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Summary

Name: _____

Introducing a Summary

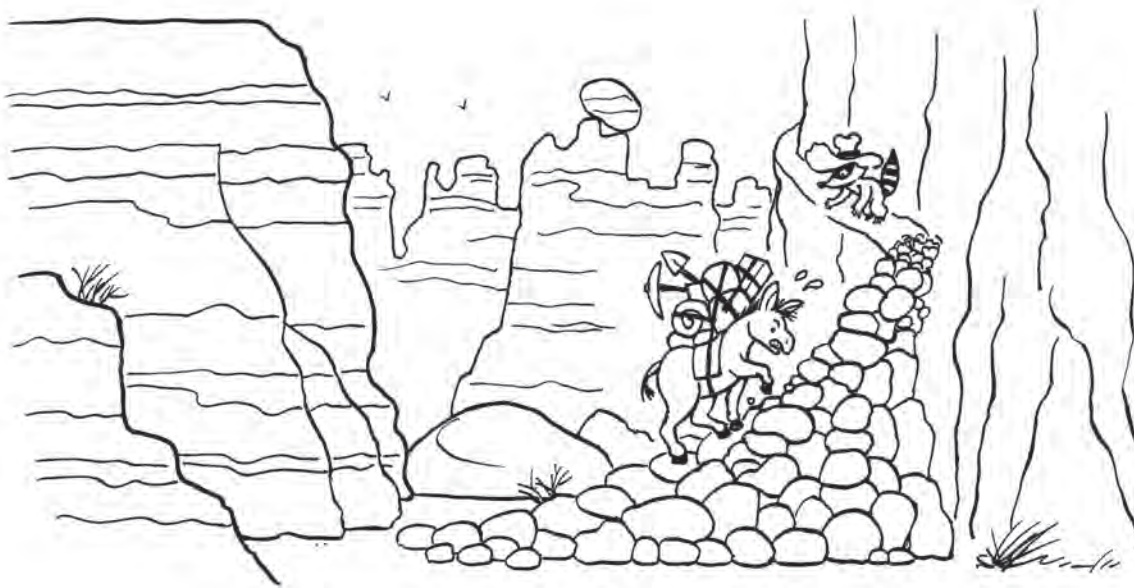
Read this example of a summary.

Writing Model

Summary of “The Brave Little Mule”

“The Brave Little Mule” tells how a mule gave two pioneers the courage to continue their journey through Death Valley in 1849. The two men, William L. Manly and John H. Rogers, set out to get food and water for their group of pioneers stranded in the desert. On the trip back to the group, Manly and Rogers had to abandon their horses, but they continued on with the supplies and their pack mule. When they came to a ten-foot-high rock wall, they almost lost hope. But their mule gave them courage. The men used rocks to build a ramp. The mule climbed slowly and carefully up the ramp and made it safely to the top. The two men overcame an obstacle and were able to save their friends.

Writer’s Purpose: _____





Summary

Name: _____

Writing a Topic Sentence

A. Mark the sentence that is a better topic sentence for a summary.
Then explain why it is better.

1. ☐ Richard Kim's article "The Lumbering Beasts of the Jurassic" gives an overview of how various types of dinosaurs walked.
- ☐ Richard Kim's article gives an overview of how various types of dinosaurs such as *Tyrannosaurus rex* walked.

Why is it better? _____

2. ☐ Sandra Fisher's article "Indian Summer" is sad and funny at the same time.
- ☐ Sandra Fisher's article "Indian Summer" describes her experiences on her grandparents' farm in Rhode Island.

Why is it better? _____

3. ☐ Sasha Golding's article "Garden in a Box" is about herbs.
- ☐ Sasha Golding's article "Garden in a Box" outlines five easy steps for growing herbs on a windowsill.

Why is it better? _____

B. Revise each topic sentence based on the directions.

1. Remove the writer's personal opinion.

"Old Ugly Was a Good Friend" by William Pike is a story about catching a big fish named "Old Ugly," but it is boring and not very funny.

2. Remove the writer's personal opinion and include the main idea of the article, which explains how oil spills affect bird populations.

Maggie Moore's article "Not Enough Soap" is interesting.





Summary

Name: _____

Marking Up an Article

A. Mark up this article about extreme structures. Do the following:

- Draw a box around the title.
- Double-underline the topic sentence in the introduction.
- Underline the main idea in each paragraph.

Built to the Extreme

People have always been fascinated by extreme structures. The Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt is one example. For nearly 4,000 years, it was the world's tallest structure, and people still debate how it was built. Today, new technologies enable the construction of even more extreme structures, such as skyscrapers and underwater tunnels.

When Burj Khalifa (BOOR-zha hah-LEE-fah) was completed in 2010, it became the tallest building in the world. This 2,700-foot-tall structure in the desert city of Dubai set many records. However, builders had to adapt its construction to the hot, dry, windy climate. For example, parts of Burj Khalifa are made from concrete, which would crack if it dried too quickly during construction. So the builders poured the concrete at night, when the air was cooler. Sometimes they added ice to the concrete mixture, too.

Tunnel construction also presents challenges. The Channel Tunnel was completed in 1994, after six years of construction and many obstacles. The idea of building an underwater tunnel between England and France was first suggested in 1802. However, the cost and difficulty of the tunnel kept the project from becoming a reality for more than 180 years. One major challenge that the engineers faced was to find a long stretch of solid rock in the seafloor, which was needed to make the tunnel stable. Builders used giant tunneling machines to dig through the seabed for 24 miles.

Thanks to new technology, people are likely to build many more extreme structures in the future. Strong, lightweight materials such as steel and plastic make such construction easier. Extreme structures solve engineering challenges and inspire us with their sheer size and beauty.

B. How can finding the main ideas of an article help you summarize the article?





Summary

Name: _____

Paraphrasing

Read each paragraph. Then use your own words to write what it's mostly about.

1. Kabuki is a form of Japanese theater. Performers wear elaborate makeup and costumes as they sing and dance. Kabuki dates back to the early 17th century, but it is still popular today.

2. Pilot fish and sharks have a symbiotic relationship. Pilot fish are generally found in warm waters, accompanying the oceanic whitetip shark. The pilot fish feeds on leftover food and on parasites from the shark's body. The shark provides protection for the pilot fish, which otherwise would be in danger from predators.

3. The Code of Hammurabi is a collection of laws developed around 1790 B.C. during the reign of Hammurabi, king of Babylon. The code established punishments based on social class. It is best known for the "eye-for-an-eye" law.

4. Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn. The symptoms of such overexposure most often are skin redness and pain. However, too much UV radiation can also cause cancerous skin tumors.

