

Reading Skill and Strategy

Reading Skill: Finding Main Ideas

The **main idea** is a statement that summarizes the subject of a speech, an article, a section of a book, or a paragraph. Main ideas can be stated or unstated. The main idea of a paragraph is often stated in the first or last sentence. If it is the first sentence, it is followed by sentences that support that main idea. If it is the last sentence, the details build up to the main idea. To find an unstated idea, use the details of the paragraph as clues. Choose two of the areas listed on this graphic and list Rome's lasting achievements.



READING STRATEGY: QUESTIONS

1. Read "Architectural and Engineering Feats." Then provide at least three details to support the main idea that the Roman engineering influenced architects and builders throughout history.

2. How did the belief in Stoicism help create a strong sense of citizenship in Rome?
