I can infer the main idea when I read.  

Grades 3-8

CCSSR2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

This Graphic Organizer can be used to assess if completed independently, or as a learning guide.

An idea is a way of thinking about something. For example, Chicago is the name of a city. Chicago is a big busy city is an idea, a way of thinking about the city.

You can figure out the main idea two ways. You can start with what you think is the main idea and look for information and examples that support it. Or you can start with information and use that to infer the main idea they support.

Read a non-fiction passage.

What I read: _________________________________________

Put the main idea in the big oval and information that supports it in the boxes.

Main Idea

Explain Your Thinking: This is how I figured out the main idea.

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

Did you meet the challenge?  My work is: ___clear   ___complete   ___correct