



SUMMARY

Student Tasks:

- Read the assigned passage carefully.
- Identify key words and phrases that capture the main ideas.
- Narrow down your selection to the most important words.
- Write a one-sentence summary using 20 words or fewer.
- Share your summary with classmates and provide feedback.
- Revise your summary based on feedback to make it clearer.

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Complex texts
- Tools for scaffolding reading (focus mode, translation, picture dictionary, online glossary, audio support, syllabication, part of speech, etc.)

Sum It Up

Condensing Key Ideas into One Powerful Sentence

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

Strategy

The *Sum It Up* strategy helps students practice summarizing by identifying key words and main ideas from a passage and using them to craft a concise, 20-word (or fewer) summary. This method strengthens comprehension and teaches students to focus on essential information in a text.

Optimal Application Notes

This strategy is ideal for developing summarization skills and reinforcing the ability to identify main ideas. Teachers should model the process multiple times before transitioning students to independent practice.

Before:

- Select a brief passage (1–2 paragraphs) with a clear main idea.
- Provide students with the *Sum It Up* graphic organizer.
- Model how to mark key words and phrases directly on the text.

During:

- Read the passage aloud while students follow along.
- Guide students in identifying key words or phrases that capture important details. Write these in the first column of the organizer.
- Discuss which words are most essential and narrow the selection.
- Using only the most important words, students will write a one-sentence summary of 20 words or fewer.
- Challenge students to create a successful summary using as few words as possible while still capturing the main idea.

After:

- Have students share their summaries in pairs or small groups.
- Compare different summaries and discuss how wording choices impact clarity and effectiveness.
- Reinforce that summarizing is about capturing the *essence* of a text in the fewest words possible.

Sum It Up

Summarizing the Main Idea in 20 Words or Less

Instructions: Read the text and find the main ideas. Start by jotting down key words and phrases that stand out to you. Highlight or circle the most important words. Write a summary of the text in just one sentence of 20 words or less! Remember, the goal is to keep the meaning clear while using the fewest words possible. You can mark the text as you go to highlight what you think is important. Once you've written your summary, share it with your classmates and see if they can help you make it even better!

Key Words/Phrases	Key Words/Phrases	Key Words/Phrases	Key Words/Phrases

Final Summary 20 words or less

Challenge Can you write your summary in even fewer words while keeping the main idea clear?