

SESSION

1



READ



lurks = waits out of sight

bacteria = tiny living things

Stop & Discuss

How are anglerfish sneaky when they catch their food?

Underline three details that show how anglerfish trick other animals.
Discuss with a partner.

Anglerfish: Fish *That* Fish

by Julie Murphy

- 1 A deep-sea anglerfish **lurks** 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) below the surface of the ocean. Floating in the dark, lonely water, it prepares to catch its dinner. Huge mouth? Check. Long, curved, needle-sharp teeth? Check. Fishing rod? Check. That's right—anglerfish are fish that go fishing! They have a sneaky way of catching their food.
- 2 Anglerfish get their name from the word *angler*. An angler is a person who catches fish using a rod, line, and bait. Anglerfish have their own fishing rod, called an illicium. The illicium is a spine that sticks out of the anglerfish's head. They use this unusual body part to trick fish they want to eat. At the end is a globe-shaped lure called the esca. Millions of tiny **bacteria** that live within the esca create the light.
- 3 Some ocean creatures can catch their dinner because of their size or speed. However, deep-sea anglerfish are not big or fast. They can't see in the dark very well, either. So they have to be sneaky instead. Their dark coloring helps them blend in with their environment. They sit very still, and they slowly move their illicium around so it looks like something good to eat. The glowing esca on the tip of the illicium attracts the interest of nearby animals. The soft light is easy to see in the darkness.

4 When a curious sea creature comes closer, the anglerfish holds the esca directly in front of its own mouth. Then the **unsuspecting** prey moves even closer. Just before the prey bites the tasty-looking lure, the anglerfish opens its mouth. Water rushes into the big, gaping hole and sucks the prey in along with it. The anglerfish devours its food in one gulp. Thanks to stretchy jaws and stomachs, anglerfish are able to consume very large prey. Some anglerfish can gobble up fish twice their own size!

unsuspecting = wrongly having trust in

5 With a big meal in its belly, a deep-sea anglerfish can survive for months. The next time it's hungry, the anglerfish will get its built-in fishing rod ready and go fishing. 🐟

Stop & Discuss

How do anglerfish eat big prey?

Discuss the details in the text with a partner.

One feature that helps anglerfish eat big prey is ____.



Determine the Main Idea

- The **main idea** of a text is what the text is mostly about. It is the big idea that the author wants readers to understand.
- **Key details** are important facts, examples, or other pieces of information in a text that help explain the main idea.
- To figure out the main idea, think about what the text is mostly about. Then identify key details that support the main idea.

Reread/Think

Reread "Anglerfish: Fish That Fish." In the chart, write the main idea and the key details that support it.

Main Idea		
Key Details (paragraphs 1 and 2)	Key Details (paragraph 3)	Key Details (paragraphs 4 and 5)

Write

What is the main idea of "Anglerfish: Fish That Fish"? Recount two key details and explain how they support the main idea.

(This area contains horizontal lines for writing.)

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I organized my writing by telling the main idea first, followed by key details.
- ☐ I included two key details that support the main idea.
- ☐ I used complete sentences.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.