

# Task Guide for Independent Work and Learning Centers

## Figure out the central idea of a nonfiction text.

### Work it out!

*If you have a question about the task:*

Look at the example.

If you have a question: Ask a student.

If you still have a question: Ask **another** student.

## Steps to Success

1.	Read the text carefully. Start by figuring out what the topic is.
2.	Stop after you read each paragraph and think: What did I learn? What is the main idea of the paragraph?
3.	Look for important information in the text. List or underline what you think are the most important facts.
4.	Look for a statement that is an opinion. It may help you understand what the writer wants you to learn, what the central idea is.
5.	Figure out the central idea. The central idea is a way of thinking about the whole topic. The writer will emphasize that idea in the parts of the text.

## Finish UP! Pair and Compare to Share What You Learned!