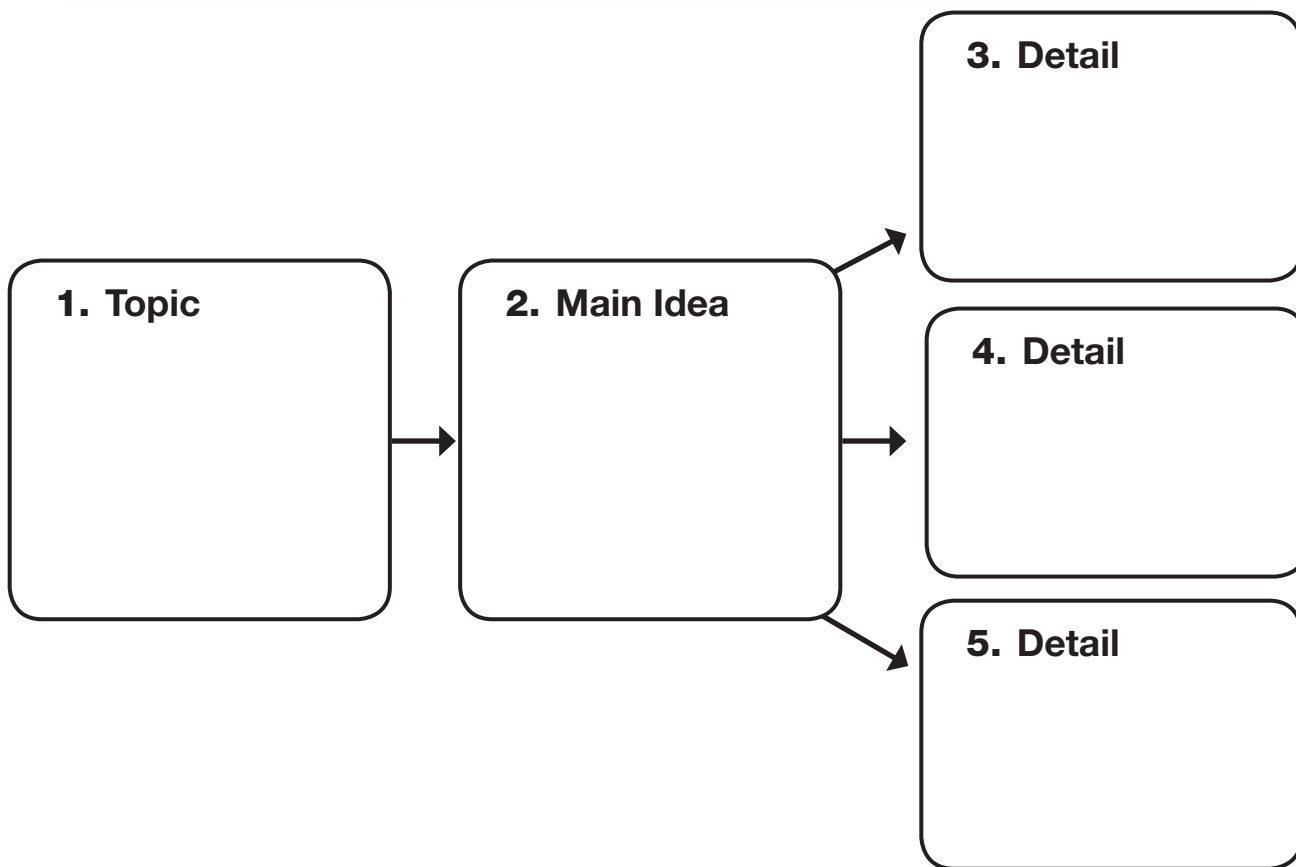
Main Idea and Details

- The **topic** is what a piece of writing is all about.
- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic.
- **Details** are smaller pieces of information. They tell more about the main idea.

Directions: Read the following passage. Then complete the graphic organizer.

Bird watching is a good hobby. You don't need expensive equipment to get started. Look for a bird book at the library or at a used bookstore. You'll also need the right clothes. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Wear clothes that will protect you from the bright Sun. Finally, you'll want to keep a record of the birds

you see and tell when and where you see them. Some bird watchers call this record a "life list." A simple notebook will do. Once you have all your equipment, go out and find some birds. Watch carefully. You may be surprised to see things you've never noticed before.



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Home Activity Your child identified the topic, main idea, and details in a passage. Watch a television show about nature together. Ask your child to make a graphic organizer like the one above to record information about the show.

Name _____

Plural Possessive Nouns

Directions Write the correct possessive noun in () to complete each sentence.

1. The (children', children's) hobby is watching birds.

2. They use their (parent's, parents') field glasses.

3. They saw some (owl's, owls') nests.

4. They heard the (animals, animals') sounds at night.

Directions Write the possessive form of the underlined plural noun in each sentence.

5. The chicks cries were high and soft.

6. The babies parents protected them.

7. The trees limbs were a good home for the bird family.

Directions How is your home like a bird's home? Write a sentence to answer. Use at least one plural possessive noun.

8. _____

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Home Activity Your child reviewed plural possessive nouns. Name three things you and your child saw or bought on a recent shopping trip. Have your child spell the plural possessive form of each item name.