There are four statements below. Three are **details** and one is the **main idea.** Which is the main idea? How do you know?

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| **Main idea (summary) Detail (specific example)** | **Which is one is it?** | **How do you know?** |
| The rise and fall of four ancient civilizations was the emphasis of the reading. The text discussed their systems of farming and methods developed to address drought and or floods. Their architectural style and writing system or lack thereof was also discussed. |  |  |
| Sumer was an important city in Mesopotamia. Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife. Indus Valley is known as the Harappan civilization and for forty years, China was constantly at war. |  |  |
| Members of the Egyptian community wanted to record important dates |  |  |
| Traditional Chinese architecture as we know it is based on that of the Han dynasty. |  |  |

Try It - Summarize On Your Own

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| **Article Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | |
| **Select your Key details** | **Create your summary** |
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There are four statements below. Three are **details (D)** and one is the **main idea (M.I.).** Which is the main idea? How do you know?

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| **Main idea (summary) Detail (specific example)** | **Which is one is it?** | **How do you know?** |
| **Sample:** **They developed simple machines to**  **transport water.** | D | **This only gives one piece of information from the text.** |
| Farmers in Egypt invented tools long ago that we use today; the hoe is one such tool. The sickle is another and the plow is another. |  |  |
| To get water to the field farmers invented ponds, water gates and techniques to prevent floods from damaging farm crops. The farmers faced many challenges that they learned how to develop creative ways of solving. Living in Egypt at the time must have been very difficult. In today’s society, we have so many amenities to help farmers, amenities such as mechanical plows and automatic in ground water sprinklers. |  |  |
| To address the many challenges of producing crops, Mesopotamian farmers developed ways of combating seasonal floods, retaining water and tilling the ground. Those inventions were, “storage ponds, canals, gates, floodwalls, sickle and hoes and plows”. |  |  |
| Farmers in Mesopotamian knew how drain excess water from the land by building floodwalls, dams, and water gates. These are samples of irrigation techniques that can assist with the process of farming. |  |  |

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| **Article Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | |
| **Select your Key details** | **Create your summary** |
| Mesopotamian farmers faced challenges | To address the many challenges of producing crops, Mesopotamian farmers developed ways of combating seasonal floods, retaining water during droughts and prepping the ground for planting. Their inventions ranged from developing storage ponds, canals, gates and floodwalls to inventing sickles, hoes and plows to help make farming somewhat easier. |
| during the dry planting season, |
| created systems of storage |
| irrigation techniques |
| simple machines to transport water |
| To deal with the flooding |
| developed dams, dikes, and floodwalls |
| invented the sickle, hoe, and plow |