

Name: _____ Date: _____

Central Ideas and Details

A central idea of a text is one of the main points the author is making.

(Sometimes a central idea is called a main idea.)

A central idea can always be supported with details from the text.

Directions: Follow the prompts below to explore the central ideas and supporting details in "Disaster in Space."

1. Reread the section "Something Unexpected." Which statement below BEST expresses a central idea of this section?

- Ⓐ There were dozens of successful space missions in the 1960s.
- Ⓑ The Vietnam War was happening during the 1970s.
- Ⓒ Americans lost interest in space exploration after the moon landing in 1969.
- Ⓓ Six hundred million people watched Neil Armstrong take his first step on the moon.

2. Read the central idea of the section "A Space Race," stated in the box below. Then read the details from the article listed under it. Which detail does NOT support the central idea?

Central Idea:

The space race between the Soviet Union and the U.S. led to many advancements in space exploration.

Detail 1: "They [NASA's scientists and engineers] perfected rockets powerful enough to blast out of Earth's orbit." (p. 7)

Detail 2: "Over the next decade, the U.S. and Russia sent dozens of men into space; most came back alive and well." (p. 7)

Detail 3: "They [NASA's scientists and engineers] designed new aircrafts and developed cutting-edge technologies." (p. 7)

Detail 4: "There were tragic accidents, though, like the deaths of three Apollo 1 astronauts in a launch-pad fire in 1967." (p. 7)

I chose _____ because _____

3. Read the details from the section "Scanning the Sky" listed below. In the box, write a central idea that these details support.

Central Idea:

Detail 1: "Now they would do everything in their power to bring the astronauts home." (pp. 8-9)

Detail 2: "To clean the toxic air, the engineers designed a fix for the air filters using materials on board—cardboard from the flight manual, duct tape, and tubing from extra spacesuits." (p. 9)

Detail 3: "To correct the spacecraft's position, they instructed the astronauts to fire the engine in short bursts." (p. 9)

4. Consider the central idea of the whole article that is stated in the box below. We wrote one detail from the article that supports this idea. Write two more supporting details in the space provided.

Central Idea: The Apollo 13 mission was an example of the power of teamwork and resourcefulness.

Detail 1:

"Soon, both Kranz's team and the astronauts had come up with the same idea: to use the LEM as a lifeboat." (p. 9)

Detail 2:

Detail 3: