

READ THE PASSAGE Find the main idea of each paragraph.

Under Ice

Winter storms can cause big problems. One of the worst kinds of storms is an ice storm. Certain conditions cause ice storms. The air closest to the ground must be very cold. The air layer above the ground must be warm. And the highest layer of air must be cold. Snow from the top cold layer falls into the warm air layer and starts to melt. Those water drops continue to fall through the bottom cold layer. If the temperature is below freezing, the drops refreeze quickly. They coat everything in ice. The freezing rain can last for hours. The ice builds and gets very heavy.

Ice storms result in danger and damage. Highways and roads are extremely slippery. The heavy ice makes power lines break and fall. Then people do not have electricity. Plants die if they are coated with ice for a long time. Animals cannot get to the plants that are frozen in ice. Birds lose their homes when tree branches crack. There's nothing good about an ice storm.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. What are two results (effects) of an ice storm?

2. Write the sentence in the first paragraph that states the main idea of the paragraph.

3. Picture the snow falling and changing until it forms ice on branches. Describe the steps.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Draw an X beside the paragraph that tells about the effects of ice storms.