Expository Text Organizer - Determining Importance and Summarizing

Title: Chinese New Year	Topic: Chinese New Year	Grade Level: 7

Important Details:

1. The Chinese calendar is based on a twelve-year cycle.
2. Every year is represented by a different horoscope sign.
3. Each horoscope is an animal.

Main Idea:

Observing the Chinese calendar

Important Details:

1. There are parades in the streets with traditional music and dancing.
2. There are always plenty of bright, noisy fireworks during Chinese New Year's festivities.
3. Children receive small red envelopes with a lucky coin.

Main Idea:

Participating in colorful, noisy celebrations

Important Details:

1. Many kinds of fish, shrimp, and shellfish
2. Rice dishes, Chinese noodles and dumplings
3. Certain kinds of seaweed

Main Idea:

Enjoying the delicious variety of traditional foods

Important Details:

Main Idea:

Summary:

Celebrating the Chinese New Year consists of observing the Chinese calendar, participating in colorful, noisy celebrations, and enjoying the delicious variety of traditional foods.

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Descriptive Texts

Descriptive texts are written to describe an object, person, place, event or idea.

Signs of Descriptive Text

- Specific characteristics or features are described or explained (size, shape, location, color, etc.).
- Descriptive adjectives are used throughout the text.
- Details are provided to help the reader visualize the topic.
- Examples are often provided (for instance, such as, an example, to illustrate, to demonstrate).
- The topic word or a synonym for the topic is often repeated.

Guiding Questions

- **Topic:** What specific topic, person, idea, or thing is being described or explained? (One-two words.)
- **Important Details:** How is the topic being described or explained? (What is it, what does it look like, what does it do, what happens, etc.)
- **Main Idea:** What features or characteristics are important to remember or understand about the topic being described? (One sentence or less.)
- **Summary:** What are the main ideas and important details that are necessary to include? How will you state them in your own words following the structure of the text? (As concisely as possible.)

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