

Assignment 3 Main Idea

Read these paragraphs and **write** the main idea sentence.

1 Mt. Vesuvius in Italy and Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines are both famous volcanoes, and they are similar in many ways. The Roman city of Pompeii was very close to Mt. Vesuvius. When it erupted in 79 C.E., it killed thousands of people, and the city was destroyed. Many people also lived on the sides of Mt. Pinatubo. When it erupted in 1991, about 800 people were killed and 100,000 lost their homes. Both volcanoes also put a lot of ashes into the air. According to scientists, about 10 feet (3 meters) of ashes fell on Pompeii. After Mt. Pinatubo erupted, about 1 foot (33 cm) of ash fell on the area around the mountain.

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2 New technology has helped scientists learn a lot about the earth. For example, they now understand what a volcano is. They also know what kinds of rocks and chemicals usually come out of a volcano. And they understand the effects on the land and on the air. Scientists have also learned a lot about earthquakes. They understand many things about the forces underground that can cause the earthquake. They can also tell when an earthquake is likely. But there are still some important things that scientists don't know about the Earth. For example, they can't say when a volcano or an earthquake will happen.

Main idea: _____

3 Why do so many American people in the United States take vitamins? Americans spend millions of dollars on them every month, more than in any other country. One reason for this is the unhealthy lifestyle of many Americans. In fact, many people don't exercise much and don't eat good food. But they want to stay healthy, so they take vitamins. It's easier than changing their lives. The big spending of Americans on vitamins is also the effect of advertising. Big companies advertise vitamins as the quick and easy way to take care of health problems. These ads are not always true, but many people believe them. As a result, people buy more and more vitamins.

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4. People sometimes think that lemons and limes are the same fruit. But in fact, they are quite different. First of all, they are a different color. Lemons are green at first, but then they become yellow. However, limes remain green. Limes also taste different from lemons. Finally, lemons are grown all over the world, but limes are grown in only a few places. This is because lemons are very old fruit. People have grown them for thousands of years. Limes, on the other hand, are a new fruit. Scientists made them from lemons only about 70 years ago.

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5. Would you like to learn how to surf? First, swim out from the beach with your board. Then wait for a strong ocean wave. When a good wave comes to you, stand up on the board. As the wave rises under the board, try not to fall down. While you ride the wave, use your feet to control the direction of the board. Try to keep it heading for the beach. If you're lucky, you can ride the wave all the way to the beach. If you can't stay on the board the first time, keep trying. Surfing is not easy, but it's fun and exciting.

Main idea: _____
