Facts and Details

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: The **topic sentence** tells what a paragraph is about. **Supporting details** are facts and examples that tell more about that topic. A detail that is about something else does not belong.

Ask: Does this sentence tell more about the topic? If not, cross it out.

1. Does it belong?

Topic: **Beavers are amazing builders.** Circle **yes** if the detail belongs, or **no** if it does not.



1	Beavers cut down trees with their strong front teeth.	yes	no
2	My cousin has a pet hamster.	yes	no
3	They build dams across streams with sticks and mud.	yes	no
4	Ducks like to swim in ponds.	yes	no
5	A beaver's home is called a lodge.	yes	no
6	I went swimming last summer.	yes	no

2. Pick the best detail

Circle the detail that tells the most.

1. Which detail tells the most about a beaver's tail?

(a) Beavers have tails.
(b) A beaver slaps its flat tail on the water to warn others of danger.
(c) The tail is nice.

2. Which detail tells the most about a lodge?

(a) A lodge has an underwater door, so beavers can swim in and out safely.
(b) Lodges are cool.
(c) Beavers live there.

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3. Add details to a topic

Choose an animal you know about. Write a topic sentence, then three details. Make each detail specific.

Topic sentence

Detail 1

Detail 2

Detail 3

Closing sentence

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4. Write your paragraph

Use your plan.

Write a paragraph about your animal. Start with your topic sentence and use all three details.

Check: ☐ Topic sentence ☐ Three facts or details ☐ Linking words (first, also, finally) ☐ Closing sentence ☐ Capitals and periods

Answer Key

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1. Does it belong?

1	Beavers cut down trees with their strong front teeth.	**yes**	no
2	My cousin has a pet hamster.	yes	**no**
3	They build dams across streams with sticks and mud.	**yes**	no
4	Ducks like to swim in ponds.	yes	**no**
5	A beaver's home is called a lodge.	**yes**	no
6	I went swimming last summer.	yes	**no**

2. Pick the best detail

1. Which detail tells the most about a beaver's tail?

- a. Beavers have tails.
- **b. A beaver slaps its flat tail on the water to warn others of danger.**
- c. The tail is nice.

2. Which detail tells the most about a lodge?

- **a. A lodge has an underwater door, so beavers can swim in and out safely.**
- b. Lodges are cool.
- c. Beavers live there.

3. Add details to a topic

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Topic sentence

Honeybees are hard workers.

Detail 1

They visit hundreds of flowers a day to collect nectar and pollen.

Detail 2

They turn nectar into honey and store it in wax cells.

Detail 3

Some bees guard the hive and sting to protect it.

Closing sentence

Without busy bees, we would have no honey and fewer fruits.

Model Answer

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4. Write your paragraph

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

Honeybees are hard workers. Every day, they visit hundreds of flowers to collect nectar and pollen. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey and store it in tiny wax cells. Some bees stand guard at the door and will sting to protect the hive. Without busy honeybees, we would have no honey and fewer fruits to eat.