



**Capítulo 1A**

**Conexiones, p. 35**

**Determining the Main Idea**

To determine the main idea of a reading passage, you must be able to describe what the passage is mainly about and summarize it in one sentence. A common problem for students when working with this skill is confusing an important detail in the reading passage with the main idea. Just because something is mentioned in the reading passage does not mean it is the main idea of the passage. In fact, many times the main idea is not even stated in the reading passage. This is called an implied main idea. Regardless of whether the main idea is stated or implied, the basic question remains the same: "What is this reading passage about?"

**Tip**

Readers are more likely to understand a reading passage when it deals with a topic with which you are already familiar. This familiarity with a topic is known as the reader's prior knowledge. Activating your prior knowledge before reading is one way to improve your understanding of a reading passage. One popular method of activating your prior knowledge is completing a K-W-L chart.

1. Before reading the **Conexiones**, "*El baile y la música del mundo hispano*" on page 35 in your textbook, complete the K and W portions of the chart. After you have written your responses, share them with a classmate. Then read "*El baile y la música del mundo hispano.*" After reading, complete the L portion of the chart.

<b>K</b> What I Already Know	<b>W</b> What I Want to Know	<b>L</b> What I Learned from Reading
<i>List 3 things you already know about the topic "El baile y la música del mundo hispano."</i>	<i>List 3 things that you would like to know about the topic "El baile y la música del mundo hispano."</i>	<i>List 2 important details that you learned from your reading. State in 1 sentence what the reading passage "El baile y la música del mundo hispano" is about.</i>
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. This passage was mostly about _____

**Sample question:**

2. What is the main idea of the passage "*El baile y la música del mundo hispano*"?
  - A Salsa is the most popular dance in Puerto Rico.
  - B Percussion is very important in the music and dance of the Spanish-speaking world.
  - C The countries of the Spanish-speaking world have distinct musical styles and traditions.
  - D The dances and rhythms of the Spanish-speaking world are not well known in the USA.