

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_/6

## Main Idea Mini Assessment

**RI.1.2:** Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

### Deer Watching



The best deer watching is done at night, when the deer are looking for food and water. In order to be able to watch deer, you must find a great spot. You must first look for tracks. A likely spot is near a spring or stream, because deer come to drink here. You might also look at the tips of trees for bite marks, because deer love to eat these. Look for a place where the deer may have gone to sleep for the night after feeding. Usually, a deer's sleeping spot is an opening near the woods where grass is matted down. When you do find a good deer-watching spot, make sure that you can stay hidden. You will need to be a few feet away from the deer. Be sure to check the wind, and find a spot where the wind blows from the deer's direction toward you. If you don't, the wind will carry your scent to the deer, and they might run away.

#### **1. What is the main idea of this passage?**

- a. To watch deer, you must find a good spot.
- b. Deer sleep in the woods.
- c. Deer drink water out of streams.
- d. Deer leave tracks on the ground where they walk.

**2. Select the sentence from the passage that best tells the main idea.**

- a. Usually, a deer's sleeping spot is an opening near the woods where grass is matted down.
- b. In order to be able to watch deer, you must find a great spot.
- c. You might also look at the tips of trees for bite marks, because deer love to eat these.
- d. Be sure to check the wind.

Marbles



*Friends playing marbles*

Marbles is one of the oldest games in the world. It is still being played today. One played in our country is called six-hole marbles, and the rules are very easy. It is played with four to six people. You start by digging six holes in a bit of ground. The holes are numbered one to six. Every player gets a turn. Each one tries to "shoot" a marble in the holes. A player starts out with the first hole, then moves on to the next one. Each time a player "makes" a hole, the player gets another turn. If a player misses a hole, another player gets a chance. If a player hits an opponent's marble, the player gets two more turns. A player will try to hit an opponent's marble so that he or she will get more turns, and can try to knock the opponent's marble away from the hole. The first player to "shoot" marbles in all six holes wins the game.

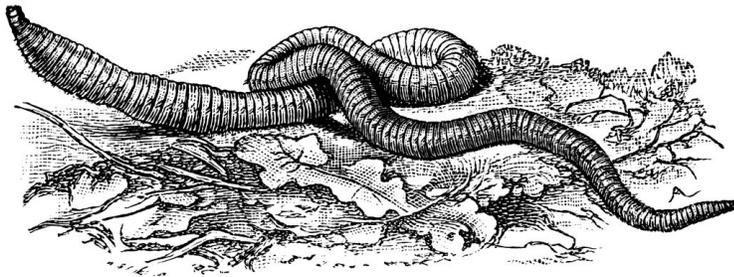
**3. What is the main idea of this passage?**

- a. Marbles are made out of clay or glass.
- b. Playing games with your friends is fun.
- c. Six-hole marbles is an easy game.
- d. Everyone in the world plays marbles.

**4. Select the sentence from the passage that best tells the main idea.**

- a. One played in our country is called six-hole marbles, and the rules are very easy.
- b. If a player hits an opponent's marble, the player gets two more turns.
- c. You start by digging six holes in a bit of ground.
- d. If a player misses a hole, another player gets a chance.

Raising Earthworms



Raising earthworms is a good way to make money. There are a lot of people who wish to buy them. Farmers use them to enrich the soil. Fishermen use them as fish bait. Some people even buy them to see how they move through the soil.

If you would like to try raising a few, there is a clever way of getting them. It is much easier than digging for them. You need a large can and a red light. To start, you must wait until it is dark. Then, walk carefully and quietly through the yard. As you walk, move the light around slowly. You should see earthworms easily. It will be even easier if the grass is cut closely. The earthworms will glisten brightly in the red light. However, you must be quick to catch them. They can move into a hole very fast. Rainy nights are the best time to catch earthworms this way. You may be surprised by how many you can catch.

**5. Part A: What is the main idea of the first paragraph?**

- a. Earthworms are easy to sell because so many people want to buy them.
- b. Finding earthworms is hard to do.
- c. Earthworms are small worms that eat dirt.
- d. Be careful where you step.

**6. Part B: Select the sentence from the passage that best tells the main idea of the first paragraph.**

- a. Raising earthworms is a good way to make money.
- b. Farmers use them to enrich the soil.
- c. Fishermen use them as fish bait.
- d. Some people even buy them to see how they move through the soil.