Main Idea is what the text is mostly about.

I use Main Idea when...

The author does not tell me what the "big idea" is.

Main Idea



When I identify the Main Idea, I...

 Think about what I already know about my topic.

 Draw a conclusion about what the author wants me to know.

 Think about the important details the author told me.

 Put these things together to get the main idea.