## Teacher Directions

Cut out all the cards and mix them up. Have students read the “A Rat’s Life” comic and then use the text to match each main idea card with the supporting detail cards.

### Main Idea 1
Rats are friendly and playful.

### Main Idea 2
Animals used in experiments are treated cruelly.

### Main Idea 3
Many people only use products that aren’t tested on animals.

### Main Idea 4
There are lots of modern research methods that don’t hurt animals.
Supporting Detail

Hey, she’s cute!

Yeah, and she spends hours grooming herself, just like a cat. She’s really sweet and loves to be petted. When she wants attention, she’ll nip my nose and run away. She’s really careful not to bite too hard, though.

Supporting Detail

If I leave a glass of ice water on the floor for her, she’ll take out each ice cube and carry it away from the glass in her teeth. Sweet potatoes are her favorite treat. She loves them.

Supporting Detail

The researchers didn’t care about the animals. Some would throw them into a cooler, even though they were still alive, or cut the animals’ heads off with scissors. They laughed while they were doing mean things to the animals.

Supporting Detail

Lots of places, the military gasses and shoots animals. Some doctors addict animals to drugs and alcohol. Others deprive them of sleep and do lots of other nasty things, like taking baby animals away from their mothers.

Supporting Detail

Even dog- and cat-food companies conduct cruel tests to measure how effective their food is. During the long tests, dogs and cats are often forced to live for years in cold, empty cages with no toys.

Supporting Detail

She loves to play and get into things. Yesterday, she spent hours pulling my dirty clothes from the laundry bag.
OUR COUSIN WON’T BUY ANY MAKEUP THAT’S BEEN TESTED ON ANIMALS. SHE SAYS THERE’S NO EXCUSE FOR TESTING COSMETICS AND CLEANING STUFF ON ANIMALS WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER COMPANIES THAT MAKE CRUELTY-FREE PRODUCTS.

RIGHT, THOUSANDS OF BIG COMPANIES, LIKE THE BODY SHOP, TOM’S OF MAINE, E.L.F., METHOD, WET N WILD, YES TO, AND LIP SMACKERS, DON’T TEST ON ANIMALS.

SMART CHARITIES FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND DIRECT CARE, AND THEY USE MODERN RESEARCH METHODS LIKE OBSERVING PEOPLE, USING COMPUTER MODELS, CONDUCTING AUTOPSIES, AND STUDYING HUMAN CELL AND TISSUE SAMPLES.

DO THEY REALLY WORK?

YES, THEY ARE FASTER, MORE RELIABLE, AND LESS EXPENSIVE THAN ANIMAL TESTS. NOWADAYS THERE IS A WIDE VARIETY OF HUMANE RESEARCH METHODS THAT MUZZL HOW THE HUMAN BODY WORKS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THERE’S JUST NO REASON TO EXPERIMENT ON ANIMALS.
‘A Rat’s Life’:
Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort
Answer Sheet

*Note:* Students can record the supporting details in any order.

**Main Idea 1:** Rats are friendly and playful.

**Supporting Details:** ☑, □, ○

**Main Idea 2:** Animals used in experiments are treated cruelly.

**Supporting Details:** ●, △, ◐

**Main Idea 3:** Many people only use products that aren’t tested on animals.

**Supporting Details:** ○, ❤

**Main Idea 4:** There are lots of modern research methods that don’t hurt animals.

**Supporting Details:** □, △
‘A Rat’s Life’: Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort Student Worksheet

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the shapes located on the supporting detail cards for each main idea.

Main Idea 1: Rats are friendly and playful.
Supporting Details: __________, __________, __________

Main Idea 2: Animals used in experiments are treated cruelly.
Supporting Details: __________, __________, __________

Main Idea 3: Many people only use products that aren’t tested on animals.
Supporting Details: __________, __________

Main Idea 4: There are lots of modern research methods that don’t hurt animals.
Supporting Details: __________, __________

TeachKind [PETA’s Humane Education Division]