The main idea is the sentence that tells you what the other sentences are about.

Objective:

We will identify main idea and supporting details in a non-fiction text.

* usually at the beginning of the paragraph
* the most important information

The supporting details are sentences that tell you more about the main idea.

When identifying main idea, ask:

What is this paragraph mostly about?

When identifying supporting details, ask:

What tells me more about the main idea?