Read the passage. Use the summarize strategy to find the most important ideas and details.

**A Sticky Idea**

Nature can inspire ideas. Take the tree frog for instance. Have you ever tried to stick a piece of tape on something after it has gathered dirt or dust? Take tape off of a surface and try to use it again. It does not stick. The tree frog may hold the solution.

A tree frog has sticky pads on its feet. The stickiness of the pads helps the frog to hold onto trees or rocks. Yet the pads do not pick up dirt. They stay clean as the frog moves around.

**New Ideas**

The way this frog’s foot works can be copied and used for many purposes. It can give us ideas for other inventions.

For example, think about doctors and nurses at work. They could reuse bandages used for patients if they stayed clean and sticky. A smaller bandage used at home could also be taken off and used many times.

Tire and car makers also have a use for what a tree frog’s foot can do. Material that can get a good grip and stay clean could improve tire performance. It could help cars stay on the road in bad weather.

A product like that could also make a good glue or tape. A clean adhesive that lasts long would be helpful at home and at school.
Put to the Test

Researchers tested a group of tree frogs. They placed the frogs on platforms and then slanted and moved the platforms. They put dust on the frogs’ feet. At first the research showed that these frogs lost their grip on the surface if they did not move. When they moved their feet, though, they were able to get back their hold.

How It Works

How do tree frogs’ special feet clean themselves? Their feet produce a slimy substance called mucus. This secretion is released with every step the frogs take. The old mucus stays behind with the dust and dirt. The new mucus helps the frogs’ feet stick. This process cleans their feet as they move forward.

Tree frogs’ feet also have a pattern of six-sided shapes on the bottom. The shape of the pattern is good at keeping the frogs’ pads in touch with the surface they are standing on. It also helps the mucus spread across the pad.

Studying frogs’ feet is just one way that people can find inspiration in nature. Ideas come from things all around us. No one knows what is coming next. What is your prediction?
Comprehension: **Main Idea and Details and Fluency**

Name

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What are three key details in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6?

   ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

2. How are these details connected?

   ____________________________________________

3. Using the details, what is the main idea of the whole passage?

   ____________________________________________

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to phrasing and rate. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

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