

Focus Trait: Ideas

Main idea statements need strong support, such as examples and details. Read the statement and the weak example. Then notice how this example was made stronger by adding details.

Statement: Fossils give scientists important information.

Weak Example

They show where they came from.

Strong Example

Scientists can learn the age and size of an animal from fossil remains.

Read each statement and the weak example that follows it. Then rewrite the weak example by adding more details.

1. Statement: Below-average temperatures preserve animal remains.

Weak Example

In the Arctic the weather is freezing.

Strong Example

2. Statement: Some animal species have been found in different geographical zones.

The mammoth has been found in a few places.

3. Statement: Mammoths were huge animals.

Some were bigger than an adult person.

4. Statement: You can hunt for fossils at any age.

Even little children find them.