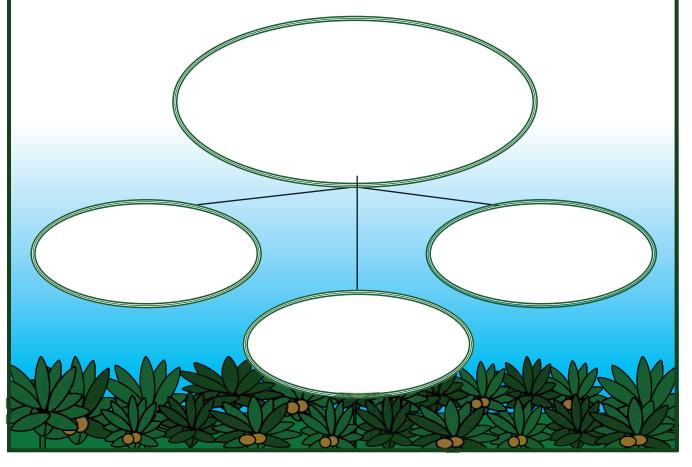Name: _____

Finding the Main Idea
The Jungle Book
by Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling's book, The Jungle Book, is a collection of short stories about India. In this passage from "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," a young and curious mongoose named Rikki-tikki-tavi has found a new home with an English boy, Teddy, and his family.

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

He spent all that day roaming over the house. He nearly drowned himself in the bathtubs, put his nose into the ink on a writing table, and burned it on the end of the big man's cigar, for he climbed up in the big man's lap to see how writing was done. At nightfall he ran into Teddy's nursery to watch how kerosene lamps were lighted, and when Teddy went to bed Rikki-tikki climbed up too. But he was a restless companion, because he had to get up and attend to every noise all through the night, and find out what made it.

Write the main idea of the paragraph in the large oval below. Write the supporting ideas in the small ovals.

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Write the main idea of the paragraph in the large oval below. Write the supporting ideas in the small ovals.

Actual wording and supporting ideas will vary. Example of correct answers:

Rikki-tikki-tavi liked to explore his surroundings.

He put his nose in the ink.

He got up during the night to investigate every noise.

He wanted to know how kerosene lamps were lighted.