

Main Idea Investigator Answer Key

1. Central Idea:

The city park is a lively community space that brings people together for many activities.

2. Evidence/Clues:

- Joggers, children, volunteers, and musicians are all mentioned.
- Different activities are described (exercise, play, music, food).
- The passage repeats the idea of people gathering, sharing, and enjoying the park.

3. Teacher Notes / Guide:

- The author shows (through examples) rather than tells the central idea outright.
- Students should see that *details add up to a bigger picture*; the central idea isn't a single line but something readers infer.
- Discuss how writers sometimes leave central ideas unstated so readers feel engaged as "detectives," piecing meaning together.