

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 "Day of Disaster."

1. Reread the section "Transforming America." Which statement BEST expresses the central idea of this section?

- Ⓐ Energy is released when coal is burned.
- Ⓑ Burning coal can create pollution.
- Ⓒ The coal industry has changed America.
- Ⓓ Coal enabled people to travel by train faster than ever before.

2. Read a central idea of the sections "Difficult and Dangerous" and "Lonely and Boring" in the box below. Then read the lines from the article listed under it. Which detail does NOT support the central idea?

Central Idea:

Coal miners at the Cherry Mine faced difficult and dangerous working conditions.

- Ⓐ "They cut out the coal with heavy tools, their backs aching." (p. 7)
- Ⓑ "Imagine sitting alone in the dark all day every day, just opening and closing a door." (p. 8)
- Ⓒ "Catastrophe was coming." (p. 8)
- Ⓓ "If a mule team came speeding along and you didn't open the door, they could crash—crushing the mules, the driver, maybe even you." (p. 8)

I chose _____ because _____

3. Read the details listed below from the article. In the box, write a central idea that these details support.

Central Idea:

Detail 1: "Meanwhile, down below, miners were scrambling to get out—only to find tunnels blocked by flames, mules, and coal cars." (p. 9)

Detail 2: "'If you don't give us a cage, we're all going to choke!' someone screamed." (p. 9)

Detail 3: "When the sun set that day, the fire showed little sign of dissipating. More than 200 miners were still trapped." (p. 10)

4. A central idea of the whole article is written below. We wrote one detail from the article that supports this idea. Write two more supporting details in the spaces provided.

Central Idea:

The Cherry Mine disaster helped to change America.

Supporting detail 1:

"Laws were passed that made companies pay the victims of workplace disasters." (p. 10)

Supporting detail 2:

Supporting detail 3: