



Distinguishing Details

Objective

The student will identify significant and minor details in text.

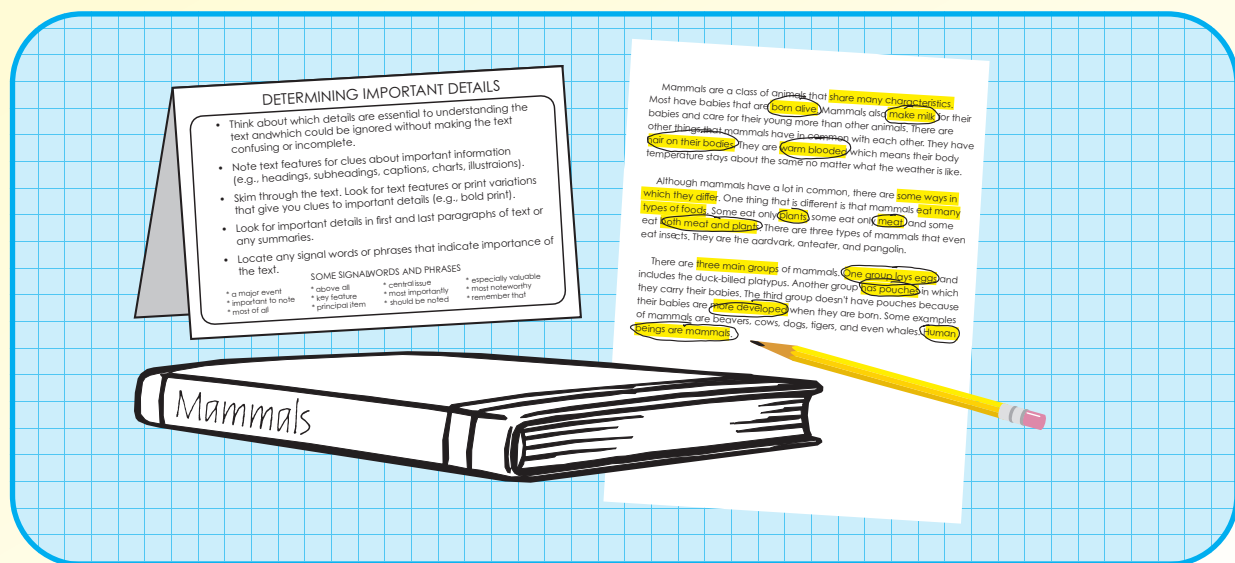
Materials

- ▶ Expository text
Choose a one-page passage within students' instructional-independent reading level range.
- ▶ Highlighter
- ▶ Determining Important Details tent card
Copy on card stock, cut out, and fold in half.
- ▶ Pencils

Activity

Students determine important details in text.

1. Provide each student with a copy of the text and a highlighter. Place tent card so that each student can read one side. Provide a third copy of the text for students to complete together.
2. Students read or review the entire text independently.
3. Use the highlighter to mark all details (e.g., keywords, phrases, sentences) without marking the entire text.
4. Determine which of those are essential to understanding the text and which details could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete. Refer to the Determining Important Details tent card, if necessary.
5. Use a pencil to circle those details that are considered essential or important.
6. Discuss what was circled. Decide together which of these details are essential or important.
7. Use third copy of text to mark agreed-upon details with the highlighter and pencil.
8. Teacher evaluation



The illustration shows a book titled "Mammals" lying on a blue grid background. To the right of the book is a white page of text about mammals. The text is highlighted in yellow, and several words and phrases are circled in black. A yellow pencil is positioned to the right of the page. To the left of the page is a white tent card with the title "DETERMINING IMPORTANT DETAILS" and a list of instructions for students to follow. The tent card also includes a table of "SOME SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES" with their corresponding actions.

DETERMINING IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Think about which details are essential to understanding the text and which could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete.
- Note text features for clues about important information (e.g., headings, subheadings, captions, charts, illustrations).
- Skim through the text. Look for text features or print variations that give you clues to important details (e.g., bold print).
- Look for important details in first and last paragraphs of text or any summaries.
- Locate any signal words or phrases that indicate importance of the text.

SOME SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES		
• a major event	• above all	• especially valuable
• important to note	• central issue	• most noteworthy
• most of all	• most importantly	• remember that
	• key feature	• should be noted
	• principal item	

Mammals are a class of animals that **share many characteristics**. Most have babies that are **born alive**. Mammals also **create milk** for their babies and care for their young more than other animals. There are other **traits** that mammals have in **common** with each other. They have **fat on their bodies**. They are **warm blooded**, which means their body temperature stays about the same no matter what the weather is like.

Although mammals have a lot in common, there are **some ways in which they differ**. One thing that is different is that mammals **eat many types of foods**. Some eat only **plants**, some eat only **meat**, and some eat **both meat and plants**. There are three types of mammals that even eat insects. They are the aardvark, anteater, and pangolin.

There are **three main groups** of mammals. **One group lays eggs** and they carry **their babies**. Another group **uses pouches** in which their babies are **born**. The third group doesn't have pouches because their babies are **born developed** when they are born. Some examples of mammals are **horses, cows, dogs, tigers, and even whales**. **Humans** are mammals.

Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Rank order details with the most important listed as number one.
- ▶ Attach blank transparency to text page and use Vis-à-Vis® marker to note important details.
- ▶ Use graphic organizer to indicate significant and minor details.

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Name _____

Distinguishing Details

C. 016

What helped you to determine that it was important?						
Why is this detail important?						
Important Detail	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

Name _____

C. 016

Distinguishing Details

Topic

Significant Details	Minor Details