

Topic Sentences

A topic sentence tells the main idea of a paragraph. It usually comes at the beginning.

This tells us the **main idea** of the paragraph

Rainforests have four main layers. The first layer, the forest floor gets little sunlight. Not many plants grow in this dark place. Above the forest floor is the understory where many shrubs, bushes and younger trees grow. The canopy layer acts as a roof over the understory and forest floor layers. At the top is the emergent layer.

The rest of the paragraph provides **facts and information**

The following paragraphs are missing topic sentences.

Write a topic sentence that introduces the main idea of each paragraph.

1. _____

Turtles often mistake these plastic bags for jellyfish and eat the plastic. Once eaten, the plastic bag can cause a blockage in their intestines. A blockage means that the sea turtle is no longer able to eat, causing it to starve. Eating plastic can also cause internal bleeding in sea turtles.

2. _____

Some volcanoes erupt powerfully, shooting lava out of the top of the volcano and into the air. Other volcanoes erupt more gently, letting lava flow out slowly. Lava can sometimes flow out of the sides of the volcano.

3. _____

The crew was so large because the pirates wanted to make sure they had enough people on board to be able to overpower the crew of merchant ships. Some pirate ships had crews as big as 100! The crew of a pirate ship included a captain, a quartermaster, a cooper and a cook.

4. _____

Dolphins have an impressive ability to solve problems. Scientists have observed dolphins working together to achieve a goal. Dolphins can also mimic human behaviour and learn tricks very quickly. Dolphins have large brains.