

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Main Idea

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Survival Sounds

In the animal world, sound is more than just noise—it can be a tool for staying safe, finding food, or working together. Many animals rely on sound every day to help them survive.

**Some animals use sound to communicate warnings.** Meerkats, for example, make different alarm calls depending on the type of predator nearby. A sharp bark might mean a hawk is overhead, while a squeaky chirp could signal a snake on the ground. These calls help the group know what kind of danger is coming and where to hide.

**Other animals use sound to hunt.** Bats use echolocation, a method where they make high-pitched sounds that bounce off objects. When the sound waves return, the bats can "hear" the location of insects flying nearby—even in total darkness.

**Sound can also bring animals together.** Dolphins use whistles to call each other by name, and wolves howl to signal their location to the rest of the pack. These sounds help animals stay connected, especially when they are far apart.

Even underwater, sound travels better than light. That's why whales sing to each other across great distances. These deep songs can carry for hundreds of miles.

In nature, sound isn't just for listening—it's for surviving.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Giant Helpers of the Forest

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Animals make different sounds depending on the season
- B. Animals use sound to help them survive in many different ways
- C. Only loud animals can stay safe in nature
- D. Animals use sound to learn new languages

2. Which sentence supports the main idea?

- A. Some animals eat at night
- B. Dolphins use whistles to stay connected
- C. Whales are blue and live in the ocean
- D. Wolves live in packs

3. Fill in the blank:

Bats use a method called \_\_\_\_\_ to hunt for insects in the dark using sound waves.

4. Give two different examples of how animals use sound to survive. Explain how each one supports the main idea.

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5. Write a summary of the passage in 2-3 sentences using only the most important ideas.

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** Q

**Lexile Level:** 735L-885L

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational Nonfiction - Animal Behavior

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## Introducing the Text

*“In this passage, we’ll explore how animals use sound in the wild to help them survive. As we read, we’ll focus on finding the main idea of the text and the important facts that support it. We’ll also practice summarizing the passage by putting the most important points into our own words.”*

**Vocabulary:** communicate, echolocation, predator, signal, bounce

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are some reasons animals might make sounds?
  2. Have you ever seen or heard an animal warning others?
  3. How could sound help animals at night or underwater?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What’s the difference between how meerkats and bats use sound?
  2. How do dolphins and wolves use sound to stay connected?
  3. Why might sound be more useful than sight in some places?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
  2. What are three key details that support the main idea?
  3. How would you explain this passage in your own words to someone who hasn’t read it?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a three-part chart with the columns labeled: “Animal,” “Sound Use,” and “How It Helps.” They should list at least four animals from the text, describe how each one uses sound, and explain how it supports survival. Then use their chart to write a summary paragraph focusing on the main idea and key details.

