

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Main Idea/Supporting Details: "Roman Bathing"

YOUR GOAL: Accurately **IDENTIFY** the **MAIN IDEA** of the entire reading, **PROVE** that your answer is correct, and **ASSESS YOURSELF** to see how you've grown as a thinker.

After you read the passage, you will create a one-statement summary of the "Main Idea." Your statement should accomplish each of the following:

1. It is a statement of YOUR creation (not copied from the passage itself).
2. It represents the ENTIRETY of the passage rather than merely restating portions of the passage.
3. It is a complete statement that gives the reader a sense of the author's intention.
--*good*--"The policies of Barack Obama and George W. Bush are drastically different in many areas."
--*not so good*--"It's about the policies of Barack Obama and George W. Bush."

"Roman Bathing"

1 The Romans were very serious about bathing. To appease the demand of daily baths, all cities and towns had public and privately-owned bathhouses. All bathhouses used the so-called hypocaust system for central heating. They had fire grates in their basements. When fires were lit in the grates, hot air flew through the wall ducts. It warmed up the baths. The floor at ground level was supported by concrete or brick pillars. Both building materials were great for retaining heat.

2 Interestingly, the Romans did not wash their bodies with soap. They used oil instead. After undressing, they would usually rub oil onto their skin and head to a "warm room." Once there, they might lunge into a pool of lukewarm water for a while. Or they might simply sit around chatting with their friends. When they felt it was about time to move on, they would then go to a "hot room." A "hot room" was like a sauna. It was hot and steamy. As the Romans sat and perspired, they used a tool to scrape dirt off their skin. The tool had a specific name. It was called "strigil." It was made of wood, bone, or metal.

3 Now, with filth thoroughly scrubbed off, the Romans would first take a quick dip in a hot pool and then in a cold one. After they completed the ritual, some would even hire attendants for massages or haircuts.

4 Roman bathhouses, in many ways, are like our spas. But they offered more

services. Beyond the usual pools, Roman bathhouses also had gardens, exercise yards, reading rooms, and even libraries. They had concession stands and restaurants. Because of the many features and low admissions, the Romans went to bathhouses very often. Sometimes they went for cleaning their bodies. Sometimes they went for catching up with the latest gossip. Sometimes they went for business meetings. And sometimes they went for curing minor ailments. Regardless of what drove them to go, the Romans took their bathing very seriously. Later as they invaded other countries, one of the first things they did when they arrived was to build a bathhouse. By doing so, they brought with them a piece of memory from home. They knew that no matter where they were, they could always count on going to a bathhouse and having a good time.

PART 1: IDENTIFY THE MAIN IDEA

*Remember: **Main Ideas represent the ENTIRETY of a passage, not merely sections or specific examples.***

DIRECTIONS: Create a main idea statement that represents the entirety of this passage.

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PART 2: PROVE YOUR ANSWER

DIRECTIONS: Explain why you wrote this answer. In the box below, write at least 5 statements that support the main idea. If you cannot provide at least 5 statements supporting your main idea, you probably do not have a main idea.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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5.

PART 3: POST-DISCUSSION SELF ASSESSMENT

DIRECTIONS: On the line below, mark an "X" where you believe your main idea statement belongs.

PERFECT! _____ COMPLETELY
WRONG!