Comprehension

Distinguishing Details

✏ Objective

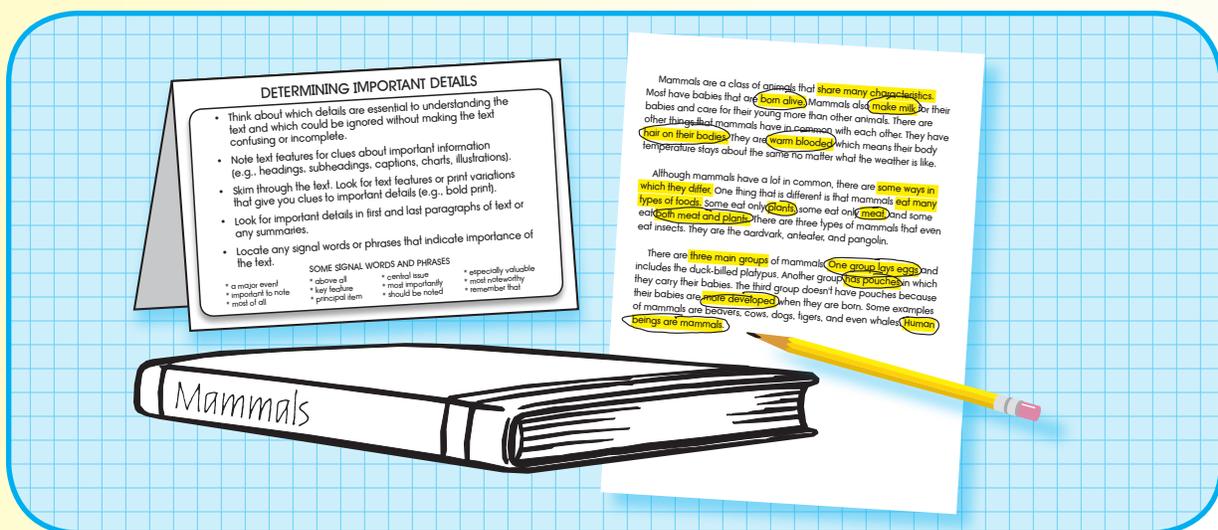The student will identify significant and minor details in text.

✏ Materials

▶ Expository text

Choose a one-page passage within students' instructional-independent reading level range.

▶ Highlighter

▶ Determining Important Details tent card (Activity Master C.016.AM1)

Copy on card stock, cut out, and fold in half.

▶ Pencils

✏ Activity

Students determine important details in text.

1. Provide each student with a copy of the text and a highlighter. Place tent card so that each student can read one side. Provide a third copy of the text for students to complete together.
2. Students read or review the entire text independently.
3. Use the highlighter to mark all details (e.g., keywords, phrases, sentences) without marking the entire text.
4. Determine which of those are essential to understanding the text and which details could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete. Refer to the Determining Important Details tent card, if necessary.
5. Use a pencil to circle those details that are considered essential or important.
6. Discuss what was circled. Decide together which of these details are essential or important.
7. Use third copy of text to mark agreed-upon details with the highlighter and pencil.
8. Teacher evaluation

✏ Extensions and Adaptations

▶ Rank order details with the most important listed as number one (Activity Master C.016.SS1).

▶ Attach blank transparency to text page and use Vis-à-Vis® marker to note important details.

▶ Use graphic organizer to indicate significant and minor details (Activity Master C.016.SS2).

DETERMINING IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Think about which details are essential to understanding the text and which could be ignored without making the text confusing or incomplete.

- Note text features for clues about important information (e.g., headings, subheadings, captions, charts, illustrations).

- Skim through the text. Look for text features or print variations that give you clues to important details (e.g., bold print).

- Look for important details in first and last paragraphs of text or any summaries.

- Locate any signal words or phrases that indicate importance of the text.

SOME SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES

* a major event	* above all	* central issue	* especially valuable
* important to note	* key feature	* most importantly	* most noteworthy
* most of all	* principal item	* should be noted	* remember that

Name _____

Important Detail	Why is this detail important?	What helped you to determine that it was important?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Name _____

Topic

Significant Details	Minor Details