Article:_____ Name:_____ Date:_____

What's the Big Idea?

How do you write a summary of an article? First, you need to pinpoint the really important information—the facts that are key to understanding the main point of the story. Sometimes, the most intriguing bits of information are not necessary to understand the larger picture. In this activity, you will think about the important events in the article you're reading and figure out which events belong in your summary.

Directions: Fill in the blanks below that will help you write a short summary.

1. Write a list of the important events in the article you read. Use one sentence for each main action.

2. Look over your list, and make sure that every action you have included is important. Cross off any event that is not needed to tell the story, even if it seems really interesting to you.

3. Using your notes from above, write a short summary of the article you read on a separate piece of paper. Remember to make sure that each event you choose to include is important.

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